CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC JANUARY 5, 2021 AT 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Howard Garland, Councilpersons Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed, Sheila Baccus, John Segars, Bryant Gardner, and John Milling. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Alex Gainey, 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. Nancy Matthews, Steve Abbott and Mr. Bobby Bryant from The News & Press.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer by Mayor Curtis Boyd which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES CITY COUNCIL MEETING 12/1/2020

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 council meeting. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Gardner, Segars, and Mayor Boyd approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association

Report for Council – January 5, 2021

The DDRA will present three individuals with $100 cash in our annual holiday **#ShopDarlington contest** to Lynda Dove, Ed Howard, and Otis Lawhon. The contest encourages folks to shop at five (5) DIFFERENT businesses between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Entry forms were available online at BuildUpDarlington.org/shopdarlington, in The News & Press, and on the City water bill insert. The 100 shoppers who submitted entries purchased more than $11,000 in goods in Darlington with an average purchase of $27.66. We plan to present the prizes at the end of the week.

The DDRA will begin our monthly **Member Breakfasts at 8 a.m. on Thursday, January 28, at Taki's Diner, 609 Pearl St.** These meals are at no charge for members and a small $5 fee

towards the meal for all others. The events allow our businesses to build connections and strengthen our local economy.

The Board of Directors welcomed two new members this month, **Pastor Corey Milling and Beth York**. Both represent downtown businesses and bring fresh ideas and energy to the Board.

The DDRA Board has approved $4,000 for façade grants for 2021! The DDRA Improvement Incentive Grant Program helps businesses and property owners to make repairs, install signage, and paint. Since its inception, the program has been in direct connection with more than $177,000 worth of upgrades. The grant deadline is the 24th of each month until funds are exhausted.

We are making plans for our annual **Golf Tournament this spring, the return of the Taste of Darlington, possibly in the fall, depending on COVID restrictions, Scare on the Square for Halloween, and more.**

In the meantime, **we continue to promote Darlington and its businesses on Social Media and through our News Alert System each week.** Our alerts reach more than 2,700 people! We continually update our Web page, www.BuildUpDarlington.org, where individuals can submit information or sign up to receive these alerts.

GREATER DARLINGTON GREATER OF COMMERCE - MRS. NANCY MATTHEWS

Mrs. Matthews said the Darlington Chamber is moving forward slowly. They have had some events that were cancelled or postponed because of the situation. Mrs. Matthews said they have an application available for a part-time director and the application is available until January 8th. She said the application can be received by emailing information at darlingtonchamber.com or call any chamber member or herself at the office. She said they hope to have someone in place by the end of January and have office hours three days a week. Mrs. Matthews said the chamber is a membership organization and it has been in existence here in Darlington since 1932 the Chamber's mission is to promote business and enhance the community. She said that is their mission and they continue to provide resources to businesses and individuals, and she hopes everyone will call on them. Mrs. Matthews said, "Because the City (and that includes all city employees, and council members which are considered members) is a member and that's important because our next event whether it's virtual or face-to-face is going to be their annual banquet which usually happens in February but probably will not this year". Mrs. Matthews said at that time they recognize outstanding individuals and businesses in the communities of Darlington, Lamar, and Society Hill. She said any chamber member can nominate someone to receive one of those awards. She encouraged everyone to think about that and think about what has and who has made a difference in our community in the last year. She said if you want to know how to nominate to go to information@darlingtonchamber.com. She said as far as events ago there are no definite dates they hope to have the annual membership chamber event, hopefully in March. She said they do have a solid date for Freedom Fest which will be Saturday, July 3rd and it will take place on the Square rather than at the Racetrack. They are looking for help, sponsors encouragement of any sort. She reminded all that they did Fright Fest October 31st on the square which was a

wonderful event with lots of folk, lots of children, no problems, and they were proud of that fact. Mrs. Matthews said if you know of someone that would be interested in being a 25 - 30 hour a week chamber director who would build community and be a positive influence in the community please encourage them to apply. If you have any questions call the chamber number and you'll get a response. Councilman Howard Nettles asked does the new person have to live within the city or county of Darlington? Mrs. Matthews said, "we want that person to live within the county of Darlington". Mayor Boyd asked Mrs. Matthews if they planned to have the fireworks at Freedom Fest this year? Mrs. Matthews said, "That's the plan". She said so they will be reaching out to arrange all that and get all of the permits and everything.

