CITY OF DARLINGTON

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

400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 AT 6:30

&

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, Shelia Baccus, Howard Nettles, John Segars and John Milling on the telephone. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kelvin Etheridge, Building & Codes Official Sheila Jones, Street and Sanitation Supt. Mr. Alex Gainey, Police Chief Kevin Washington, Carla Elvington, Mr. Lee Andrews, 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 Councilman Bryant Gardner which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES EXECUTIVE SESSION JULY 6, 2021

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2021 City Council Executive Session. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Segars, Nettles, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 3, 2021

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes of August 3, 2021 Regular Council meeting. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus and Segars all approved the motion. John Milling said that we need to amend August 3, 2021 minutes under new business First Reading on the Ordinance 2021-13 Rezoning 203 Orange Street from R-10 to GC. He said as he read those minutes it indicates that no action was taken. Councilman Milling said that his memory is that Council took a vote because he had recused himself because he had previously represented Ms. Johnson and her family. Councilman Milling had talked with Ms. Johnson and her daughters about the property. Mayor Boyd said that is correct we did vote. Councilman Milling said we need to amend the

August 3, 2021 meetings to reflect that there was a vote. Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to amend the Regular Council meeting on August 3, 2021 as Councilman Milling requested. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Segars, Milling and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Boyd asked that the Agenda be amended to add consideration for funds for the DDRA for an additional concert. Mrs. Rock will talk about it tonight. Mayor Boyd said if we can put it under new business as item E. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said she would like to amend that we remove the bullets from number 6 so we can allow at least some interchange between our citizens and the Council members as that is their only time dedicated to them to have participation in our meetings. Mayor Boyd asked did she want to put that as item F and discuss that tonight? Councilman Reed said that was fine. Councilwoman Reed said we already have policies in place for disruptive behavior and the timing things of that sort but to put this as a bullet. Mayor Boyd said the first one is correct. They are not suppose to address us. Mayor Boyd said the second one, we have the right to address them if we want to. Councilwoman Reed said that it states, "may not", she does not like that part because she is an elected official. Mayor Boyd said he does not have a problem taking that out. Mayor Boyd said that we can just make amendment to where it says may engage in discussion. Councilman Gardner said just strikeout the word not. Mayor Boyd asked was everybody ok with that. Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for Tuesday, September 7, 2021 to include item E DDRA funding musical events and number 6 Public Comment to strike the word "not" out of Council Members may not engage speakers in discussion. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Segars, Baccus, Milling, Reed and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association

Mrs. Rock said as the executive director of DDRA and chair of the beautification board our Annual Clean-up day for the fall will be this Saturday from 9:00 – 12:00 meeting at the Chamber. She said we will mainly be doing litter pick-up this time as well as a couple of other projects such as decorating for the fall so we do encourage folks to come out. Mrs. Rock said Palmetto Pride will be giving us supplies(trash bags, vest, grabbers and that sort of things) so that we can continue to make our City a great place. We had a third event this past Saturday and it was huge there was a ton of people there it was a very big mixture of old

and young, everybody was represented at that event. She said everybody was having a good time. She thanked Council again.

