CITY OF DARLINGTON
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:00 PM
&
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
MARCH 2, 2021 AT 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Howard Garland, Councilpersons Howard Nettles, Sheila Baccus, John Segars, Bryant Gardner, and John Milling. Councilwoman Elaine Reed had not arrived yet. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mr. Alex Gainey, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, and Mr. Bobby Bryant from The News & Press.

Mayor Curtis Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Councilman John Milling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:06 PM to discuss a Police Department Personnel; Economic Development-Darlington Raceway Annexation Agreement, Personnel City Manager Contract (The City of Darlington May or May Not Vote After Executive Session). Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion to go into executive session. Councilpersons Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

(Councilwoman Elaine Reed arrived at 6:10 PM)

City Manager Howard Garland was excused from the executive session.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, the Executive Session ended at 7:18 PM.

Mayor Boyd said in open session that we just came out of executive session but there is not a vote after the executive session.

5-Minute Break

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING @ 7:23 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Howard Garland, Councilpersons Howard Nettles, Sheila Baccus, John Segars, Bryant Gardner, John Milling and Elaine Reed. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Lee Andrews, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mrs. Anna DeWitt, Assistant Fire Chief Charles Bailey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, W&S Superintendent Freddie Kinsaul, Building & Codes Official Sheila Jones, Street &

Sanitation Supt. Mr. Alex Gainey, Mr. Danny Watson and Mr. Bobby Bryant from The News & Press.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer by Councilman John Milling which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES CITY COUNCIL MEETING 2/2/2021

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 council meeting. Councilman John Milling seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Gardner, Segars, and Mayor Boyd approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the amended agenda for the City Council Meeting for Tuesday, March 2, 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 – March 2, 2021

Come out this Saturday to help choose the title of Best Chili in Town as the DDRA partners with Joe's Grill for its **Annual Chili Championship & Car Show** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 Russell St. Cook teams are still being accepted, and the proceeds from this event will go to the fire department. Tasting wristbands can be purchased that morning at Joe's Grill for $5, and the people will choose the champion!

The DDRA will present its **2020 Member of the Year Award** during the Chamber's annual banquet on March 18 at 7 o'clock at The Grand Old Post Office.

We invite teams to participate in our **Annual DDRA Golf Tournament on Wednesday, April 14,** at Darlington Country Club. The four-man captain's choice tournament includes a delicious lunch, beverages, and a wonderful afternoon of golf. **Thank you to Carolina Bank, Darlington Raceway, Nationwide Insurance, Fitness World Gyms, and MPD Electric for their support that makes this event possible!** We are still looking for golf teams, hole sponsors, and goodie bag donations for this fun day on the golf course.

The DDRA will continues its monthly **Member Breakfasts at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 25, 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.

In the meantime, **we continue to promote Darlington and its businesses on Social Media and through our News Alert System each week.** Our alert reaches 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.

We welcome newest members, **American Legion Post 13** and **R.E. Goodson Construction Co. Inc.** Thank you for your support of our community!

DDRA Membership is open to Businesses, Individuals, Civic groups, and Churches. Members can give us a **call, 843-992-1561, or send us an email, info@buildupdarlington.org**, and we will feature their news, employee recognitions, sales, new products, special hours, and events with people interested in Darlington as well as TV stations, radio stations, and newspapers through our text and email News Alerts.

GREATER DARLINGTON GREATER OF COMMERCE – MRS. NANCY MATTHEWS

Mrs. Nancy Matthews said that the Chamber of Commerce exist to promote business and the welfare of the community so that's their mission. She said they are a membership organization and the membership funds much of their endeavors, however they have lots of events that add to that. Mrs. Matthews said recently they have a new director and they have some new members they've had a couple of ribbon-cuttings; and they had a successful business after hours on February 5th. She said their next event is the annual membership banquet to be held on March 18th at the Old Post Office where they award businesses and individuals. She said there are applications for nominating individuals and businesses so if you want to know more about that they would love to get their input. Mrs. Matthews said there are big event Freedom Fest is going to go on this year. Mrs. Matthews said they originally had it scheduled for July 3 and they are having to reschedule it to the previous Saturday, June 26 due to the rides and vendors already being obligated for the 3rd. She said they talked to the police chief and he thinks that's even better. She said the location will be in the downtown area with fireworks at the empty lot owned by the mayor and some of his investors at Russell and Broad Street. Mrs. Matthew said they do appreciate the city's support of that event and we've done that for years she said they are coming to us with that request again. They would like to ask for the same amount that has been granted in years past of $15,000. She said as they did last year they will provide invoices for any funds that the city grants us, so the City knows exactly where that money is going. Mrs. Matthews said this year the rides will cost approximately $15,000 so she asked that the city consider that request and they look forward to any conversation/discussion about that. Ms. Matthews said she will be happy to take questions and hear comments.