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

Mrs. Rock said she received two written comments and one phone call.

Email from Mr. Mark Face - Happy new year I'm writing to request inform counsel concerning sidewalks several sidewalks I walk on regularly are very hazardous. I am limited to the type of exercise because of my disability. Walking is one of the last things I have, and I also enjoy as my Bella walks with me having said that Spring Street, North Main St., Blue Street are the main travel for me. They are overgrown with dirt, weeds, leaves, etc. creating hazards. I've slipped several times And I am worried of falling. I've reached out to Alex and the Mayor and even sent photos to both. On one occasion crews came out and blew off the leaves which I appreciate. Keeping the sidewalks clean are not only safe but also assist in storm drainage. Thank you and God bless.

Penny Neal sent in a series of questions: 1) When will Broad Street be finished? 2) Need to know chemicals used in our water for allergy test. 3) Need fire hydrant at the end of Hampton Street; 4) Iron in water is a health concern and plumbing issues, hot water heater and everything in my house; 5) The water meter in my front yard needs to be fixed; 6) Water stands in the yard all the time needs to be fixed; 7) Crane that picks up the leaves is making holes in the ground and roots on the trees and road. Thank you. Mrs. Rock said Ms. Neal said to please send the response to her and she included her address and phone number if anyone would like to call her.

Mrs. Rock said the last person that wished to appear before council that called just prior to this meeting trying to find out where we were holding the meeting and how to attend. Mrs. Rock said she did inform her that they are closing the meetings to all except staff and media. The caller asked Mrs. Rock to express her opinion. Mrs. Rock says she doesn't have anything written. Mrs. Rock said she asked her to write something and she sure she is not conveying all that she said because it was quite a long conversation. Mrs. Rock says she was very upset about the water bill that it was $100. The lady said she's on a fixed income and it keeps getting higher and higher and wanted to know if there is any way there can be a cap. Mrs. Rock said that the lady who called was Mrs. Beatrice Wilson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2020-22 BUSINESS LICENSE ENFORCEMENT

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2020-22 Business License Enforcement. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Milling, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2020-23 COMMERCIAL RECYCLING CONTAINER FEE

Mayor Boyd asked Mrs. Rock if she received anything on the Public hearing. Mrs. Rock said she didn't receive any comment. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "On the public hearing ordinance, was the public informed about the public hearing or did we actually have one, how did we do that"? Mrs. Rock said they announce the public hearing in the newspaper of record for the county and the News and Press about 30 days ahead of time. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Did it say they could or could not attend"? Mrs. Rock said, "It gives instructions as far as to write in comments or to call". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Is that legally a public hearing if they can't attend, they can only…. Mr. Garland said, "Ma'am during the pandemic those rules I think have changed a bit. He said we give these folks the same opportunity to discuss or put in a comment by a written note or a phone call". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Is that legal Kevin"? City Attorney Kevin Etheridge said, "There has been a lot of leeway. Mr. Etheridge said, I talked to the gentleman at the Municipal Association. Throughout the pandemic as long as people are aware of it and they have an opportunity to voice their concerns, during this time they are going to allow that". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Ok".

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2020-23 COMMERCIAL RECYCLING CONTAINER FEE

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on ordinance 2020-23 Commercial Recycling Container Fee. Councilman John Milling seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

2019-2020 AUDIT PRESENTATION MR. BILL HANCOCK BRITTINGHAM GROUP (PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM)

