CITY OF DARLINGTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT

400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC

JULY 13, 2021 AT 6:30

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, Interim City Manager Gloria Pridgen, Councilpersons Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, and Howard Nettles. Also, present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Street and Sanitation Supt. Mr. Alex Gainey, Mr. Lee Andrews, Chief Washington, Charles Bailey, Mr. Shugart, Bobby Bryant from The News & Press and other visitors.

Mayor Curtis Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer by Councilwoman Elaine Reed which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BUDGET WORK SESSION ON APRIL 27TH & MAY 24TH, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 8, 2021; PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL MEETING ON JUNE 24, 2021

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 Budget Work Session. Councilwoman Shelia Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Gardner and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve minutes of the May 24, 2021 Budget Work Session. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting. Councilwoman Shelia Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Gardner and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

Councilman Howard Nettles made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021, Public Hearing and Special Meeting. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Gardner and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman Howard Nettles made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for today's meeting July 13, 2021. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Gardner and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mrs. Lisa Rock reported:

Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association

Report for Council – July 13, 2021

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your support of our program that allowed us to hold the Saturdays on the Square Concert Series! Despite a late start due to a rain delay, we had a successful event Saturday for our first concert by **Terence Lonon & the Untouchables** with lots of individuals and families gathered downtown to enjoy live music, food, and fellowship.

Our next event will feature **The Rick Strickland Band** on Saturday, August 7, from 7 to 10 p.m. downtown! We will have Sweet Chillin' Shaved Ice, Dave's Barnyard BBQ, George's Funnel Cakes, University of BBQ, and, thanks to Pepsi of Florence, free Pepsi and water.

The DDRA continues our monthly **Member Breakfasts at 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 29, 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.

Also, mark your calendars for the **Taste of Darlington on Thursday, October 14**, at Darlington Raceway. We are looking for businesses, civic groups, and others interested in promoting their cause while sharing their cooking skills. In the past, we have had a wide variety: ribs, chicken wings, falafel, BBQ, alligator, fish, desserts, and more. It's always a great night in the infield of the track!

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.

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.

Mayor Boyd said that he thought the event Saturday was really good. Mrs. Rock said that it was a fabulous turnout. Councilman Nettles asked if she could give an estimate of how many people she had. She said she really don't have a way to count them, but she would say it was several hundred. She guesses between 300 to 500. She said considering that we did not get the music to start until probably between 8:15 and 8:30 because they had to completely set up the sound system again because about 6:50 the bottom dropped out and we all got soaked and so the band hurried and covered what they could and ten minutes later the rain was gone. They had to set everything back up. Everybody was very patient. Mayor Boyd asked about the cornhole being at that event. She said yes, we had Kyle's Cornhole Tournament. We will have them at every event as well.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ms. Brooks Slyvester, Marketing Director for the Chamber, said just to recap on Freedom Fest that we just recently had we would like to thank Mr. Alex Gainey for helping us with the trash and trash cans. Ms. Slyvester thanked our Police officers, City of Darlington and City Council for helping us with this event. She also thanked City Council for the contributions, they could not have done it without that. She thanked the sponsors and the vendors. We could not have done it without them either. She said they had the I love Darlington free T-shirt giveaway for the kids. It was first come first serve but that was a really big hit and was sponsored by Carolina Bank. Ms. Slyvester thanked Ms. Jones, Codes Inspector, for helping them with the leaks that they have had in their building. We have had some leaks in our building that caused our walls to collapse. So, she's been helping us with that and getting in touch with our property manager to get that fixed. Thursday at 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM we will be having our business after hours at Pee Dee Treasures, if you would like to come, we would love to have you. We are starting up a new event called member connect and the date is still up in the air but it will be sometime in August. She said when they get a date she will make them aware of it. We are going to be making a special announcement about Growthzone that we have been working with which is our membership management software and other special announcements like that.

