City of Darlington Beautification Board
Minutes August 18, 2021

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Mr. White, Mrs. Sprott, Mrs. Burns, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Ishman, and Ms. Rock.

Mrs. Burns gave the opening prayer.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2021, meeting as written. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Rock reported that the budget for FY 21-22 is $7,000, and that nothing has been spent to date. There is still $10,000 to $12,000 in the donation funds account. The Board voted previously to use those funds to put an entrance sign on SC151 at the new Sports Complex. The Board expressed disappointment in the overgrown grass situation across town.

City Administrator's Report: Ms. Rock reported that the New City Manager John Payne started Monday, August 16. Unfortunately, he contracted COVID and will be out for the next two weeks.

Pride of Darlington Award: Mrs. Brown nominated the blue house at the corner of Orange St. and Sycamore that has been redone. Mr. White nominated the house on Hoole Street where the yard always looks neat and pretty. Mrs. Sprott nominated the pink stone house on Ervin Street. The Pride of Darlington Award recipient will be chosen at the next meeting.

Garden Club Update: There is no update, as they do not meet again until September.

Clean Up Day: Ms. Rock reported that letters about the event scheduled for Sept. 11 have been sent to all the churches in the area. The Board suggested getting into contact with schools, the Boy Scouts (Bill Ervin), the group of young people from the last Clean Up Day, the Girl Scouts (who had great participation for Earth Day) and the Mayo Environmental Club. Mr. White suggested getting in touch with the Carbis Ladder Solutions because they are big on community service. Mrs. Ishman suggested writing "Thank You" notes for all of the groups that come to help out. Mr. White said that North Main Street needs some work done because it looks horrible. Mrs. Sprott said that Cashua Street also looks awful and that the sidewalks are overgrown with grass. Mrs. Rock said to contact the Street Department Head Alex Gainey at 843-398-4035 when it comes to grass and sidewalks. Mr. White suggested the City consider a growth regulator chemical applied at Grove Hill Cemetery. He said, instead of cutting grass every five days, the mowing only has to be done every two weeks. Mrs. Burns reported that edging and weed eating needs to be done on Clean Up Day. Mrs. Sprott suggested picking up trash as usual, and that maybe some basic things need to be focused on. Mrs. Sprott also reported that there are several trees on Cashua Street that are dead that should be removed and replaced. Mrs. Ishman and Mrs. Sprott reported that there is no need to plant in pots this fall. Mr. White

reported that there are 20 bales of straw at Verizon for six months now, and that specific areas should be targeted for impact purposes. He also suggested weeding North Main Street. Ms. Rock said the Board that they still have equipment. Mrs. Burns said that she has contact information for prisoners and that the Board should try to get the County to do some of these problem areas. Mr. White suggested reaching out to the County Manager to put a crew on North Main Street on Sept. 11 starting at the Library. He asked to contact Alex Gainey about making Cashua Street the project for Sept. 11 or the week prior. He also suggested steering people out to the entrances and Liberty Lane with mulch, and that the entrances be done ASAP. Mrs. Sprott reported that the Keith Evans property is loaded with junk and that he has to have it removed. Mrs. Brown requested a list of DDRA events. Mrs. Burns said that the old corn stalks can be pitched because she has arranged to get fresh ones. Mr. White said getting the entrances in shape before the race by doing some weeding and having the bushes trimmed should be priority. He said that they needed to go back to Council or the administrator to complain about the lack of care taken on the City's streetscape. After much discussion, the Board decided not to place an ad in the paper and use Facebook daily to promote the event, decided not to purchase volunteer t-shirts, and said the pots on the Square did not need to be replanted since the Board has been planting more perennials. The Board also chose not to install a large fall display as they had in year's past due to costs. Mrs. Brown made that motion to have the entrances refurbished for no more than $2,300 before the race with a text vote to be held if the quote came in higher. Mr. White made the second. The motion was carried unanimously. The Board requested Ms. Rock get three bids and decide quickly since the race is two weeks away.

New Business: Mr. White asked to revisit the vote about stopping the replacement of pots on the Square. Previously, the majority on the Board voted not to replace pots if they are hit or destroyed. He said that, this is not the Board's money, it's the taxpayers money that they spend to replace them. He said the decision should be reversed and that the city should be responsible for the pots just as it is responsible for replacing stop signs. Mr. White made a motion to have the budget include funds for pot replacement and to void the previous decision. Ms. Rock made the second. The motion was carried 4-2. Ayes were Mrs. Burns, Ms. Brown, Mr. White, and Ms. Rock. Nays were Mrs. Ishman and Mrs. Sprott.

Unfinished Business: Mrs. Brown reported that the signs from Barn of All Trades should be here in two to three weeks, as they have been delayed due to short staff. Ms. Rock reported that it would cost $1,825 per bed for irrigation in the islands in the City Lane parking lot.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 15, in the courtroom at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.