CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021 – 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, City Manager Howard Garland, Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed, John Milling, Howard Nettles, John Segars, and Sheila Baccus. Also, present: City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Charles Bailey, Mr. Steve Abbott, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mr. Danny Watson, and Mr. Bobby Bryant from the News & Press.

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

CALL FOR RFQ CITY OF DARLINGTON RECREATION: BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Mr. Andrews gave Council a request for qualifications upon their approval tonight. He said they placed it on the Business and Opportunities website. Mr. Andrews said he consulted with some people that have been through that before. He said all they are asking for is people that are qualified, to design what they are building. He said by law they have to put out for qualifications and give people 30 days to get their bids in. Mr. Andrews told council if they approve it tonight they will put it on the website tomorrow and 30 days from now they would choose an architect firm to design the ballfields. Councilman Milling said, "Once upon a time we talked about a go kart track, is that off"? Mr. Andrews said, "I can add that". Councilman Gardner said, "I was just wondering, do we want to add that as that cost would be… is that something we are really serious about"? Mayor Boyd said, "I think we said to start with, that we would if it's available". Mr. Andrews said, "That was probably my oversight because I went through the list and I did a previous list before we put that on there". Mr. Andrews said, "I will make sure to put that on there". Mayor Boyd said, "If there's enough room, and at that point we can change our minds at any time". Mr. Andrews said, "We can subtract at any time". He said I will put whatever you want me to on there. Mr. Andrews said, "They are going to bring us designs so this is not the final thing". This is what it could look like. Councilman Milling said, "If you don't mind adding it, it may simply give us some additional information". Councilman Gardner asked, "Council, would you all mind if we add one other caveat to the running list"? Councilman Gardner said, "Have them have a little discretion to find activities that adults may enjoy at the facility if there's something that they've done in other places that may be popular". Councilman Gardner said, "Just a little bit of discretion if there's any room". Mayor Boyd said, "I have no problem. We've said that the whole time that if you come up with an idea and you think something's good to go there and there's room to put it we can decide to add it or scratch it". Mr. Andrews said, "We can give them the freedom to do what they want to do as far as design goes, but we want these things in there". Mayor Boyd said, "Just like with the go kart track, I would say we would like that to be put on there but that would be the last thing. I would say if we don't have room to put it, then we don't put it and if we do, we go ahead and put it in". Mr. Andrews said, "A lot of times

they want it to be apples to apples. He said if you've got somebody coming in that's got a go kart track and ballfields and then you've got somebody that's coming in with a gym and an e-gaming center and all this stuff, that looks a lot more attractive than whatever, but if we specify exactly what we want to do then we get that.

Mr. Andrews said, "Once we hire people with qualifications, then if you want to say tell me in your experience what has worked and what has not, then we can go back to the drawing board if we need to". Mr. Andrews said the issue date will change for about five days since we need to get it on there on the 15th. I want you all to see it before we put it out for bid because I want everybody to be happy with it. **Councilman Millings made a motion that we approve the request for qualifications for Design Build Services for 1775 Harry Byrd Highway recreation complex as outlined in the proposals submitted by Mr. Andrews. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** Councilman Gardner said, "One last thing on the subject, would you mind sending this to Senator Malloy so he will have an idea of what we are doing and where we are"? Mr. Andrews said I will forward everything to Mr. Garland, and he can send it to whoever he wants to.

FUNDRAISING FOR RECREATION BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Councilman Milling said, "Mayor, I asked that this item be put down. The main reason is, after we had our last meeting I realized that we are in the process of developing a budget for the next fiscal year. He said a lot of industries operate on July 1st - June 30th budget year as well and based upon prior discussions it appears that we will need to make contact with various business entities small and large to ask for assistance and get funds needed in order to go forward with the recreational complex". Councilman Milling said, "I thought it would be helpful for us to put together a committee of some type that could make decisions about where we would go to make contact; who could figure out if we have a cost need of X amount of dollars; how much are we going to need to get from various industries, various individuals and various small businesses". He said people we could contact like the Chamber probably have a number of business entities who are members of the Chamber so that we could utilize the Chamber. He said Lee Andrews may know of some people in the recreational area that we could make contact with. Councilman Milling said, "If Charles Stewart would allow it, we could make contact with Louis Brown and Bobby Kilgo and see who they know, but I just think that we need to start developing this because I'm afraid if we don't have something even though we may not have a design feature, we may be far enough along to show somebody something; but if we don't start asking with an understanding of what we need, we may end up missing out another year simply because business entities say, I'm sorry we've already developed a budget for 2021-22 and you didn't ask and we don't have anything in there". Councilman John Milling said, "That was his reason for asking for something to put down so that we can at least have a discussion tonight and maybe begin a process of what we want to do as we go forward with fundraising". Councilman Gardner said, "We had a couple of individuals from our Council that have reached out to different corporate entities and different fashions for fundraising. He said he thinks it's great to get a group of people and a variety of citizens from our community to help us with this venture". Councilman Gardner said, "Also make sure we're not sidestepping each other and