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

Chief Washington

Chief Washington said every year we celebrate on the first Tuesday evening in August, National Night Out which is a national community relations project that is celebrated all over the country. He just wanted to make them aware of August 3, 2021, between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM, Dargan Street and Pearl Street we will be having our annual National Night Out. He said we were not able to do it last year because of the pandemic but we will do it this year. Mayor Boyd asked which street. Chief Washington said Pearl Street and Dargan Street. We will block off that block. Councilman Nettles asked Chief to explain for those who don't know what the National Night Out is. Chief Washington said National Night Out is an annual national holiday that communities and police departments across the country come together and fellowship in an effort to reduce crime in their communities. He said he thinks they have done it at least once, if not twice. We did not do it last year, but we did do it the year before. Chief Washington said he has some flyers for council and Mrs. Rock with be putting it on the city's website. Chief Washington said we will be putting it on the police department's website and Facebook account.

Mr. Moses

Mr. Moses said as a citizen of Darlington it's a question that I have to ask that's been bothering me for a minute. I don't understand, I need Council, but you don't have to answer it tonight, but I do need your answer in writing if possible. I need someone to make me understand how is it that a city worker can get fired terminated, loses his job and get arrested for stealing gas, but the City Administrator can take money from citizens both black and white we both live here. I feel like it's a proverbial saying, it's like during World War II they said Nazis at the movies that expression, that term means that people actually took off their uniforms, put civilian clothes on and went to the movie theaters as if nothing happened. It's the quintessential thing of like an ostrich putting his head in the sand. My thing is, that we all need to these are some of things that kind of set us apart as a community. We need to feel and we need to know that what the left hand is doing, if you do something on the left, whether you are black or white you are going to get reprimanded the same way but because the scales are unbalanced to a large degree that is the bigger dialogue the bigger thing that we need to talk about we need to discuss and my thing is that if we don't discuss It, it is not discussed, it's going to fester. These things are going to fester, and it is going to tear this community apart. My thing is to make it known as opposed to everybody know it but nobody really talking about it and my thing again is that this is not fair. We need leadership, I need to know what is going to be done, and like I said, I would like to respectfully request that I have it in writing to let me know what's going on. Anybody else that would do something like that would go to jail. I need to know what is going on and I would respectfully request that the council members if you could find out as you do the investigation, I'm requesting a report of it as a citizen of Darlington. I thank you for your time and you all have a good night. Thank you. Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Moses.

Ms. Gloria Hines

Ms. Hines said "I came here last month but there was something in the paper about what I said about hiring the new manager but in the paper it had I think business or Human Resources." I meant to say business and human resources and I want to add tonight know something about government. Because in my tenure all the 26 years that I have been here with the city, spectator in the audience and council and Mayor there are a lot of things that the managers were doing that were wrong. They just did not have it. She said that a lot of things got by, especially about procurement. I think in my 17 years and other years sitting out in the audience they used the procurement one time. They hired who they wanted to get and that's not how government works. So, when you hire somebody for the city manager, they need to know something about government not just anybody you pick up off the street; they need to know something about government. They got a little business degree, because a business degree itself is not going to get it, they need to know something about government. That's where Darlington is making a lot of their mistakes. It has happened over the years. I have watched managers come in here that did not have job skills, they had no knowledge about government and a lot of things went wrong. I think ya'll encountered some of that under you, Mayor Boyd. She said she got a lot of it under her, and she would hope that this time you would not make the same mistake that they have been making in the past. I was very disturbed today when I received this, I don't know where it came from, but I got it and it was address to Mrs. Dubose. This is not my writing; I don't know where it came from, but I am going to give you a copy. I am going to read it exactly how they have it on here:

Mrs. Dubose

We are several citizens of Darlington and we want to express our concerns of the City for the reasoning of our city being financially in trouble due to miss-appropriate of funds that are occurring from the hands of the Major and it's council through reliable resources.

We have been in contact with City personnel that are informing US tax payers of this City that the mayor and it's council are acting dumb that they do not know why our city is struggling to meet the financial prosperity of the city. The reason is the major and it's council.

