CITY OF DARLINGTON
EXECUTIVE SESSION – JULY 21, 2020 AT 6:00 PM
BALDWIN GYM – 300 SANDERS STREET, DARLINGTON, SC 29532

Darlington City Council held Executive Session on Tuesday July 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM at Baldwin Gym, 300 Sanders Street, Darlington, SC 29532. The meeting was also Facebook Live. Attendance at the meeting was in accordance with COVID-19 rules and regulations concerning social distancing with a maximum of 50 persons other than council and staff that could attend. Face masks were required to attend the meeting.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Howard Garland, Councilpersons John Segars, Elaine Reed, John Milling, Howard Nettles, Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner. Also, in attendance was Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Assistant Fire Chief Charles Bailey, former Police Chief Danny Watson, Street Superintendent Alex Gainey, Mr. Ernest Boston, Police Officer Paul Bryant, Mr. James Jett, Ms. Judy Alexander, former Mayor Gloria Hines, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mr. Brantley Jett and others. News Media outlets present were: Television stations TV13, TV15, WMBF; Newspaper reps-Mr. Bobby Bryant with the News & Press and Mr. Matthew Christian with Morning News.

PRAYER
Prayer by Mayor Curtis Boyd.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:03 PM to discuss a personnel matter concerning Police Department, City Council Member) The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed executive session. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Segars, Reed, Milling, Nettles, Baccus, Gardner and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman John Segars made a motion to end Executive Session at 8:10 PM. Councilman John Milling seconded the motion. Councilpersons Segars, Reed, Milling, Nettles, Baccus, Gardner and Mayor Curtis Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

Coming back in from Executive Session Mayor Curtis Boyd thanked everyone for waiting for them to come out of executive session. He said, "After long deliberation speaking and talking with everyone on this council, they've done what they think they can do to try to work with each other in the City of Darlington. Everyone on this council is here, me and the councilmembers is here for the betterment of the City. We love our city, we love everyone in it, and we all want to do what we think is best for every citizen here. We all chose to be here, and I am speaking for them they don't know what I'm going to say, I'm speaking from my heart; we are here for the best of the city that's why I ran for Mayor and that's why they ran for City Council. Mayor Boyd said, we all do things that we don't agree with at times, but at this point I asked for a motion to take the action between (what we are here for) between the personnel of the police department and the City Council member. Do I have a motion to turn it over to our City Attorney to take it to the Ethics Board and to the Governor of South Carolina"? After a long pause and no one on council responded, Mayor Boyd asked again, "Do I have a motion"? Councilman John Milling said, "Mayor, of course we do not have the authority to remove any elected official from office whether or not what needs to be done or does not need to be done. ***Councilman John Milling said he will make a motion since they were not able to get the matter resolved tonight, that we instruct our attorney to simply turn it over to those officials who have the authority to make decisions as to what needs to be done, if anything, in connection with this matter. I also think that the citizens of Darlington look to us to establish leadership and direction for the city. They expect us when we are elected to a position on council to conduct ourselves in a manner that does not bring anyone under condemnation or does not make anyone feel that they have been threatened, that they are being disrespected and as a member of the council I will pledge to the citizens who have gathered here tonight, that In my dealings with you and other councilmembers and with members of our staff or employees of the city that I'll treat you with respect and equality and I will not undertake to belittle you or degrade you in any fashion. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Segars, Nettles, Gardner, Milling, Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilwomen Elaine Reed and Sheila Baccus voted against the motion.***

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Curtis Boyd said, "Again, I agree with Councilman Millings. We are here for the City of Darlington to grow and to treat all fairly. We back our police officers, I do I'll speak for myself. I'll speak for the council; I back our officers 100% and I back everybody that does what they're supposed to do 100%. If an officer goes bad, we don't back them. If a teacher goes bad, we don't back them. There are good teachers and there are bad teachers, there are good officers and bad officers. What our world needs today, and I know this is on TV so please don't cut this out. What our world today needs is Jesus Christ"!

Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "On that note, I just also want to say yes, we do need Jesus Christ. We need our community to be together and an incident that brings us together to the table like this; that brings all of our group out here like this, needs to really be understood is simply how one person dealt with another person and for it to escalate to this when each one of us have possibly been in that same situation. I want you all to think about that and take the step and let this be. She said feelings may have been hurt, bad things may have been said, but it was at that moment, it is at that moment, and we are here to take care of the business of the citizens and one of them is to show that our concern and the things that we want to do that we are kind of united in that because we want the best for the City of Darlington and we can't do that if at each time there is something like this and we get a big gap like this right here that we can't resolve. We must come together and stop fighting each other. Each one of us on Council receives hundreds of calls and we try our best to represent the calls that we get but they are different, so we need to put all of that aside. We need to put all of that aside because one incident should not determine how we handle things in the City of Darlington. (*Audio muffled*) Councilwoman Reed told each councilmember she loves them she also told the citizens she loves them. Councilwoman Reed said, "let's come together, let's do this in love and show that we are the Pearl of the Pee Dee".

Councilman John Segars made a motion for the meeting to adjourn at 8:23 PM. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Segars,

Reed, Milling, Nettles, Baccus, Gardner and Mayor Curtis Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

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Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

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Mayor