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

Mrs. Rock said she did not receive any emails or letters.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2021-02 ANNEXATION 4 LOTS AT THE CORNER OF YOUNG/WINDHAM STREETS

Mrs. Rock said they did not receive any letters or emails about the annexation.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2021-02 ANNEXATION 4 LOTS AT THE CORNER OF YOUNG/WINDHAM STREETS

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2021-02 which is the annexation of the four lots on Young and Windham Streets. Councilman

John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Gardner and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion. **Councilman John Milling said he wanted to amend his motion slightly to give the tax map numbers that are identified for the request that was submitted to us: 164-05-02-038; 164-05-02-098; 164-05-02-089 and 164-05-02-097. Motion carried.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2021-04 ZONING LOTS YOUNG/WINDHAM STREETS (R-8)

Mrs. Rock said the Planning Commission met by Zoom last month and recommended a zoning designation for these properties of R-8 which is Medium-Density Residential. Councilwoman Reed asked, "What is it zoned now"? Mrs. Rock said, "It's not zoned, it's in the County". Mrs. Rock said based on the size and the width of the lots in that neighborhood they are all mostly in that same size as our ordinance says is in R-8. Mrs. Rock said that is the Planning Commission's recommendation. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2021-04 Zoning Lots on Young and Windham Streets to R-8. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion.** Councilman Milling said, "Ladies just so we are sure it would be those same tax map numbers that were included with the previous motion to annex the property". **Tax Map numbers that are identified for the request that was submitted to us: 164-05-02-038; 164-05-02-098; 164-05-02-089 and 164-05-02-097 Councilpersons Nettles, Gardner, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. (Motion carried)**

NEW BUSINESS

LED OUTDOOR LIGHTING UPDATE SOUTH MAIN STREET

Mr. Garland said two LED lights were installed near the main Food Lion entrance on S. Main Street. Mr. Garland said, "Some of you may have seen it and some of you haven't but it's about twice as bright as the other lights that we have on S. Main St. He said he's been pleased with what he saw, and he wanted to get other council members' opinions on it if they've seen it already. Mr. Garland told Council if they haven't seen it already he would urge them to go by and look and if it's all right he'll go ahead and put those lights in every commercial area that we have in town. Mr. Garland then asked the council if everyone had seen them and the majority said, "No". Councilman Bryant Gardner said we also discussed Russell Street and Wyandot Street. He said he still would like to make it public that he would like to look into those two locations as well. Councilwoman Reed told councilman Gardner that she wasn't hearing him. Councilman Gardner said it's really dark at the hill on Wyandot in the Country Club. He said, "There's a hill where the lights whenever you're coming down it have you where you can...the lights are staring at the sky and people can be walking on the road. It's really a dangerous area". Councilman Gardner said it's the same thing with Siskron (the corner of Siskron & Russell) it's just as dark; right where our playground is in that area. Mr. Garland said we will order those lights or lighting studies for those areas. Mr. Garland said if there are no lights there they will have to do a lighting study, but if there is a current light there they will light it up. Councilman Gardner said, "Since we haven't done that I guess I'll add one more order to that list. He said please do a Lighting Study for Ward Street for decorative lighting to match the Square". Mr. Garland said, "That will take a little bit longer, but, Yes". Mayor Boyd asked the

Council if they were fine with changing the current commercial lighting out to the new lighting? Councilwoman Baccus said, “Add Jordan Street because there’s one section of Jordan that’s really dark”. Mayor Boyd asked Council if they needed to vote on that. Councilman Gardner said, “I can’t vote. I have to look at it first”. Councilman Howard Nettles asked council how many of them have seen it and I think only two people have seen the lights. Councilman Nettles said, “I think we need to see the lights before we vote”. The majority of Council agreed. Mayor Boyd said, “So if you can look at it before next time, we’ll vote on it next time”.

DECORATIVE LIGHTING PEARL STREET (BETWEEN DARGAN & SYCAMORE STREETS)