We have received credible information from candidate that applied for the City Manager meeting that there was 4 peoples information posted on our newspaper, as us being citizens we liked a couple. Now, we come to find out after the first round of resume the Major and a couple of his conspirators allowed his great friend that works for Morgan Stanley to submit his resume with no experience what so ever and to not give the citizens to refuse.

We believe and with information we received from credible sources that this Mayor want's things done his way and it cannot be done as the bylaws state that the City Manager is in-charge of the City. This is why we understand during the Meeting on this Tuesday to decide the Major already came in with on his mind to hire his buddy to fuller help him miss-appropriate funds in our opinion by his friend working with him along with other members of the council. Now as we understand there was other members that did not agree and believe the same thing that they Mayor has a hidden agenda with his buddy. We

believe this is why the City is in a Financial pickle. So, we have written a letter to the DOJ – Federal Department of Justice to place this City of Darlington and the Mayor under Federal Revenue. We people have saw the information of individuals that applied for this City Manager position that has great experience to turn our city around. There is one in poticular that we got together that we believe this person being from out of State coming in and knowing not one soul would have a set of new eyes to see where the receiving funds are truly being allocated to, to which would discovered. Now, we believe that the DOJ is going to uncover what the Major and council does not want to know. So, we believe the person that would serve the City Best should be voted to be hired. This is why we was informed by a creditable person(s) informed us other members during the Tuesday meeting walked out on the Mayor due to his own personal agenda.

We have about 2000 ready signatures to be signed to the DOJ as we are not going to allow the Mayor and his not allowed opinion to be used through his best friend to be hired.

We are serious in our stance of what is the right thing to do and if is not when the DOJ comes calling us for information all will be set on the table.

Very Concerned Citizens of the City

Mrs. Dubose you can give this to the Council so they know how serious we are and what we truly know is going on with this crafty Mayor, and you all know to whom would be the best candidate based on with knowing nobody we believe the city would change.

Sincerely Serious

Mayor Boyd said thank you Ms. Hines it has been 6 minutes and 12 seconds. Ms. Hines said okay, last month they said 30 minutes. She said I'm almost finished, I'm going over like you did me. Mayor Boyd asked Ms. Hines to take a seat. Mayor Boyd called Ms. Hines several times. Mayor Boyd said Chief Washington would like to speak with you Ms. Hines. Ms. Hines said payback is a" B". Ms. Hines said karma is a mess and you abused me. Wait a minute, he did me like that. She said I'm just reading what the person said. He can't take it, he should not have done nothing. She said it was alright when he did it to me and you accepted it then. Mayor Boyd thanked Ms. Hines. Ms. Hines said and I thank you too Mayor Boyd but I said what I had to say. Ms. Hines said I know everybody got it.

Unfinished Business

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2021-12 SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said this is an update to our current ordinance based on what the Municipal Association has worked with some industry folks to get some revisions to the language. I have gotten a response from the Regional Director of AT&T, who has sent the ordinance to his engineers, and they did not see any problems with it. They were in support as well. This will give us a little bit of control over what things will look like in terms of those facilities as well as allow us to charge a fee for that installation. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Second Reading Ordinance 2021-12 Small Wireless Facilities. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilperson Baccus, Reed and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