Mr. Bill Hancock said this is their third year doing the audit for the City of Darlington and this has been the smoothest year yet. He said things that they needed to see for evidence and documentation were very quickly and readily available. He started on page 2. He said the most important thing the City is after when you engage an auditor is you want an opinion on your financial statements. This year as in the years past you have received an unmodified opinion formally known as an unqualified opinion also known as a clean opinion which is the highest mark they can give. He then went to pages 44 & 45 which he said is the second most important part of an audit done under a government audit standard. This is also the high marks that the City of Darlington has received in the past and will receive again this year. This letter goes into the description of their opinion of our internal control structure and they also mention what their findings are when they examine the compliance issue we have with outside external forces we are bound by. Mr. Hancock said their exam was not specifically designed to test it nor was it designed to render an opinion on whether or not it was good or bad or indifferent. Mr. Hancock said, "What they do disclose to you folks is that over the course of our examination we did not

find any instances where we found the weaknesses in your internal control structure. Meaning, that we don't recommend that you change anything that's going on right now". Mr. Hancock said as far as payroll taxes being submitted, they didn't find any instances where there was a mistake or an error where this process failed. In other words, they found that we made our payroll tax deposits in the proper amounts and in a timely manner each time they were supposed to be made. He said the same can be said for the amount that we are withholding for employee retirement. Also, the same can be said for the amount that's submitted to the State for police fines that the city collects. He said on page 10 you can see where the City has reported its budget to actual comparison for the general fund. Mr. Hancock said this is sometimes looked at as the most important measurement of how the city is doing both in estimating its resources and its estimated expenses. In other words, does the city have adequate vision on what its sources and uses will be in the coming year? Mr. Bill said, "Fiscal year end June 30th was not a regular year". He said we would expect to see some things that we would not see in an ordinary year. He said the net change in the fund balance was a deficit of $412,000. He told council another issue he wanted to draw their attention to is you can see your revenues by source and expenses and by department and those need to be examined by the staff level and the discussion level of council. Mr. Bill Hancock said, "This year was weird, so we've got some pretty big variances both to the positive and the negative. He said some of those couldn't have been predicted and were impossible to react to, but maybe some of them were, but it's the City's job to figure those out". Mr. Hancock said since this is the third year that they have served the City they have observed a trend; he said on the page where we have a $412,000 deficit in 2020 he went back and looked at 2018 and 2019 and what he found was in 2019 there was a $273,000 deficit and in 2018 there was a surplus of $372,000. He said if you look at the cumulative effect of those three years that's a cumulative deficit of $414,000. Mr. Hancock said he thinks the City needs to examine its rate structure with the services it provides in the general government and scrutinize on a very detailed level where the money is going, how we are spending it, what the department budgets are, what our "want to haves" are vs what "our needs to have are". He said that's a trend that we need to pay attention to, maybe have some discussions about and when budget time rolls around maybe keep this in mind and take it into consideration for the fiscal year that we will be entering into next year. Mr. Bill then went to page 12 which shows the statement of revenues expenses and changes in net position for your proprietary fund which is the income statement for the Water & Sewer Fund and the Stormwater Fund. He drew the council's attention to the line that reads "*Loss Before Capital Contributions and Transfers"*. He said we showed a loss this year of $675,000. He said going back to 2018 and 2019 and comparing it to 2020 (since those are the three years we have served the City) in 2019 we had a $410,000 loss and in 2018 we had a $505,000 loss. Mr. Bill said that's a cumulative loss of almost $1,600,000 in the past three fiscal years. He said if that's the bottom line there's only two ways to change it 1) Is to change the top line which is the revenue; 2) Is to change the middle line which is the expenses. Mr. Bill said they recommended the City do a rate study and he thinks we have that performed and he would be curious to see the results of any rate changes going forward. Mr. Bill said he's cautioned the City because the losses of this magnitude continually could eventually put the city in danger from a tax flow perspective and for future borrowings. He said you would probably have to get rated by one of the rating agencies or if you go over to the Revolving Loan Fund of South Carolina or USDA, which I'm not sure that