Report for Council – September 7, 2021

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your support of our program that allowed us to hold the Saturdays on the Square Concert Series! Our final concert will feature **The Bout Time Band** performing an **80s Party** Saturday, October 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. downtown! **Sassy Girl Vintique** will offer a prize for the **Best 80s Costume**! You can check out classic cars on display from the Darlington Cruisers and Eastern SC Mustang Club at the mural parking lot or play in the Cornhole Tournament. We will have Sweet Chillin' Shaved Ice, George's Funnel Cakes, BJ's Krusty Wagon Food Truck, 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, September 30, 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 asked if she could explain that one more time because a lot of people may say I did not know about this or I did not know about that. Mayor Boyd asked, "How do they sign up for a text". Mrs. Rock said most people have a cell phone and this is kind of why we pay the extra money to have this website. You go to buildupdarlington.org and at the top you look for news alerts sign up, click on that and you punch in your cell phone number and it will send them to you as they are sent out. We send them out each week as well sometimes we may send additional ones during the week if something big is going on or if there are weather alerts and things like that will also be sent out that way. Mrs. Rock said you can send it as a text to your phone or as an email whichever way you prefer. Mrs. Rock said other dates to put on your calendar, Scare on the Square that is a joint project between DDRA and Darlington Recreation which is basically a safe trick-or-treating environment for folks downtown on the square, to go in and out of those businesses that are there. If your business or church wants to participate and you are not located on the Square just give us a call. We will get you a table or you can have a booth set up to distribute your promotional materials and candy to the children. She said the first year they did it they had about 800 kids and it's grown to probably 1500. The last time that we did it was in 2019 so it's a really good time and a lot of the community comes out. It's early enough in the day that the smaller children can come out and participate. Councilman Gardner asked for the date and time. Mrs. Rock said it is Thursday, October 28th the Thursday before Halloween 4:30 to 6:30. Councilwoman Baccus said is the beautification Board still maintaining the entrances into the city. Mrs. Rock said previously the beautification line item that funded the cleanup of those entrances as a separate line item was in the planning budget. Mrs. Rock said from 2013 until about 2016 it was still a separate line item and it went to a specific company that was supposed to keep up the entrances. The Beautification Board and Council were not happy with the results for what they were paying. They did not feel like they got a good deal and they decided instead of bidding it out again to hire somebody to do those entrances, trees, rose gardens and different beautification projects. So that was added into the budget at that time, several people have gone through that position. It is very challenging and we discussed this in the budget work sessions. It's sort of a challenge to keep people in that position because they are working by themselves and to keep track of them and to have enough equipment. The Street Department has duplicate equipment and

obviously larger equipment as far cutting grass and that sort of thing. They have zero turn mowers, so we don't need one zero turn mower in the Planning Department when the Street Department has three. She said so to remove that duplication with this last budget, as we lost another person in that department, my understanding was with the previous City Administrator that position was going to be absorbed into the Street Department because that's really where it should go. Mrs. Rock said that they can work as a team because I have seen them work as a team cleaning up at the entrance in front of the area that use to be Sav-way what is it now on Pearl Street where 401 and Pearl Street comes together there is this island with some bushes and things. She said as a team those guys can go out there and knock it out in 1 to 3 hours whereas it was taking one person half a day to a whole day to do that one area. So it's certainly much more efficient in those standpoints. Councilman Nettles asked, so when were talking about budgets if I remember correctly the Sanitation Department said they were short-staffed now so your understanding is that they are not short-staff so they can incorporate that to that person to do that. Councilwoman Baccus told Councilman Nettles she could not hear what he was saying. Councilman Nettles said, My question was that during the budget sessions we talked about Alex's group being short-staffed so in her reference to that I just want to make sure that Alex is not short-staffed and that he can accommodate that need to help that's all that I'm asking. Mr. Gainey said like I have said before I don't have the manpower, we are short staffed and we don't mind doing it but we are going to have to have another person I mean if she wants to give us that person that she had I will be glad to hire somebody right now but I don't have the manpower to be able to take over those flower beds and entrances. Mrs. Rock said so this year in preparation for the race I don't know if you noticed but at the entrances they did a fabulous job Oaks Landscaping came in and tidied them up before the race. Mrs. Rock said that the Beautification Board is paying for that and some hospitality money is going towards that. That is what was decided to be done in the short term last minute. Councilman Nettles said they look really good. Councilwoman Reed asked who did the work and you say the Beautification Board did approve it? Mrs. Rock said Oak's Landscaping, she said the Beautification Board approved a portion of the money. Mrs. Rock said she called several different companies but some of them did not call me back. One of them simply said I simply don't have the people. I have people out on Covid to do it in the time frame that we had of