Mr. Garland said this is something that came as a request to us from Todd Hardee who is the owner of the Grand Old Post Office. He is requesting similar lighting that we have on the Square; also, on S. Main Street. North Main Street and the first block of Pearl Street. He said he would like to see decorative lights in between Sycamore and Dargan Streets. Mr. Garland said we put in a request in December for Duke Energy to come out and look and give an estimate on what the cost would be. Mr. Garland said our cost all together is $25,000 to put in the decorative lamps. He said that’s just the cost for Duke Energy to put in the lamps. He said they would cover half of that under a credit which they give municipalities. They take a half percent of our municipal fee and set it aside for lighting improvements, so if we wanted to do that, Duke Energy would pay half of $25,222. Mr. Garland said what this doesn’t cover is the traffic signals which would have to be moved and relocated and they would have to dig up the sidewalks and concrete would have to be replaced. We would also have to put the sidewalk back the way that it was. Mr. Garland said those costs are not added into this estimate from Duke Energy. Mr. Garland told council what they have on the handout was the cost to put in the lights and after that the cost will be roughly $20 a month for 20 years for the decorative lamps. He said it will be exactly the same lamps that we have on the Square and also on Pearl Street. Mr. Garland said what he’s asking for tonight is permission to go ahead and move forward with this and bring back to council all of the cost estimates involved with this. He said since Councilman Gardner asked tonight that we look at Ward Street we would have to go through the same process. He said Ward Street wouldn’t cost as much because there are no sidewalks there, but still we would have to tear up some of the street and put it back the way it was. Mayor Boyd said, “You said there’s money actually allotted”? Mr. Garland said, “Yes”. Mayor Boyd said, “We have a certain amount of money that’s allotted for underground lighting”? Mr. Garland said, “Duke Energy will give us half of the $25,222.62 to go toward putting up those lamps”. Mayor Boyd asked, “Do we currently have money earmarked for underground lighting”? Mr. Garland said, “No, we do not”. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “How many lights would this be”? Mr. Garland said, “We are looking at either three or four lights that would go on that block”. Councilwoman Reed said, “So, this is different than what we put on S. Main Street”? Mr. Garland said, “Yes ma’am. This is similar to the decorative lighting that we have on the Square and on the first block of Pearl Street which is the black concrete poles with the acorn lights and the finials on top”. Mr. Garland said, “He’s wishing to extend that another block”. Mr. Garland said, “We also had conversations with the County last year of doing that block of North Main Street where the library is located where they are going to put the new Judicial Center, but after they backed out of purchasing or leasing the Carnegie library, we stopped talking about that”. Councilwoman Reed asked, “How did that particular block, why is that one selected as opposed

to”…. Mr. Garland said, “Well it wasn’t selected Todd Hardee is asking that we consider this, that’s why I’m bringing it to you tonight”. Mr. Garland said he asked for us to get this quote and that’s what we did. Councilwoman Reed said, “So, ok from the Square to the library that you were saying that they voted not to do this”? Mr. Garland said, “No ma’am, we were discussing this with them as long as they were going to get the Carnegie Library, but then they backed out of that and they purchased the Wells Fargo building instead”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “So roughly we are spending about $30,000 for three or four lights”? Mr. Garland said, “Well, it would be half of $25,000 which is roughly $12,600 for those lights plus whatever DOT deems the cost to replace the traffic signals and the cost of tearing up the sidewalk and putting the sidewalks back. Councilwoman Baccus said $25,000 or $30,000 for three or four lights is a lot of money. Councilman Milling said, “It is a lot of money. Do we want however to have Howard get the information that would be necessary whether we spend the money or not”? Mayor Boyd said, “We are guessing right now. we don’t know what it’s going to cost. He’s asking right now can he go ahead and pursue. Mayor Boyd asked if he has a motion to approve for Howard to pursue pricing on decorative lighting for Pearl Street between Dargan and Sycamore Streets? He asked would you like to have him add the price to go on down to the Carnegie library? Councilman Nettles said, “I think I’d go ahead and do that and just do it as A or B”. Mr. Garland said while I’m asking for Ward Street I can ask for the Carnegie Library also. He said he can check with the County and see if they are willing to bear some of the cost with that block. Councilman Nettles said, “And just have them separate the two”. Councilman Milling said, “In addition to the lighting cost fee, the true cost for the traffic lighting and the sidewalk cost”. **Councilman Milling said, “I’ll make that motion that I think has been jointly contributed to by everybody. Councilman Segars seconded the motion**. **Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Gardner and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Boyd said to be clear we have a motion to approve for Howard to move forward with getting pricing for decorative lighting for Pearl Street between Dargan and Sycamore Streets along with Ward Street; along with from the Square to the Carnegie Library and also along with sidewalk construction and all repairs**.

GRANTING 10 FT. EASEMENT OWNERSHIP TO TODD HARDEE

City Attorney Kevin Etheridge said, “When Mrs. Lisa Rock and I talked today I think we have an accurate tax map ID now, so I think we can do a title search and I think it will be a week or two and we will probably have that. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, “It’s obviously the green area behind the old post office, but is it also the green area behind the taxi service? Did he want both of those”? Mayor Curtis Boyd said, “Yes he is purchasing the taxi, He corrected and said The Trading Post not the taxi. Mayor Curtis Boyd said he’s purchasing the two buildings at the corner of Grove Street and Pearl Street which go back to the back where the other green strip is which is another dead area”. Councilman Gardner asked, “So he’s wanting the green spot behind in between Grove and Dargan and he’s wanting the green spot between Dargan and Sycamore, correct? Two different spots”? Councilwoman Reed said, “All right say it, so I’ll know where you are talking about because this seems like this is a blanket granting, I don’t know what he’s talking about granting 10 feet east”. Mr. Garland said, “I think it’s better that we go ahead and have somebody map it and discuss it at a later date. He said we can guess it right now but until we….Mr. Garland said we’re not sure if we own it or how much we own”.