PURCHASE OF ROLL CARTS FOR STREET DEPARTMENT – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey told Council they should have three bid in their packets. He said last month he came to them about roll carts. Councilman Gardner wanted me to get some bids to compare against, so I did that. He said he sent inquiries to five different companies, I believe and three actually responded. So, you have three bids in front of you. Amick Equipment was the company I came to you about last month. They still came in cheaper. I am just asking for the approval to buy 200 roll carts, 150 green and 50 blues. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "How many roll carts you have in storage available now?" Mr. Gainey said they have 12 blue ones and 4 green ones as we speak right now. We normally try to keep 40 to 50 on hand for events. So, we don't even have enough to cover an event like the sweet potato festival. We have people calling everyday wanting new carts. He said we got to keep some because of new residents coming to town or a new business. You know they are paying for a service upfront or not upfront, but they are a paying for a new service, we got to be able to give them a cart. So, some of the customers that we are getting calls from they have carts they are just in bad shape. I am telling them we will have to make it through, some of the carts we have fixed back together to try to get us through until we can get some new carts. Councilwoman Baccus asked , what are you doing with the ones that are in really bad shape that you can't do anything with? What are we doing with them? She asked, Are you trashing them or what do we do? Mr. Gainey said we got a company that have bought some in the past but not since he has been there. He said they want a truck load of them to be able to buy for them to come in. We have to disassemble completely and then they come in and they load up all the parts individually and they can do whatever they do with it. We probably if we finish disassembling, we got enough to sell. I don't know how much we have gotten out of it in the past. I'm sure it's not much money. He said I'm sure Ms. Pridgen does not know that figure off the top of her head. He asked Ms. Pridgen about the company that has bought carts from us in the past. Ms. Pridgen said no sir I don't. He said it's not much, but it's better than trashing them. Councilwoman Reed, asked, Are you making a recommendation as to which one you want us to have? Mr. Gainey said, well the last two times we ordered roll carts we have ordered them from Amick. In the past they have ordered carts from Schafer but with Amick being the lowest bidder by about a $1,000. I prefer going with Amick, we have had really good success with their carts. Some of the older carts they have bought from Schafer they had problems with them. Councilman Nettles said, In your opinion, are all three bids compared exactly everything that you need? Mr. Gainey said, The new cans are the injection molded cans and I made sure that all three companies quoted on the injection molded cans. Councilwoman Baccus asked as of right now, how many citizens do you have that are asking for cans? Mr. Gainey said, we probably got a list of about 100 or 150 cans right now. So, I mean if we get 200 cans they are not going to last long, but that's normally what we order. I believe the time before last we ordered about 250 cans. Mayor Boyd asked how many cans do you have total? Mr. Gainey said about 2,900 to 3,000 between commercial and residential. Councilman Nettles asked if we don't order in this kind of bulk does it get more expensive if we come back in a short period of time and order like 50 or so. Mr. Gainey said, yes you are better off with freight and everything else that's why they normally keep it around 200 carts. If you drop under the 200, as of right now I think we are paying about $58 a can. If you go under the

200 mark it goes up to around$70 a can. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Amick Equipment for $13,595.91 for the Purchase of Roll Carts for the Street Department. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

NEW BUSINESS

Bids for Survey of 1755 Harry Byrd Highway – Mr. Lee Andrews

Mr. Andrews referred to the handout with the survey prices. He said this is bigger survey than just a land survey where they go out and mark the lines, this is a topography, boundary, wetlands plat and a tree survey. Mr. Andrews said this is something that has to be done at the property to build whenever we build, this is money that will have to be spent. He said he reached out to Mozingo and Wallace the architects to get that done for us to get the prices. They only got two prices that came back. One is from Nesbitt Survey and the other one from Palmetto Corp. The Nesbitt survey is $47,000 and Palmetto Corp is $46,775. Mr. Andrews said it is extensive work. He got Nesbitt out of Timmonsville to give us one before it was just the topographic survey and that price was $34,000 at that time. He said this is what the architect is asking for so they can do their design. Mayor Boyd said this will determine if it is wetlands or not. Mr. Andrews said to determine where they can put things and it not be a problem. You can't just go in there and just eyeball it. There may be and just looking at the County's DSI for the property the back left corner is listed as wetlands. We walked it and there are no wetlands there but it is listed as wetlands. We need to get that stuff surveyed and done so that they can go in and dispute some of these things. Mayor Boyd asked if both of these companies are local? Mr. Andrews said he thinks Nesbitt is. Palmetto Corp is just a corporation that is throughout the state. Councilwoman Baccus said, just for the audience can you tell the citizens what property you are talking about? Mr. Andrews said the ball field, the Highway 151 Sports Complex Property. Councilman Nettles asked if this had to be done first. Mr. Andrews said this has to be done first. Councilwoman Reed asked if he was recommending anyone? Mr. Andrews said he is not recommending anybody. He said Mr. Mozingo sent these two to us. He went out and solicited it and this is what he got back. He said he reached out to some local surveyors and this was just too big of a job for a one-man crew. He said they can go out and shoot lines and do the boundary stuff, but when you get into the actual topography of the land that's a little bit different. Councilman Gardner asked if Mr. Mozingo reached out for the bids. Mr. Andrew said yes. Councilman Gardner asked if Mr. Nesbitt is local. Mr. Andrews said he thinks Mr. Nesbitt is from Timmonsville. Councilman Gardner asked do we want to support someone that is local it will cost us an extra $225? There was some discussion about the companies being local. Councilwoman Reed asked was Nesbitt local and was Palmetto Corp known for doing this around the state. There was discussion about the companies being local. Mr. Andrews said you probably can consider both of them being local. Councilwoman Baccus said to go with the cheapest company. Mr. Andrews said that he is reaching out to Derrick right now. Councilman Nettles said there is only a $225 difference in the price. Councilman Nettles