the middle of August to getting it done before the race. Councilwoman Reed said the Beautification Board that person they were funding for that where is that person. Mrs. Rock said they are no longer in the budget. Councilwoman Reed said she thought it was being moved to the Street and Sanitation Department. Mrs. Rock said that was her understanding. Councilwoman Reed said that it is there but Alex is now letting us know that it's not so it's lingering somewhere out there so that person that we could pay for him to do that we need to clear that up guys if that's what's holding us up. Councilwoman Reed said because Alex is saying he does not have that in his budget. Mrs. Rock said in our discussion in the budget work session it was decided that council wanted a grant writer and if the Street Department was going to pick up the entrances that we would fill that space in the Planning Department with the grant writer that was all discussed in the budget work sessions. Mrs. Rock said we are not paying the grant writer price. Councilwoman Baccus said so what's going to happen now that we don't have a Beautification Board person to do maintenance of our entrances. Mrs. Rock said a city worker directed by the Beautification Board. Councilwoman Baccus said so that means the entrances are going to go lacking until the next event. Councilwoman Baccus said so now in two weeks all entrances is going to look raggedy again because we don't have an event coming up. Mrs. Rock said that would be up to the Street Department. Councilwoman Baccus said she doesn't know how it even got to the Street Department, she remembers discussing a grant writer. Councilwoman Baccus said she does not remember them eliminating the person to do beautification of the entrances, she does not remember that conversation. Mayor Boyd said he remembers this conversation Alex coming up and asking for raises for his employees and needing more help because we don't have enough people to cut it. Mayor Boyd said he remembers the conversation saying that we got the disability board walking through town cutting our grass. Mayor Boyd said I can remember me personally going out constantly and paying my employees and me cutting entrance ways in front of the Sav-way. How I paid to keep Wells Park cut, I paid to keep the entrance way of the turning into Mayo. Mayor Boyd said he paid for years to keep all that cut, so as we all want it we need to sit down and make sure that we got it and it should be in his department. She should not be handling a grass cutter he should be handling the grass cutter but he needs the money to put the grass cutter out there so we have enough people cutting the grass to make our City look the way it

should to look, that's what I have been asking for a long time. Councilwoman Baccus said grass cutter is part of the Beautification Board to beautify the city. That's what the Board's purpose was for. Mayor Boyd said we got to have the people to do that. Councilwoman Reed said is this an issue we need to address right now to get it straight. Councilman Gardner said he thinks that would be more along the lines of a future agenda item or either a work session will be a little more appropriate for everybody. Mayor Boyd said we need to move on but it does need to be addressed.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ms. Anna Dewitt said Ms. Sylvester had class tonight so I'm standing in for her but she sent me her notes. We would like to congratulate our chamber member, Covered in Cotton for being named a finalist in the Emerging Business Award by the United States Chamber of Commerce this is one of the awards presented at the big dream awards that will be held Thursday, October 21st at 5:00 PM. The Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce is interested in holding a restaurant crawl that will be starting up in October this event will benefit local restaurants who choose to participate if you own a restaurant be on the lookout for a visit for one of our board members if you would like more information please call Ms. Sylvester at the Chamber this event will be promoting all the restaurants that participate and the people who visit the most restaurants will win cash prizes . The Grand Old Post Office will host the First Annual Small Business Expo on Saturday, September 18th from 9:00 - 2:00. Retailers, crafts, samples, raffle prizes, food trucks and more. They are still looking for indoor and outdoor vendors. Please contact them at 944-0157. The Food Network will be in our area coming this fall with their hit show restaurant impossible they are casting right now to find a restaurant with ten thousand dollars and two days Chef Irvine revamps your restaurant if you are interested in this program please call Brooke at the chamber she has the information and the application process. Heroes for Health, the free medical clinic in Darlington County will be hosting their third annual heroes for health classic golf tournament this will be located at Darlington Country Club on September 23rd it's a $100 a player and $400 a team. All proceeds will be used to help provide medical care for the uninsured population in our city. They are accepting sponsorships. We would like to thank Sheila with codes Enforcement for her continued support as we try to get our building issues fixed at the Chamber.