Councilwoman Reed said, “I don’t see how we can grant something and we’re not sure whether that’s ours”. Mayor Curtis Boyd said, “Well, we’re not asking for you to grant it until we find out if we….we’re just discussing it”. Councilwoman Reed said, “That’s what you’ve got on here Mayor. You’ve got “*granting”*. Mayor Boyd said, “That’s what they put down, but they didn’t get all of the information for us to**”.... Councilman John Milling made a motion that we carry over 8C until the next meeting to find out whether or not we do own it and let Kevin make that determination.** Councilman John Milling said he can also look at the issue as to whether or not we are free to give away City owned property or what’s the best way even if we just do a nominal amount. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, “Pardon me Judge, but I don’t know if there is such a thing as a motion to carry anything over. It would be to table it or take it as information if I’m not mistaken”. **Councilman John Milling said, “I make a motion to table it”. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Gardner and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

ADVERTISING ON CITY VEHICLES

City Attorney Kevin Etheridge said he and Lisa did some research and he talked with the Municipal Association and there’s nothing he can see that would prohibit this from going forward if this is something that Council wants to do. Mrs. Rock gave Councilmembers two pages of slightly different charges for advertising on city vehicles. Mrs. Rock said, “To give you an idea, we’ve got six trucks in the street department that we can do this sort of advertisement on the vehicles”. Mrs. Rock said they are large vehicles and they’ve got big spots where you can put a logo or a message. She said she’s guesstimating an 8-foot size, 10 foot on the cherry picker and 8 foot on the street sweeper. Mrs. Rock said the red block which shows $68,000 is the auto expense from the sanitation department for fiscal year 2018-2019. She said that’s how much we spent in gas and running this equipment. She said the pricing structure that she listed below is giving people a more expensive rate if they just want to do it one time for one month and a cheaper rate if they pay the 12 months upfront or the six months upfront. Mrs. Rock said the yellow block is the minimum amount of revenue ($55,200) if every truck has something on it and they are all 12-month contracts. The green box shows the maximum amount of revenue if we have to change it more often such as every month where you’re having somebody put a new logo on it and just doing it at those one-month increments. Mrs. Rock told council she can adjust it however they like. Mayor Boyd said, “Lisa the way, because this was my reason why I did it. The way I was interpreting it..thinking was if I want to put a sign or whoever wants to put a sign on any of these trucks, if I put a billboard sign up like I have on the property on 52 Highway I just put one up and I had to buy the billboard material and then I had to pay for it to be put up . Once it got up, within a month I didn’t like it because it didn’t look the way I chose for it to look, so I bought another one. I paid for another one to be put up at my expense and still the whole time paid the monthly fee for that sign to be up”. Mayor Boyd said the same issue here at no cost to the City, it should be that whatever truck is up there if I pick one of these big trucks for my business and I want a 10-foot sign up there and I want it up there for a month, I would pay whatever fee you come up with for that and then I would pay for it to be put up there, pay for the material and then if a month later it’s taken down then the next person would... if I want to change it or else they continuously pay. They are paying for that spot for that particular month, but they also have to pay whatever the cost is to put it up, so therefore the city has no