asked do we have the option to choose a local one out of the two since there is not that much difference or is that not an option. There were some discussions about the $225 difference. Mr. Andrews said that both companies are well versed in how to do this. Councilman Gardner asked if he had a relationship with either one of them. Mr. Andrews said that he will reach out to Derrick right now, Nesbitt has done some boundary stuff for us before, and they have done some survey work for the City before. Mr. Andrews said he would yield to whichever one you all want to do I have no preference as for as somebody that has worked with us in the past as that goes. Mayor Boyd asked if one can start a bit faster than the other. Mr. Andrews said everything is backed up right now because of COVID. He said that was told to him before we even put it out there, some of these companies are six months in old work before beginning any new work. Councilwoman Reed said that might be a factor the one who can start the fastest. Mr. Andrews said that would be a question that I would have to go back and ask them who can start the quickest. Mr. Andrews said regardless of who does the building or does anything after the design this is something they are going to need to know the rise and fall of the land and all that stuff and let us know which will be better for us. Councilman Nettles said, well personally, what my preference is to use local if we are going to keep it in line with the fact that we got a bid on it, we need to go with the lesser expensive one in order to move it and not hold things up, I think we need to think about that. Councilwoman Baccus said, we just need to put a motion on the floor and go ahead and get it done. So, whichever one Mr. Andrews figure out the best way to go, go with it. She said at this point if you are only saying it is $225, it doesn't matter one way or the other. She said we just need to go ahead and do it. Councilman Nettles asked do we have to be specific in the motion? Mayor Boyd said Yes you have to vote on which one. Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Andrews what did he think? Councilman Gardner said we got to pick one. Councilwoman Reed said to Mr. Andrews you just don't want to make a choice. Mr. Andrews said no, it's not that, Mr. Nesbitt is out of Timmonsville, I just assume use him because we used him before. Palmetto Corp has done some work for us too. He said he thinks they were a subsidiary of the old APAC. You can consider Palmetto Corp as local too because they have a Florence office. He said so it's six in one hand and a half a dozen in the other hand, it's a survey they both are going to get the same information. Councilman Gardner asked do you want to give us a recommendation. Mr. Andrews said I will give a recommendation, let's go with Nesbitt. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Nesbitt for $47,000 for Survey of 1755 Harry Byrd Highway. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

PAVING OF MAGNOLIA STREET – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said that you should have two bids in your packets on the paving for Magnolia Street. He said technically this would have fallen under the Water & Sewer Department, Mr. Kinsaul asked him before he left about two months ago to go by there and look at it and see I'm guessing six months ago or so the Water & Sewer Department they had to dig up Magnolia Street to do a sewer repair and they let it sit for a while. We started getting some complaints from citizens about the potholes and how rough it was. So, Mr. Kinsaul asked me to go by there

