CITY OF DARLINGTON
EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC DECEMBER 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Howard Garland, Councilpersons Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, Sheila Baccus, John Segars and John Milling. Councilman Bryant Gardner was absent because of the death of his father. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Alex Gainey, Mr. Lee Andrews, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge and Mr. Bobby Bryant from the News & Press.

Mayor Boyd opened the meeting at 6:07 PM.

Councilman John Milling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:07 PM to discuss Recreation Contract- Complex Design, Annexation Darlington Raceway, other annexation options which was seconded by Councilman John Segars. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after Executive Session. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Reed, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling seconded by Councilman John Segars the executive session ended at 6:53 PM.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC DECEMBER 1, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

The Regular City Council Meeting started at 7:00 PM

Present: Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Howard Garland, Councilpersons Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, Sheila Baccus, John Segars and John Milling. Councilman Bryant Gardner was absent because of the death of his father. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Alex Gainey, Mr. Lee Andrews, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, W&S Superintendent Freddie Kinsaul, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Assistant Fire Chief Charles Bailey, Building & Codes Official Sheila Jones, Mrs. Anna Dewitt and Mr. Bobby Bryant from The News & Press.

Mayor Boyd welcomed everyone at 7:00 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Kelvin Washington led the prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Milling, Segars, and Mayor Boyd approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for tonight's meeting-December 1, 2020. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association

Report for Council – December 1, 2020

The DDRA annual holiday **#ShopDarlington contest kicked off this past weekend.** The contest encourages folks to shop at five (5) DIFFERENT businesses between Thanksgiving and Christmas, send in your receipts with an entry form, and you have a chance to win one of three $100 cash prizes. The more you shop, the more entries you can make into the contest! The idea is to have residents explore Darlington's shops, especially those they have never entered, as owners and managers work hard to stock a variety of unique items. You can see more information on the contest or print entry forms at www.BuildUpDarlington.org/shopdarlington.

This Sunday, the DDRA will partner with the **Darlington Rescue Squad** to hold a **Christmas Festival from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, on the Public Square** to give visitors and residents a chance to enjoy some shopping while enjoying the Darlington Rescue Squad Christmas Parade and Darlington Kiwanis Club Carol Lighting Service downtown.

The parade begins at 4 o'clock at Fitness World Gyms and comes to the Square, where the City tree will be lit during the Darlington Kiwanis Club Carol Lighting Service at approximately 6 o'clock. The Darlington Ministerial Association and Kiwanis Club gather speakers and musicians for the event to celebrate the Christmas season.

The **Christmas Festival** will feature vendor spaces around the Square from 4 to 7 p.m. to encourage folks to stay after the Christmas parade for these activities. The festival will include a variety of food and gift items to finish up your holiday shopping.

We are making plans for the return of the Taste of Darlington, a Mother's Day race, and more. **In the meantime, we continue to promote Darlington and its businesses on Social Media and through our News Alert System each week.** We continually update our Web page, www.BuildUpDarlington.org, where individuals can submit information or sign up to receive these alerts.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE- NANCY MATTHEWS

Mrs. Anna Dewitt gave the report from the Chamber. Mrs. Dewitt said the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce, Lamar and Society Hill will hold a ribbon cutting at Bethea Retirement Community this Thursday at 2:00 PM. She said last week the Chamber hosted a book signing for local author Paula Alford which turned out to be a huge success. Mrs. Dewitt said the Chamber will be looking to fill the position of Chamber President in the upcoming weeks but until that time the Executive Committee is running the day-to-day operations of the Chamber. She said elections were held last month and they congratulate Ms. Nikki Player as their Vice-Chair, Mrs. Nancy Matthews-Secretary; Ms. Amanda Boykin-Treasurer; Mr. John Griggs-Past Chair and herself as Chair of the Board. Mrs. Dewitt said the Chamber will host the Mayor's Masquerade Ball December 31st from 8 PM until midnight. She said this event will replace their annual "Toast of Darlington". Tickets are $25 per person for the event. There will be a champagne toast with mask reveal at midnight. She said they are making some small improvements to the Chamber building; the front doors having been painted and they are also painting the inside woodwork. The Chamber will unveil a new website by mid-January. Chamber members will have use of their building for meetings. Mrs. Dewitt said hooks have been installed in the front of the building so the members may place banners for special events. Mrs. Dewitt said they welcome new Chamber member Pee Dee Junk Removal. She said they look forward to 2021 with a motto of "***What Can Your Chamber Do for You***". The question was asked where the masquerade ball would be held, and Mrs. Dewitt said at the "Grand Old Post Office".

CITIZENS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Mrs. Rock said no comments were received

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2020-22 BUSINESS LICENSE ENFORCEMENT

Ms. Sheila Jones said the ordinance hasn't changed from last month when they gave it for informational purposes. She said they are looking to change the ability to investigate who has valid business licenses from the Police Department to the Codes Department and the Fire Department. Also, the ability to suspend licenses if businesses don't come into compliance and the City Manager would have the ability to revoke it indefinitely. Mayor Boyd asked, "So who all would have the ability to suspend it"? Ms. Jones said, "The ability to suspend it would be the Building Official, the Fire Marshal, the Fire Department and the Police Chief". She said only the City Manager would have the ability to revoke it. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve First Reading of the Business License Enforcement Ordinance number 2020-22. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Reed, Baccus, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2020-23 COMMERCIAL RECYCLING CONTAINER FEE - ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said last month he proposed the commercial recycling increase. He said the current charges for commercial roll carts is $28.50 and they propose increasing it to $45. He said the reason for that was we are being charged for tipping fees etc. Mr. Gainey said on the commercial recycling they have approximately 35 carts that we're not charging anything at all for, but it's costing us to dispose of it when we take it to Sonoco. He said he is proposing charging $25 for a commercial recycling roll cart. Councilman Nettles asked to correct the following in the ordinance: where it has "*...assembled this 5th day of January 5, 2021- removing the number 5 and the comma after January.* Councilman Milling asked, "Do we need to have an ordinance that says we are adopting proposed fees, or do we need to have an ordinance that says we are adopting this fee and just say-*instead of the proposed charge $45, the new charge $45"?* Councilman Milling said, "I'm trying to get some clarity out of the thing of saying we are adopting proposed things instead of saying we are adopting a set fee. Councilman Milling said we could change that from "*proposed charge" to "new charge*". **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the First Reading on Ordinance 2020-23 Commercial Recycling Container Fee with the changes indicated. Councilman John Milling seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd approved the motion.**