you qualify for, if your rates are not high enough to sustain certain debt service ratio, they will force you to raise those rates as a condition of lending you the money for the capital upgrades that your need. Mr. Bill went to Page 40 which talks about subsequent events. Things that happened since June 30, 2020 through November 20 which is the day they issued the reports. Mr. Bill said, "Of course they are talking about Covid-19. He said normally there aren't many things to talk about in subsequent events when it comes to municipalities. Mr. Bill said maybe we issued a bond or started a different kind of program or fund. He said, "Usually the discussion here is pretty vanilla. There's no real news to speak of, but Covid-19 has changed that". City operations can or have been shut down for periods of time and that kind of thing could come back. He said the main thing he wanted to talk about is the water and sewer system. Mr. Hancock said he's speaking to this about all of the water/sewer systems they do work for. He said your water and sewer system does two things: 1) It distributes the water to your customers and then 2) It collects the wastewater and then it treats it. As our system ages it's harder and harder for the system to process wastewater. Some of the things that are now being flushed down the toilets that we're being asked to treat in wastewater are harder and harder on our system specifically wipes, baby wipes, and then oil products (grease). He said when times tighten up as they have people try to find a way to lighten the load on their household so things get flushed down the toilets when it might be things that need to be recycled. Mr. Hancock said he said that to bring up the possibility that there are things going on because of this pandemic that maybe the city hasn't considered but needs to be on the lookout for. On Page 43 the City reports what happens with the process by which it's collecting municipal fines, how much has gone to the State Treasurer and what have you done with your Victims Assistance. He said it was tested and the City is using their Victims Assistance money appropriately. We have assessments and surcharges that we are obtaining for the specific use for victims and witnesses of crimes. Mr. Bill Hancock encouraged the City to continue to spend the victim's assistance money as we have in the past and all of the programs that are allowed by the State law. Mayor Boyd said, "On page 12 you said that the Water Department will have a deficit of $675,000 we're in the hole, correct"? And to correct that, basically you're saying that we needed to go up on our water bills and sanitation and so forth and that's what we did, but we went up in October so that will reflect on the following year, correct"? Mr. Bill Hancock asked, "Was that the result of a rate study that you did"? Mayor Boyd said, "Yes Sir, we did a rate increase in October, so that should help". Mr. Bill Hancock said, "Yes, that should help". Mr. Garland said council needs to vote to accept the audit. Councilman Milling told Mr. Garland this is probably a question he can answer. Councilman Milling said, "I noticed on page 10 and there are a number of items that are in the negative and I just didn't know whether we were addressing the variances that occurred between what we had budgeted for the 2019-2020 budget year and the actual amounts that were actually spent so that we can get a handle on where the excessive…. what were the causes for the excessive expenditures"? Mr. Garland said, "I can't really speak of anything specifically, but when we do a reckoning with our numbers we'll address it when we go through department by department. He said one of the things that we've been concerned about and Covid has affected us with has been in a reduction of the police fines because the police are not writing as many tickets. Mr. Garland said something that's not reflected also in this budget year is the increase in building permit fees that we've had due to the additional funds that we've gotten from Georgia Pacific. Mr. Garland said some

years are going to be skewed over others because we receive grant funds and sometimes we have to have an outlay of capital and we have to pay for the grants upfront and be reimbursed later. Registration fees were down in the Spring because we didn't have registration for baseball or softball. He said there are some Covid related issues with these budget items because three months out of the 12 months, we were affected by the constraints that were put on us budgetarily by the Covid virus. Councilman Milling said, "I can understand that, I just think we need to know when we were looking at….. the first one was Municipal Court, well, we weren't having court. Councilman Milling said since we weren't having court I'm just not sure why we spent more if we were at…..if we weren't holding court why would our expenses have gone up"? Councilman Milling said, "When we're getting ready to do our budget for the 2021-22 year I want to be sure we are addressing these things so that we know whether or not you bring us a figure that it's going to be a legitimate figure and not something that can be skewed or we know why these figures were skewed so that we don't run into that problem again". Mr. Garland said, "A lot of it is the first time we've run into it because of the virus. He said things that we can handle we're certainly going to work with and when we get around to looking at those numbers we may have to make some cuts, or we may have to look at some increases. Councilman Milling said, "I noticed with Community Promotions we are $25,000 in the hole, but we weren't having a whole lot of community get-togethers because of Covid so I just was wondering why that would be $25,000"? Mr. Garland said, "Community Promotions not only include money for PDRTA….. it's not just get-togethers and things like that. There are things in that budget such as for The Memorial Cemetery Association, for the Lord Cares, there are other things that come out of that. He said it promotes not just get-togethers but also nonprofits entities within the City". Councilman Milling said, "I just want to know, we budgeted $25,000, but we spent $50,000". Mayor Boyd said, "On that one and on Municipal Court you're more than double your budget". Mayor Boyd said, "It's one thing to run over budget a little but those two are big red flags". Mr. Garland said, "Without looking at a specific month by month run down I do not have a good explanation for that at the moment". Councilman Nettles asked, "When do you think we can expect reconciliation? When do you expect that will happen"? Mr. Garland said, "I'm hoping before the middle of February as far as looking at the first six-month numbers". Councilman Nettles said, "And when do we start working on budget"? Mr. Garland said in February as far as looking at the first six-month numbers. Councilman Nettles said, "We should have that well before we start looking at the budget". Mr. Garland said, "We should, but the thing that usually holds us back is we get two large property tax payments; one comes the third week in January and the other one comes the third week in February". Councilman Bryant Gardner asked Mr. Garland to email them what was going on with the variance on those accounts. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 audit as prepared by the Brittingham Group, LLC. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Segars, Reed and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Lisa Rock said she received an application from Ms. Carla Elvington. Mrs. Rock said Mr. Nettles suggested she apply to serve on the Historical Landmarks Commission. She said that the only person they had to submit an application. **Council Howard Nettles made a motion**