certain corporate entities and who we're talking to". Councilman Milling said, "It would be a good coordinated thing so we wouldn't as you say be stepping on each other's toes as we reach out. Councilman Milling said, "As this is being developed we must be sure we don't overlook somebody who might be a contributor. Councilman Gardner said, "You had discussed potentially using this group to discuss funding amounts. I am a little confused about that part". Councilman Milling said, "If we need 2 1/2 million dollars for something and we had $1 million and we knew we needed $1.5 million dollars if we took our industries size wise perhaps we might say for a major industry we would hope they would give us this amount. If it came to a smaller entity, perhaps this amount. He said we may be able to ask people like John Isgett to help out, or the CEO at McLeod since they have a presence in our community. Councilman Gardner said, "I had a citizen reach out to me and said we should approach them because they've been very helpful". Councilman Gardner said, The Bruce-Lee Foundation from Florence is still active". Councilman Gardner said, "Lee, we previously discussed using the back of the baseball fields that you all have done, for advertising". Councilman Gardner said, "There are a variety of ways-did you have blanketed advertisements throughout the previous facilities? Do you think you can help us out with kind of a funding goal list?" Mr. Andrews said, "I don't see that being a problem". Councilwoman Reed said, "I need a little clarification. I didn't know how we as a Council could fundraise". Councilwoman Reed said, "And how is that done...how would we….I mean I know that probably….I mean that's still soliciting funds because…..Councilwoman Reed said, "The question is, because of some of the classes that I've had, it appears that I just haven't seen where any Council does the fundraising. I am not understanding how we can solicit funds like that". Councilman Milling said, "I don't know of any prohibition against it, but I have been through many communities where I put $5 or $10 into a bucket". Councilman Milling said, "I think we've all seen entities including cities who are doing things to try to help cover some of the expenses. He said nobody is mandated to do anything". Councilwoman Reed said, "I'm just saying the way that you are proposing it looks like it would be a Mayor and Council group that is actually raising the money". Councilwoman Reed said, "I'm still asking, how this council can be a fundraising committee"? Mr. Andrews said, "What you would do Ms. Elaine is you would do something like the naming rights for a field, the place on the scoreboard would be sold for a certain amount of money for a certain amount of years. If we put a skate park out there you would do naming rights for it. He said you would name everything". Mayor Boyd said, "What we need to do is have a work session soon to come up with.... if Lee can come back with some ideas of what we can solicit and then we can do a drawing of some form to go out and start talking with businesses to see who would be willing to assist us with our endeavor". Councilman Milling said, "And if Kevin found that for some reason there was a prohibition against the City doing it, we could probably recruit the Chamber or somebody, or the recreation department or some entity to act on our behalf". Mayor Boyd said, "They said it could be a committee. That's what I thought you were talking about doing, not us necessarily doing it, but a committee". Councilman Gardner said, "In my opinion and my interest is to have community members and Council soliciting donations throughout the community". Mayor Boyd asked Council if they wanted Lee to find out some information of what we can use at the ballfields as far as advertisement? Mr. Garland said you may want to see what Hartsville did for Byerly Park because that was a substantial amount of money even though it was 17 to 18 years ago. Mayor Boyd said he will check with Mr. Pennington on that.

Mayor Boyd said they will plan to have a meeting on March 30th at 6:00 but Council can text back and let them know.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL CITY MANAGER'S CONTRACT
(The City of Darlington May or May Not Vote after the Executive Session.)

Councilman Gardner made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:24 pm to discuss - Personnel City Manager's contract (The City of Darlington May or May Not Vote after the Executive Session. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Milling, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED
Upon motion of Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilwoman Reed the Executive Session ended at 8:02 pm. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

After coming out of executive session Mayor Boyd said there will be no vote.

Councilman John Milling made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Reed, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

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Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

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Mayor