cost in this at all. Mrs. Rock said, “So this would be.. your charge, you’re saying would be this amount plus.” Mayor Boyd said, “Whatever amount you decide or whatever you think”. Mrs. Rock said, I’m just throwing some numbers out there, so we’ll have some idea”. Mayor Boyd said, “What number we come up with or you come up with or the council comes up with or whoever is responsible for coming up with a fee for the price per month on that particular truck”. Mayor Boyd suggested, “So that there is no cost to the City, the City is just a pure win when you go to the person and say or to a restaurant and they were going to put their name on the side of the truck if they choose to leave it up there for a year then they don’t have to change that banner but one time. If they continue and sign the lease again next year the banner is still good, and they don’t have to buy another banner”. Mayor Boyd said he had a banner up on a billboard sign for almost 3 years before he had to change the banner, so he didn’t incur any additional cost, but I still paid my monthly fee. Mrs. Rock said this is essentially just the monthly fee. Mayor Boyd said whoever is going out to advertise it to the people let them know it is whatever cost you come up with plus the additional fee. Mayor Boyd said the purpose of this is to bring more money into the city. Councilman Milling said, “But in a situation like with the city trucks, a new restaurant comes in, they want to advertise on our city trucks, they hire somebody and they pay for it to take place, but unfortunately do it for a year, but six months later they go bankrupt so they got it for a year but they’re not going to be around at the end of the year to begin the next cycle. Do we need to build something into the pricing structure to cover the cost of taking the current banner that may no longer be applicable off of our vehicles or how do we need to do that just so that we are sure that it will be all net to the City and we don’t incur any expense”? Mayor Boyd said, “If I put it up there and I signed a 12-month agreement.. again, we can decide...I will say pay the 12 months...if they pay the 12 months upfront or they pay it per month. If you’re doing it by the month then they don’t pay for it after six months and they go bankrupt then at the next point you say well I’m going to go to the next person to put it on there then he’s going to incur the cost of putting it on there”. Councilman Milling said we may end up giving some free advertising if there is an overlap when the person doesn’t renew their contract. Mayor Boyd said, “It’s the same as with my billboard signs that I put out there. If I say take it down, sometimes I say take it down March 31 and sometimes they will leave it up 15 days so I get 15 days of free advertising because they didn’t have a person in the middle to fill it, so I got a few extra days of free advertisement”. Mayor Boyd said the goal would be to go ahead and have somebody lined up for the next person to go in place. Councilman Milling said, “I’m assuming it would not be terribly expensive if we had to take it off and Mayor Boyd said, “No”. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “What company is going to be used to put this on the trucks”? Mayor Boyd said, “We would have to bid it out”. Councilman Gardner asked, “Who would approve the advertising, Lisa Rock or Howard Garland”? Mayor Boyd said, “My thought would be Lisa would approve it”. Mr. Garland said, “ I would think Lisa. Lisa is a graphic arts designer”. Councilman Gardner asked Lisa if she was going to do some kind of google research work on these advertising companies that are going to be advertising on our city vehicles, so we don’t get ourselves into some kind of PR issues”? Mrs. Rock said, Oh yeah and I’m sure that they probably should too”. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to accept advertising on city vehicles. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Milling, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** Mayor Boyd said the motion is for Lisa to pursue advertising on the 6 vehicles that the city owns-Trucks 1-6.

COMMERCIAL GARBAGE BID ADVERTISEMENT – ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said the first of last month he was meeting with Republic Services. He said he started talking with him a few months ago about getting prices on residential garbage just to see what it would cost if we wanted to do residential garbage or contract it out. Mr. Gainey said they met, and they said they had good news and bad news. The bad news is they said they would have to go up on commercial - the dumpsters. They said they would pretty much have to double their rates. Mr. Gainey said he told them that the City just did a rate increase on the commercial side and if they double the rates we will be going in the hole. Mr. Gainey said they told him, "Well if you let us do residential we can do it over a three-year period, but it still wouldn't work, we will still be going in the hole". Mr. Gainey said he talked with Howard and asked what he thought about putting it out for bid and seeing what some other companies would charge and he said that would be fine. Mr. Gainey said they put a bid packet out to six different companies with Republic Services being one of them. He said he started thinking that if they can make money doing it why can't we make money doing it. Mr. Gainey said he started running numbers on what it would cost for us to do it in-house. Mr. Gainey said if the bids come back and they are all in line where Republic says they have to be, then we are going to have to step back and punt and figure out what we are going to do. The bid opening will be March 12th. Mr. Gainey said he started doing some budget numbers for the commercial dumpster side if we decide to do it in-house. He talked with Ryan Amick to try and get budget numbers on trucks and a brand-new truck will cost anywhere between $250,000-$260,000. He said you would have to have two trucks because if you've got one and that one goes down you still have to service your customers. He said you would need a second truck which could be a good used truck and budget anywhere between $50,000-$100,000. Mr. Gainey said he put $275,000 for a primary truck, $125,000 in for a secondary truck and $165,000 in for dumpsters. Mr. Gainey said he got two bids in for dumpsters and those bids came in between $145,000 and $180,000. Mr. Gainey said, "Right now we're bringing in approximately $329,000 annually for commercial garbage. Currently we are paying Republic approximately $250,000 so if they double the fees we will be paying them roughly $500,000, so we are going in the hole roughly $171,000". He said depending on what the bids come in at, worst case scenario if we got a bond to do the…. he said he has the paperwork to try to do a grant for $50,000 for a new truck. He said if we did a bond for $465,000 with a five-year repayment plan, in five years we would be spending on the original budget numbers about $250,000 a year which is what it would cost us to run that program. Mr. Gainey said that may be the option we need to look at going with, but we need to get the bids in to see where we are at. He said that something we will need to look at within the next month because our contract with Republic expires June 30th so by July 1st we are going to have to do something. Mr. Gainey said Republic Services have 179 boxes in the City and he talked with his contact there, Mr. Rob Carter, and asked him if we decide to do this in house would they be willing to sell 179 boxes to the City and they wouldn't have to pick them up and we wouldn't have to worry about putting new ones out. Mr. Gainey said Mr. Carter called him back today and said they were working on getting some numbers together for us on those boxes. I wasn't sure if they would sell them or not, but if they were looking at getting numbers together then apparently they have some interest in selling them. Mr. Gainey said, "That would be our biggest hurdle because we can't have a lapse in service for the customers so we've got