to appoint Ms. Carla Odom Elvington to the Historical Landmarks Commission. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus. Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of appointing Ms. Carla Odom Elvington to the Historical Landmarks Commission.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2021-01 TRANSFER OWNERSHIP FOUNTAIN/HEWITT STREETS TO DARLINGTON COUNTY

Mr. Garland said Darlington County has asked for the possession of Hewitt & Fountain Streets since they are constructing the judicial center in that area. Mr. Garland said they initially had Hewitt and Fountain Streets on the list of municipal streets to be paved but they took it off in anticipation of the County wanting these streets and they have made a request for them. He said its staff recommendation that we have first reading on this and eventually end up giving both of these streets to the County as a part of that section that will allow for the new judicial center. Councilman Milling said, "Just so we'll be clear will you describe where Hewitt Street and Fountain Street are located"? Mr. Garland said, "Immediately off of North Main Street above the Library and right beside the property that Daniel Watson and Curtis Boyd have (the 2 houses). He said one house was the old law office of Woodrow Lewis and it makes a fishhook around that property and comes back out in front of the old jail. Councilman Milling asked, "Do we have any information from the County in connection with their construction of the courthouse as to whether these streets will be restricted in any way, closed off in any way or whether they will still be open so that the Mayor can get to his property and Jannie Lathan can get to her property"? Mayor Boyd said, "To my understanding there's still going to be public access. He said Fountain Street will be their main access point to get into the courthouse". Mayor Boyd said they will still have to have access to get to the library and they have to have access to still get on Hewitt Street which is where the Historical Commission is and they're going to be doing work there also. Councilman Milling said but if people are coming out of the city owned parking lot and walk through come out that way will they still be able to leave the city parking lot? Mayor Boyd said his understanding is they will leave it all the same. Mr. Garland said there are a certain number of parking spaces they are adding on that side also, so he's not sure if it will be one-way or not but they may have a directional challenge where they send the traffic one way or the other. Mr. Garland said he can't speak specifically to that. Mayor Boyd said you are still supposed to use the entrance point between the old Belk building over by Merrill Norman. He said right now that's a one-way entrance there but I'm sure that one would still have to be one-way because they can't move buildings. Mayor Boyd said he's been told they can use that point and City Lane to come into the parking area back there. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2021-01 Transfer Ownership of Fountain and Hewitt Streets to Darlington County. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted for the motion.**

CITY OF DARLINGTON LIGHTING ORDINANCE DISCUSSION – MAYOR BOYD

Mr. Alex Gainey said he spoke to Howard and Curtis about the lighting in front of Circle B (the convenience store at the corner of Farm Street & S. Main Street). Mr. Gainey said he was coming through there about three weeks ago and there is lighting in the road, but its not real