and see if it was something that we could do in house. I went by there and looked at it and the area is really too big for us to try to do it in house because you really need a paving machine to do something that size. He talked to Mr. Kinsaul about it and he asked me if I would go ahead and see about getting a couple of bids on it. So I called Mr. O'Neal with Industrial Paving and Sam Evans with Evans Paving Services and had both to go out and look at it. He said Sam Evans came in significantly lower than Industrial Paving. I don't know why he was that much lower but my understanding is that Industrial Paving got a big school job or something going on. So I guess they really did not care if they did it or not. He said he talked to Mr. Kinsaul about it, and I gave him these bids so he could have presented them to you. Of course he is gone so he asked if I would take care of it. He did not want Mr. Shugart to have to deal with it at the first Council meeting he came to, so I just figured that I would go ahead and present it and let you all make a decision. Councilman Nettles said I am just going to ask the question it is the same thing that they are bidding on; there is a $14,000 difference. Mr. Gainey said, I asked them to go and look at it and give me a price on resurfacing the area that was dug up I don't know if Industrial Paving is giving a price on the whole road or what he is giving a price on. I mean for that much money that's what it looks like. I don't know. I told them to go out and look at it and that it was down to the end closet to Limit Street and Magnolia and you can tell where the sewer work was done. I told them to give me a price on patching those on resurfacing that area and whatever aprons had to be fixed, go ahead and fix those aprons as well and that's the same thing I told Sam Evans. I can't answer that question. Councilman Nettles said, I see the repaving of 150 linear feet on one and I'm not seeing that number on the other and then I just see a huge difference. He is saying grade existing stone base with sewer line repair, apply a tack coat and pave with 2" of hot asphaltic concrete surface. So, from what he is saying he priced out the same thing as Sam Evans priced out. He didn't give a dimension, but it's the existing stone base with the sewer line repair was made and put two inches of asphalt on top of it. He said 150 foot is probably right at about 150 to 200 feet. I'm guessing, I did not actually measure it. That's about right. By Mr. Jerry's description he is pricing out the same thing. Councilman Gardner said there is obviously a large difference in the bids. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Evans Pavement Services bid of $7,500 for Paving of Magnolia Street. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Nettles and Mayor Boyd all in favor of the motion.**

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR W&S DEPARTMENT – MR. CHARLSE SHUGART, W&S DIRECTOR

Mr. Shugart introduced himself. He said this is a Mutual Aid Organization that works with the South Carolina Rural Water Association, the South Carolina Chapter of the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Association of South Carolina. Every organization that I have ever been a part of is a member of this organization and it's just for mutual aid. It's not just for natural disasters, it's for man-made disasters as well. SCWARN lists about ten benefits. The first one is it is no cost to us, increase planning and coordination, and enhances access to specialized resources. A single agreement provides access to all member

utilities statewide. It is consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Provides a current lists of emergency contacts and phone numbers. It avoids federal bureaucracies. Reduces administrative conflict. Increases hope within our communities that recovery will come quickly. In a nutshell this is to help us respond to incidents that are beyond our resources and it is at no cost. Councilwoman Reed said it keeps us connected. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Mutual Aid Agreement for W&S Department. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all in favor of motion**

PAVING OF CARNEIGIE LIBRARY PARKING LOT – MAYOR CURTIS BOYD

Mayro Boyd said the County voted last night to agree on their part. They are willing to pave the Carnegie Library. There is a diagram showing what they are willing to do. He said to his understanding there are approximately 30 parking lots. According to Charles they will allot four parking lots off that will be permanent parking lots for whoever take over the Carnegie Library. The rest of the time it will be open to public parking. They will pave that entire area with drainage and so forth. So, they are looking for us to move forward if you are on board for approving that to be paved as being public parking and four parking spots being designated for that spot. Councilman Gardner said he just wanted the City to acknowledge that the County will be paying this bill. Mayor Boyd said yes. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the Paving of Carnegie Library Parking Lot. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed and Mayor Boyd all in favor of the motion.**