APPROVAL 2021 MEETING CALENDAR

Mr. Garland said the council meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted such as Tuesday, July 13th because of Fourth of July holiday and Tuesday, November 9 because we have an election on November 2nd which is the first Tuesday. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the proposed 2021 Council Meeting Schedule as set forth in 8C. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Reed, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2021-2031 PEE DEE COG

Mr. Garland said recently the Council of Governments hired a planner. He said the planner's job at the COG is to write comprehensive plans for the six counties and the municipalities within the Pee Dee Council of Government's area. Mr. Garland said the proposal is listed and since they are a government agency and a nonprofit and under state purchasing we don't have to go through a bid process for this. Mr. Garland said they are offering to do our complete comprehensive plan 2021- 2031 for a cost of $25,000. Mrs. Lisa Rock said they have more than one member of staff that would be working with us on this. Mrs. Rock said they have already met with them and discussed what we would like to see. She said, "This comprehensive plan….it's time to completely rewrite the whole thing not just update one or two sections". Councilman John Milling asked, "Will this plan be one that actually has action points, or will it be things like, you need to annex more people"? Mrs. Rock said, "No, it would have action points just like the current plan". Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked, "Is the plan already done"? Mr. Garland said, "No ma'am". Councilwoman Reed asked, "So what are we actually voting on"? Mrs. Rock said, "The $25,000 is for them to write the whole thing and that includes holding hearings which is required and of course giving us copies and things like that". Councilwoman Reed asked, "So we need to approve paying the $25,000 to them? Is that what this is"? Mrs. Rock said, "Yes". Mayor Boyd asked, "And once they give us that, what would

that do for us"? Mrs. Rock said, "A comprehensive plan is a legal requirement of the State if you are to have zoning and it has to be updated in its entirety every 10 years and a couple elements every 3-5 years has to be updated". Mr. Garland said the baseline information is used in grant writing. Mrs. Rock said that's why we were waiting for them to start in January when the new census numbers come out. Mr. Garland said that's why we held off and didn't do anything this year because there's no use to write anything and you don't have the new census numbers. Mayor Boyd asked when was the last time it's been updated? Mr. Garland said it was updated December 2019, but it was 2007-2017 plan component that were updated. The components updated are needed for grant application the City of Darlington may apply for. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve paying Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments $25,000 for the completion of the comprehensive plan for the City of Darlington for the time frame 2021-2031. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd approved the motion.**

RECEIVE AS INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mayor Curtis Boyd asked Alex Gainey to give them an update on paving of the roads. Mr. Gainey said Sam Evans has paved Ward Street and he is working on Bowen Street now. He said he thinks he will be at the intersection of D Avenue and Second Street tomorrow and then he will get back on the paving so we can get D Avenue opened back up. Mr. Gainey said, "Jerry O'Neal has cleaned Haynesworth, he's cleaned Country Club and he started asphalting Country Club today. He said he'll go ahead and get those three streets cleaned in Country Club and then he's going to Haynesworth". Mr. Gainey said the contractors are saying they should have all the roads completed in the next few weeks, (weather permitting) since we are going with two contractors versus one. Mayor Boyd asked if they were given a timeframe to do them in? Mr. Gainey said both of them wanted until the end of December to be able to complete it. He said they originally talked about December 18th, but they said with the holidays and everything else they wanted to be able to have until the end of December to be able to finish it. Mr. Gainey said that shouldn't be a problem unless we get a bunch of rain. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Gainey about the update on the patching machine. Mr. Alex Gainey said, "The asphalt hotbox should be delivered to the vendors location this week and then they will schedule a time to bring it to us and do some training so we can go ahead and get going with it".

Mayor Curtis Boyd said thank you to the Fire Department for always putting the Santa up; and Johnny Deas for putting the tree up; Thank you to Dr. Eads and all those that helped out for the turkey giveaway. Thank you to Todd Hardee for tackling the post office and making it a beautiful spot. Mayor Boyd said on Saturday, December 12th at 6:00 PM in front of the mural Santa will be there. The area will be decorated, and photos can be taken with Santa. They will have hot chocolate and cookies and it's free to the public.

Councilman Howard Nettles said the fountains around town look really good. He said the Christmas lights are looking good, but we do have quite a few out for some reason especially along S. Main Street. Mayor Boyd said some of them have been hit and he got a message earlier that some of the lights are out going toward Walmart so he's going to go and check those. He's said the ones by the Dairy Bar looks like they have been hit by a truck the other day.

REMINDERS

Thursday December 24th, Friday December 25th and Monday December 28th-Christmas Holidays, City offices closed,
Friday January 1, 2021-New Year's Day, City Offices Closed
Tuesday January 5, 2021 Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council, 6:30 PM

The Christmas Parade is Sunday December 6th at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of councilman John Milling second by Councilman Howard Nettles the meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

Mayor