bright. He said a gentleman got out in the median and as he got in front of the store the man darted out in front of him and he almost hit him. He said the man had on dark clothes. Mr. Gainey said he called the contact that he had with Duke Energy to see what would be involved in lighting up the area a little more. Mr. Gainey said the man told him they could light it up but the problem they are going to have is the City of Darlington's lighting ordinance. He said any time they've tried to light roadways up Mr. Francis Parnell has come back and complained. Mr. Gainey said safety is more important than that lighting ordinance in that area. Mr. Gainey said he talked with Howard about it and he called Curtis and talked to him about it, so he's coming to Council tonight to figure out what we need to do and what we can do to try to make that area safer for people crossing the road. He said if it's going to violate the lighting ordinance, he doesn't know what we can do to get around it to shield the lights or whatever, but we need to do something. He said if he's not mistaken there's a couple of pedestrians that have been hit that have walked across the road in that area. Councilman John Milling said, "If you can bring us a recommendation, we can look at amending the ordinance". Mr. Gainey said when he talked to Duke they said there are several different ways they can light it up. They can put lights on the pole that can shine out in the road, they can put sixteen-foot standoffs on the pole to get the lights further out over the road. He said he don't know exactly what the City would want to do, but he can get the different options. Councilman John Milling said, "It would probably help to know what exactly in our ordinance is prohibiting these modifications from being made". Councilwoman Reed asked, "What does Duke Energy say prevents them from….what's in our ordinance that specifically stops them"? Mr. Gainey said I don't know that they actually know all the words of the ordinance, but he knows that they've had Francis Parnell call and complain about some of the lights we put on Spring Street. Councilman Howard Nettles said, "What he complains about typically is the lumens and the shielding". Mrs. Rock said, "From my understanding of the lighting ordinance there are products that can do what we want as far as lighting that street, that conforms to our ordinance. She said there's a way to do it and I don't know exactly what they are having a problem with in here. She said they make shielding and they make the thing so that it will light where you want it to light. Councilman Nettles said, "When he discussed it with us before his whole idea like the ones that reach out and gives the shielding and it goes right down to the street. Councilman Nettles said, "He brought in several different studies from several different cities that did the same thing and that's what most of our conversations revolved around was that, which was very doable. And then he has problems with places like Walmart that don't necessarily shield the lights as it goes up. Mrs. Rock said in 2019 Council amended this ordinance to make it more specific so that codes enforcement could be more specific to contractors so they would know what is and is not acceptable rather than having some vague terminology in it. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "Duke Energy is saying that they will light it up and the only reason that they have not has simply been a resident or a citizen complaining because I'm not hearing nothing specific". Mr. Gainey said, "To put more light in that area, that's something that the City has to initiate-the City has to call and say we need to light this area up a little bit more, but the City hasn't done that. Mrs. Rock said, "We can have that requested. We can list all the pole numbers. She said the upgrade of the fixture is anywhere from $50 and up additional to replace fixtures that exist. She said on S. Main Street there are poles that don't have lights at all, so that would be adding lights. Councilwoman Reed said, "I just want to address it because they were just in the area this week upgrading or

checking the poles in Ward 2. She said there are several streets around where she lives that are totally dark and the answers that she got was they can do whatever you want, we just have to get the request. Councilman Gardner said two areas that have been brought to his attention a few times that he thinks we also need to look at. He said the first thing we need to do is get with Duke Energy and get a list of the lights that are our options because there is a price difference obviously and we can compare that with our ordinance and see where it fits or if we need to change something then we can pick a more appropriate light. He said the second thing is Russell Street (The Health Department, Joe's Grill) right in that section is as dark as can be. He said everybody is walking through there from the health department and the playground so one light would probably light the entire section. Councilman Gardner said Wyandot Street right at the hill at Wyandot Street he would like to know the price of getting a light there as well. Mrs. Rock said, "If we could get a list from Councilmembers of areas of concern send it all to her and she will contact the lighting folks at Duke and come up with some sort of plan. She said Duke Energy has been against us having a lighting ordinance so they may just need some information from us to coordinate and make things works. Mr. Garland said we do need to increase the lighting on S. Main Street out to Walmart. He said a tractor trailer hit a homeless person, so it's been a problem for years. He said we have the power to address it and as long as the lights are shielded downward it shouldn't be a problem. Mayor Boyd said, if by this Friday, if everybody can email Lisa she can get the information to Duke Energy.