RECEIVE AS INFORMATION

Department Head's Reports

No questions on the reports.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Reed said I am going to ask of my council we have been speaking and praying and working together and trying really hard to work together. She was concered about the actions taken last week with the Council. They excluded me and I am just going to ask, I think most of you know what is. I did contact several of our members to let them know my concerns about what was done and so going forward I feel like it is necessary that I make the comment and let it be noted, that from this point on let's not do that anymore. Try not any particular action that we take a decision that are being made that requires this council I am saying do not exclude me and I was I did not want to think it was purposely done I'm saying maybe whatever was felt to be an urgency but let it be noted that I did not think that was correct or in the spirit of us working together. I was not included in any kind of decision or action taken. Councilwoman said in reference to what Elaine is speaking about, I'm in agreeance with that as well. Once we meet and discuss something and make a decision within the meeting the meetings after the meetings should not determine what is going to happen next. The meeting

after the meeting does not include Elaine and I. So, I'm just going to put it out there, I'm not Elaine, I don't sugar coat, I call a ace a ace. The meetings after the meetings that don't include Elaine and I should not determine anything that happens in the City of Darlington once we meet decide what's going to happen what's going to be done the phone calls and the meetings afterward is technically unacceptable. The City of Darlington has seven council members not five. The meetings need to include everybody whether you like us or dislike us it really doesn't matter. Councilman Gardner said, "For the record I was not part of a meeting after the meeting, so I'm a little taken back and confused." Councilman Baccus said, the incident that just happen a few minutes ago with Ms. Gloria Hines. I think it was unfair and unacceptable because we have had several people to come in here to speak to Council and have spoken 15 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes. If we are going to enforce a rule that say you only allowed only 5 minutes or 6 minutes whatever the rule is, then the rule should be for everybody and not just certain people. She should have been able to finish her statement and be done with it. I remember perfectly last week the lady came and spoke about water in her yard or something or the wall falling down and she stood there I know 15 or 20 minutes talking about the wall falling down. I don't think nobody said, ok you spoke 6 minutes. So, I think if we are going to enforce the rule enforce it for everybody whether you like or dislike Gloria Hines. Councilman Nettles said I don't disagree with that. He said 5 minutes is 5 minutes. Put a clock on them, not rudely interject. Make sure when they come in reiterate it is 5 minutes, unless they ask for an extension. Councilwoman Reed said not to pick and choose.

Councilman Howard Nettles made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:24 PM to discuss Economic Development-Property Negotiations; Personnel Matter – Street Department – Mr. Alex Gainey; Personnel Matter – Police Department – Chief Washington (The City of Darlington May or May Not Vote After Executive Session). Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

5 MINUTE BREAK

EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING @ 7:30 PM

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the Executive session ended at 8:12 PM.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the Service Weapon Proposal (Retirement) presented by Chief Kelvin Washington and Officer Luke will be included in this Retirement Proposal. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

SERVICE WEAPON PROPOSAL (RETIREMENT)

If a police officer with the Darlington City Police Dept. retires from this agency after serving the citizens of the City of Darlington for 20 years, I would respectfully request that their service weapon be given to them as a gift from the City of Darlington.

If a police officer with the Darlington City Police Dept. medically retires from this agency after serving the citizens of the City of Darlington for 7 years, I would respectfully request that their service weapon be given to them as a gift from the City of Darlington.

In addition, I also recommend that the City of Darlington allow officers after 10 years of service to the City of Darlington purchase their service weapons at the replacement cost of a new weapon.

Mayor Boyd said he would like to add Luke or any other retirement service animal for the City of Darlington be included in this.

REMINDERS

MASC Annual Meeting, Hilton Head, SC July 22-July 24

Tuesday August 3, 2021 – Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council – 6:30 PM

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman Howard Nettles, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Assistant Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

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Mayor

CITY OF DARLINGTON

EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC

JULY 6, 2021 AT 6:00 PM

Mayor Boyd call the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Councilman Howard Nettles made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:02 to discuss applicants for City Manager (The City of Darlington May or May Not Vote After Executive Session). Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Councilperson Milling, Reed, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Howard Nettles and Councilman John Milling exited before the meeting was over.

Upon motion of Councilman John Segars, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, the Executive Session ended at 7:13 PM.

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Assistant Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

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Mayor