to figure out how we're going to get the boxes and how we're going to put them out in a timely manner so that our customers don't have a lapse in service". Councilman Nettles asked Alex, '"Which is the quickest way to go if we get bids back and we have something that's comparable to what they're going to go up to versus if we do it ourselves and which one could we put in place more quickly since we have such short turn time"? Mr. Gainey said he talked with the box manufacturers and they can have boxes for us…one of them said they can have the bulk of our boxes on site in 3 to 4 weeks. Mr. Gainey said we do the bid opening March 12th and then at the April meeting we will need to make a decision. He said if council decides that night that they want to do it in-house then we can go ahead and move the ball forward and by the end of May or the first of June we should have the boxes on hand. Councilman Nettles asked, "So when you send the bids out you specify a certain date that they had to be in place for service"? Mr. Gainey said, "Yes". Mr. Gainey said whether we do it or whether somebody else does it, it's going to be a major undertaking to try to change 179 boxes. Mayor Boyd said, "It would be a lot better to purchase the boxes we have, I agree with you on that if they will give us a decent rate on those, but if we purchase the boxes brand new they have to deliver them to you correct"? Mr. Gainey said they don't own the trucking line that delivers them, they contract that out. He said that trucking line is probably going to bring them to our warehouse or to our shop and drop them there. Councilwoman Reed said, "So, if someone gives a fantastic bid and we accept one of the bids, what then happens to the boxes that are there? Would Republic still want to"….Mr. Gainey said that would be left up to that company. Councilman Nettles asked, "So if they don't sell them to us what's their turn time for picking them up"? Mr. Gainey said, "They are going to have to have them up out of here by June 30th, but we can't have a lapse in coverage for the customers. He said a lot of the locations wouldn't necessarily be a problem because you've got where boxes are at there's a place beside it that you can go and put it beside it and they can pull theirs out and it wouldn't be a problem". He said where you'll really have problems is your restaurants where they're inside of an enclosed area and there's not enough room for two boxes. Mayor Boyd asked if everybody is OK as far as discussion with Alex moving forward and pursuing more fuller details with Republic to see if they will sell us the trash cans and pricing on the trucks? Mayor Boyd said this is just discussion. Mr. Gainey said he will have info for them at the April meeting.

CITY MANAGER, MR. HOWARD GARLAND

Mr. Garland said, "The Chamber, I believe Carla was going to ask for $15,000 for Freedom Fest tonight but since she's not here maybe Nancy didn't get the memo about that". Mr. Garland said each year they ask us for $15,000 to support Freedom Fest. He said it's traditionally been held at the racetrack. He said we may not vote tonight but they would like some sort of affirmation that we are willing to provide that money out of the hospitality collections account for the Freedom Fest event which will be on and around the Square**. Councilman John Segars made a motion that we honor their request and support them with $15,000.** Councilman Nettles said, "I can't say anything because I'm on the Chamber Board". (He signed a sheet to abstain). **Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion**. Councilman Bryant Gardner asked, "Can we vote and approve something that's not even on the agenda"? Mr. Garland said we did last month with the annexation of the property for the Lamberts. Councilman John Milling asked, "Didn't Nancy say she would be coming back to ask for money"? Mayor Boyd