RECEIVE AS INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "On the water, it just seems like for the last couple meetings it just simply says that we are still working on these lift stations. I just like to see it one time, some kind of move in there and it tell us where you are working. Is it just at a standstill or just what because there's just so many different problems"? Councilwoman Reed said, "And please, tell me what the situation is on Jessamine. And I did stop and talked with the workers out there today and they said they were putting in new pipe". Mr. Gainey asked Councilwoman Reed if she was talking about stormwater? Councilwoman Reed said, "It could have been, but I thought they said it was backed up sewer". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I'm lost too I don't know anything…. Mayor Boyd asked, "Who are you talking to, who are you speaking with? Are you speaking about the water that's on the road"? Councilwoman Reed said, "No, I stopped because the guys had the big heavy equipment digging down there and they said they had to put all new piping in there, but it was sewage backup". Mr. Kinsaul said, "No, they are making a repair on the street". Councilwoman Reed said, "I mean a repair and putting in new pipes and everything, well I'm just saying whatever they finished it's full of water again" Councilwoman Reed said, I was driving kind of slow and still hit the….I mean I went down so hard, I mean the car almost went over there on the side". Councilwoman Reed said I'm kind of upset about it because your report says no major problems this month and yet everywhere you're going we've got major problems". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I'm talking about major problems like Broad Street. Mr. Kinsaul said a sewer leak is a routine problem to me". Councilwoman Reed said, "It may be to you, but those residents in there are complaining and I'm getting it and I've experienced it

myself." Mr. Kinsaul said, "I said routine because we have them all over town". Councilwoman Reed said let's not minimize our taxpayers over there. Mr. Kinsaul said I don't minimize any area, but I'm just saying they're so numerous it's a daily routine that we probably have two or three on the list right now. Councilwoman Reed said, "Well I want you to please check on Jessamine and see what's going on". Mr. Kinsaul said, "Ok, but it's hard to do street repair right now with all of the rain.

Councilman Bryant Gardner said the next time we go out on country club road the leak is now two water leaks. The original one that was fixed a couple weeks ago, it's back and there's another one there as well. Councilman Gardner asked if we can make sure management is out there when they are doing the repair because we are having to fix leaks in the exact same spot half a dozen maybe a dozen times now and that's a waste of all of our time. Mr. Kinsaul said it's bad and I told Howard it's coming when they run that vibrating equipment paving the streets it finds every bad spot there is. Councilman John Milling said these two spots are not new street spots they are at the main entrance road and right there in front of Dr. Eads house along in that area. Mr. Kinsaul said a lot of that pipe in the Country Club is just shot and it's literally falling apart. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, on First Street that sinkhole on First Street a couple months ago did you go out and check the sinkhole or what"? Mr. Kinsaul said Frankie checked it and it's solid, it's just sunk in like D Avenue did around that manhole. He said when they dug it up it was solid down there. Councilwoman Baccus said, "It's not a manhole, it's on the side of the street in front of Ms. Ross (on the corner of Ms. Ross' mailbox). Councilwoman Baccus said on the side of the street is where the sinkhole is forming at and it has an orange cone sitting there. Mr. Kinsaul said, "We looked at it, Ms. Baccus, but I don't remember I'll have to check it again". He said I do know that Frankie looked at it. Councilman Gardner said, "Lisa could you get with the sewer department and get your figures together again for Country Club and expanding that sewer line and just make sure those are up to date and as accurate as you can get them as a guesstimate"?

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked, "Alex, the problem that we're having over on Abe Lincoln you said the State is going to have to go out and dig up the pipes and the drain lines"? Mr. Gainey said, "The State is supposed to go in there and they're going to dig it up and they will lay pipe where driveways are at, but they were not going to lay pipe where they can drive across the yard". He said they are supposed to be open flow ditches in between driveways. Mr. Gainey said he did not give him a timeline as to when they would go in there and dig it out, but he did say they would go in there and dig it out and get it flowing on that side. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Was it originally an open ditch because I don't ever remember seeing a ditch there"? Mr. Gainey said the plans that they have shows an open flow ditch, but I don't know. Mr. Gainey said, "One thing I do know is there's black corrugated pipe and that's not something typically the State would put in. He said if the City went in and put it in, I don't know, but somebody did go in there and put it in there years ago". Mr. Gainey said Treasure said they would go in there and dig it out to get it flowing and see what's going on, but they would not put the pipe across the yard. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I want you to get a price for me for whatever it cost to put those pipes back because I know the City put those pipes there because I got that information while back from when Mr. Cannon was here". Councilwoman Baccus

said, “I don’t know why the City went in and put those plastic pipes from the start”. Mr. Gainey said if we are going to put a plastic pipe down we need to put a double wall pipe down. Councilwoman Baccus said, “I don’t think it needs to be a plastic pipe. I was just saying that’s what they put down before”. Mr. Gainey said his recommendation is to let the State do what they are going to do and figure out how much end is actually open and then we can look at it and go from there. Councilwoman Baccus said she still wants to know the price to replace the section.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked Mr. Gainey if he got some kind of response about St. James? Mr. Gainey said, “I went over there and looked at it and that hole is deeper than any piece of equipment that we’ve got. He said it wouldn’t surprise me if that hole isn’t 15 feet deep”. He said if our track hoe would go that deep, he would take his guys over there and fix it, but ours won’t go that deep. Councilwoman Reed asked him if he would get a price for it. Mr. Gainey said, “The best thing to do is when we get a dry period we can put the camera in there and see how much it actually collapsed so we know what kind of footing we’re looking at”. Councilwoman Reed said she would like to be able to tell them that we are making some effort to see what can be done to correct it. Mr. Gainey said he’ll get with Howard and they will look at it and he’ll see if he can get the camera in there and see what they’ve got. Mr. Garland said they are hoping that the repairs and the work that DOT is doing on Orange & Wells Streets will alleviate all of those issues that are upstream from that outfall. He said that’s one of the areas and we’ve also had problems on North Sycamore right beside the CRC. There's also been a problem on South Sycamore between South Sycamore and West Hampton Street. Mr. Garland said all of that area feeds into that one area.

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked Mr. Gainey If he got a chance to follow up on Brunson Street. Mr. Gainey said, “Treasure was going get with the railroad and see how far they could get toward the railroad and they were going to go in and try to dig it out”. He said what he’s telling him is they have a long backlog of trying to get everything cleaned out. Mr. Gainey said he’ll call tomorrow to see if he’s gotten any other information on it. Councilwoman Baccus said, you’re on this side of the street where the ditch is at, but I’m referring to the other side”. Mr. Gainey said they were supposed to replace that top. He said he’ll check with him and see. Mr. Gainey said he will ride over there in the morning and see if the top has been replaced.

Mayor Curtis Boyd asked Mr. Gainey if he has any update since he’s gotten the new hot patch machine in. Mr. Gainey said he has gotten the hot patch machine in and has given the paperwork to Gloria but he’s not sure if we’ve got to have tags on the trailer or not. He said we’re waiting on the title/tags so we can put it on the road.

Mayor Boyd asked Sheila Jones to give an update on house demolition. Ms. Sheila Jones said the next demo they are going to do is on Washington Street right across from the Hartsville Oil Mill. She said with the rain and the holidays she stopped with the demolition program and they will pick it back up this month, but the first one is on Washington Street. Ms. Jones said then they will go across South Main Street. Mayor Boyd asked, “If the ones on Syracuse Street and off Syracuse Street onto Broad Street in the woods, are they already on the list”? Ms. Jones said, “No, those aren’t on the list they are on the list that’s going to be updated that she would have to bring it before council.

Mayor Boyd asked Chief Washington if he can watch the area at the end of Syracuse Street and Broad Street a little bit more. He said there's a lot of activity in that area that doesn't seem right. Chief Washington said, "One of the things that they have been doing with their problem areas is that they have been determining who the owners of those properties are because we've got property owners that are accepting rent and they are allowing these people to come into those communities and creating havoc. Chief Washington said I have been reaching out to those property owners, those landlords and holding them just as accountable as the people that are in the community that are creating the problem because they can get those people out of that community quicker than we can". He said it's been pretty successful so far. Mayor Boyd said in that particular area there are four plus houses in that area that's in desperate need of being removed. He said anytime you get that much stuff going on it just causes issues.

REMINDERS

Monday January 18, 2021- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - City Offices Closed
Tuesday February 2, 2021 Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council, 6:30 PM

ADJOURN

Upon motion of councilman John Milling second by Councilman John Segars, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

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Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

_____
Mayor