said we have a motion on the table to approve it, do we have a second? (Councilwoman Elaine Reed already seconded the motion). Councilman Gardner said, “I would like to have a discussion”. Councilman Gardner said, “We talked a couple of months back about the different organizations coming to us this year and if we are going to discuss less amounts by each of those organizations. Councilman Gardner said, “I guess that fell through the wayside, but I know our numbers across-the-board are down so my suggestion is we take a hard look at where we are going to be giving dollars this year as a group and figure out how we want to give them out, but to give out $15,000 and then everybody else is going to trickle in in the next couple of months before budget year and I don’t know what the total is”. Councilman Gardner said, “My suggestion is not to do a total while we’re doing a multi-use complex which will run multi millions of dollars and also give out hospitality funds at the exact same rate during the middle of the virus. I just don’t think that is fiscally responsible. Councilman John Milling asked, “Have we had anything come back from the Chamber telling us what kind of revenue Freedom Fest being handled in downtown produce”? Mr. Garland said we have never had Freedom Fest downtown we’ve had Fright Fest which was in October. Councilman John Milling asked Mrs. Anna Dewitt if she has any projections with what it would be—-the revenue the City will pick up from having Freedom Fest held downtown? Mrs. Dewitt said, “Well of course we will ask all of the businesses on the Square to be open that Saturday for people to shop local”. Mayor Boyd said, “As far as my personal experience, I don’t think spending $15,000 you going to turn around and see the businesses in Darlington automatically bring that revenue back to us”. Mayor Boyd said, “The purpose of spending X amount of dollars or whatever it is I want something like this to portray a positive image of our City so that residents inside the city and people from outside the City sees our town and say there’s somethings going on over there that’s exciting and Darlington is the place to be and they will come to Darlington”. Councilman Gardner said, “The Sweet Potato Festival for years and years got like $300-$400 and I think last year was the first year they asked for thousands of dollars. He said besides hard scape projects I don’t know of any other thing that we’re spending such a large dollar amount on. Councilman Gardner said my personal interest is we’ve got a multi-use complex coming up, we’ve got a lot of expenses and we’ve got a pandemic going on right now and my position is it shouldn’t be $15,000 right now”. Mrs. Anna Dewitt said, “I will say we did take measures to clean the bathroom every 30 minutes. We had cans of spray that we sprayed down, we did monitor the rate of the virus two weeks after the festival and there was no increase in the number of cases we had in Darlington”. She said they cleaned the bathrooms every 30 minutes, they picked up trash, the vendors had hand sanitizer out and they went above and beyond anything that they could think of to make it safe for the people that enjoyed the festival. Councilman Gardner said, “Just for clarity I wasn’t talking about the cleanliness of the virus, I’m talking about the revenue being down because of the virus”. Councilwoman Reed said, “The only thing I kind of remember is whenever the other organizations was asking for money it was mentioned that we reduce some of them, but since you... the one that I support most of all is PDRTA and we gave them what they asked and I say we give the Chamber theirs as well”. Mrs. Dewitt said the Chamber does not expect to make much money off of Freedom Fest this year, but we do this for the people of our community. Councilwoman Baccus said, “When we did the $15,000 didn’t that include a fee that had to be paid to the racetrack? She said there is no fee now downtown so why should we give $15,000”? Mrs. Dewitt said that’s the cost of the rides. Councilwoman

Baccus said you had rides at the racetrack". Mrs. Dewitt said, "Yes ma'am, but we also had different sponsors that paid that money for the racetrack. She said the City and the County we do ask for money, but we also have different sponsors that help make up the balance of the festival. Councilman Gardner said, "Don't take my questions as being against Freedom Fest or against giving you money. If it wasn't the middle of the coronavirus then I'm interested in giving the children the rides and giving them the ability to have something in Darlington, it's just being judicious and fiscally responsible with our dollars and right now I am just a little nervous about funds". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I'm in agreement with Bryant, I think $15,000 is a little too much considering when other people come to ask for money...she said it should be even all the way across the board". Councilman Gardner said, "I don't think we need to be settling one issue at a time. Maybe we need to look at the list of those we've previously given to that comes back year to year and settle it. He said it's not even an agenda item". Councilman Milling said, "I have mixed emotions. I think these types of issues can be resolved or made easier on us if we have a policy and we decide as a council that we're going to make and budget making X amount of donations and have it as a line item and then we decide". Councilman Milling asked, "Isn't that the County that have people make application and come before….Mr. Garland said the County has a committee that does that and I think I suggested that at a work session last year that we set up a committee possibly of restaurant owners that people would come and make a presentation to". Councilman Gardner said, "I might be interested in that moving forward in the years in the future, but I would suggest that we take all of them, put them on a list and discuss it". Councilman Milling said, "We still got to decide because they've got to know whether to go forward and plan for Freedom Fest, so we either have to decide this month or decide next month whether we are going to do it". Councilman Gardner said, "That's all well and good but Mrs. Matthews said she was going to come back and request it then. Councilman Segars suggested that we should go ahead and do it now. Councilman Segars said, "The problem waiting though is these other entities, you don't know when they're going to come forward with their request. He said a lot of them don't do it until budget time which is in June and the Chamber has got to know before June whether they're going to have Freedom Fest or not". Councilman Gardner said, "That's a fair assumption, but I didn't ask to see who was going to come to us, I said to use the historic past who we gave to". Councilman Segars said, "They may not request it this year either". Councilman Gardner said, "And then we'll be even more fortunate". Councilwoman Baccus said, "The Chamber was here tonight, and she had an opportunity to ask and she didn't ask. She said she would come back". Councilman Gardner suggested that we take this as information and move on. Councilman Milling said, however, we've got a motion and a second so we either got to have the motion and the second withdrawn or we've got to vote on it". **Councilman Gardner made a motion to withdraw**. Councilman Milling said, "Well that's not your motion, you didn't make it and you didn't second it. Mr. Segars and Mrs. Reed has got to be the ones to decide whether or not to withdraw the motion". **Councilman John Milling said, "I think we need to start new procedures for this stuff, but for this year only I am going to vote in favor of spending the $15,000. Councilwoman Baccus voted, "No". Councilman Gardner voted, "No". I request that my word be put that I am not voting "No" to give the Chamber any money, I just want to have a little more time to discuss it as a tabulated group of who all we're giving the nonprofits our**

money too in the nonprofit fund this year. Mayor Boyd voted yes. Motion carried to give $15,000 to the Chamber for Freedom Fest.

RECEIVE AS INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mr. Garland said that Mr. Freddie Kinsaul announced his retirement effective July 7, 2021. Mr. Garland said, "I want to thank Mr. Freddie Kinsaul for the job he has done for the City for the past almost 14 years". Mr. Garland said we have an intern (Macy Schafer) here at the meeting that has been working with us for the last month or so. He said she is a history major from Coker University with a minor in Chinese studies. He said she has been working with different departments and she will make the rounds to work with other folk and learn more about municipal government.

Mr. Lee Andrews said he wanted to give an update on the e-gaming room. He said they are about finished with it and they are getting ready to start registration hopefully by the end of the month. He said the plan is to offer e-gaming to City residents first. Mr. Andrews said they are just about finished with the room and the guys from Out of This World will come wrap the room next week. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Andrews to rephrase that. Mr. Andrews said, Mayor Boyd is going to wrap the room for us. He said Mayor Boyd donated that to the e-gaming room. Mr. Andrews said, "We worked well with Sheila. She has helped out putting the stuff up. The guys at Asset Technology chipped in and they just have a few finishing touches to do. Mayor Boyd asked if there would be a charge for them to sign up for this. Mr. Andrews said there's going to be a charge. He said they are going to run along the lines of what Florence County does. He said it will probably be $30 per person, but they are getting ready to send out their letters for sponsorships. Councilman Bryant Gardner asked if the $30 was a once a year fee? Mr. Andrews said it's a once a session fee, so once that season for e-gaming is over with, you would have to sign up again. Mayor Boyd asked how long is a season? Mr. Andrews said typically about two months. Mr. Andrews said you've got to think about it just like a sport because we'll do a schedule and they'll come in; and they practice. He said we will do a schedule and they will play other teams.

Mayor Boyd asked Sheila Jones if she had any updates about subbing out the houses being torn down? Ms. Jones told Mayor Boyd she's getting information together and she will have an update for him and come and talk with him this week.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Baccus asked Alex if he will do something about the holes at the corner of Ross and Second Streets. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I think six months ago you filled it in with gravel or something and now it's even worse so can you check that tomorrow or the next day"? Mr. Gainey said, "I will look at it, but I know we had a collapse over there the other day". Councilwoman Baccus said, "We have a problem with those trucks going through there. That's what's tearing it up, going to Dixie Cup". Mr. Gainey said we will look at it. He said we are planning on doing training and putting the hotbox in service this week but the two companies that we buy from (Palmetto & C.R. Jackson) are down this week and they are not producing

asphalt so we are going to buy asphalt next week. He said, “We are compiling a list now to put it in the areas so we know where we need to start so we can get some holes fixed”. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. Garland to give an update on the lift stations. Mr. Garland asked, “Which lift station are you talking about the EDA RIA grant or are you talking about Farm and Allen Streets”? Councilwoman Baccus said, “Both of them “. Mr. Garland said, “The title search for the EDA RIA Grant has been completed. And it was found that the City of Darlington does own the Hampton Street Station. He said all of that information has been forwarded to EDA. Mr. Garland said as soon as they approve the bid documents we’ll put the lift station project out for bid. The surveys are being done by Pee Dee Council of Governments for Farm and Allen streets. They have already contacted the Housing Authority to get information from the 102 residents that they have in that area. He said they will be going door to door starting Thursday and Friday of this week for the CDBG grant for Farm and Allen Street lift station.

Councilman John Milling said, “I know that we are starting to get into the budget time of the year. I'm assuming Howard and his departments are getting that information together”. Mr. Garland said, “We met in the middle of February and I gave department heads their budget sheets. We will be meeting again next Monday but not only to go over the budget sheets they are supposed to turn back in, but to meet with the Council of Governments to do long range planning. Councilman Milling said, “I would simply ask that as we are having things come up, as members of council that we need to bring to Howard‘s attention let’s just bear in mind that this is going to be a busy time of year for him so to the extent that we can call him and set up meetings with him so he can budget his time as he’s budgeting for the City. I think that would help him as he’s getting his work done”. Councilman Milling said for them to bear in mind the time constraints that he is under in connection with getting us the budget information so that we try not to interrupt him too much while he’s in the process of doing something”.

Mayor Curtis Boyd asked Mr. Kinsaul if there was an update on when they are going to pave the end of Broad Street? Mr. Kinsaul said he drove through it today…..

Mayor Boyd said he’s trying to compile a list to help Alex out, so he asked the council to send him what they have.

REMINDERS

Friday April 2, 2021 - City Offices closed for Good Friday.
Tuesday April 6, 2021 - Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council - 6:30 PM

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman John Segars the meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM

Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

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Mayor