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

Brenton Dana

Mr. Dana said he wanted to come here tonight and express a concern. He said I'm sure everyone here and as evidence that our people joining us for the meeting

tonight we all love Darlington and as we all know Darlington is steep in great history and we want to keep that history and my concern with moving for rezoning the area there on Orange Street to a General Commercial Zone could have potential adverse effects there. I own the property there at 214 and 212 Orange Street which is directly behind and in the vicinity of this area we are speaking about rezoning and I just wanted to address council tonight to please consider you know we have a historical district intact for a reason and I would request that Council consider leaving the historical district intact in the way it is and zoned the way it is as well and with that Mr. Mayor and Council I yield the balance of my time and I appreciate you all having me tonight. Councilwoman Reed asked him who he was. He said I am Brenton Dana son of the late James Dwight Dana and Paula Fleming Dana, and I own the property there on 214 and 212 Orange Street. He said he was born and raised in Darlington and active in it's historical preservation and especially there in the historical district of Darlington. I just believe it is in Darlington's best interest to keep it zoned the way it is and not move to a General Commercial zoning.

Ms. Joyce Thomas

Ms. Thomas said the event Saturday night was great. We need to do more of that type of activity, it was well attended. It put Darlington on the map. Ms. Thomas said that she has four items that she would like to address and of course it's not a strange thing because we have talked about this for years maybe forty or fifty years probably before I was born. The first item that I would like to call your attention to is the flooding, systematic poor drainage that's number one. The second item is the street, I don't understand how you all have more orange cones around because they are all in the streets especially in South Darlington. I think we need to look at that I only have five minutes so I'm not going to go into detail about that and be working as a team on that. Lighting down South Main Street you can't see anything after a certain time. I think we need to of course I don't know if you have devised your Comprehensive plan yet but we need to kind of include lighting and the infrastructure. We have had some accidents and I mean maybe one or two persons was killed, I'm not really sure about that. We talked about the flooding and the drain issue. The last thing that I would like to know is how are the citizens are going to respond to complaints that they have, I know this is like a thought question but especially with the seniors. We need to devise a way without the computers and the iPhone. Seniors need to know how to get in touch with the city officials and I know lately you all have had a change of staff and I don't know if it came out in the News & Press for the public. I was out of town for a month but people do read the News & Press, they read the papers especially our seniors. I am a real vocalist for seniors now that I'm in that group and everybody here live long enough, they will be in that group too. Ms. Thomas said again let's just try to think about seniors when we make these changes and policies and so forth. Ms. Thomas said I'm sorry I did not say who I was, I am Joyce Thomas first as a private citizen and I represent Darlington County Council not only that but the portion that represents the city also. Ms. Thomas said she did not talk about the potholes but I don't need to talk about potholes you

know what is going on. Ms. Thomas said she appreciate the job that you all are doing so please let's try to work together as a team and get things done. Mayor Boyd said that we are addressing the issue and hopefully with this grant money coming in for drainage. City Water and Sewer have done a wonderful job in getting the drains sucked out and cleaned but again when it does flood up it's that deep and your car is driving through and you out there looking at it walking through it you can see it circulating and going down and so if it is flowing good but it's only that big so we do have that in the forks to see if we can get something done down there. The Mayor said we have got Pearl Street and Main Street getting ready to be paved and also 52 By-Pass. The guys have been out with the potholes, they just can't seem to catch up we need some more help with that too. Mayor Boyd said we are trying to get more assistance and more help. Mayor Boyd said he agrees with her we need more lighting.

David Lockacre and Angela Johnson

Mr. Lockacre asked if he can combine with Angela Johnson because we are on the same group. Mayor Boyd said David and Angela can come together. Mr. Lockacre said we represent the CRC and we are here to discuss and get this finalized for the rezoning for the parcel that's on Orange Street. He said it is all one big property that was actually deeded on Pearl Street. When the zoning was originally set up it was set up somehow that got chopped into a residential section but the rest of the hospital buildings were general commercial. It doesn't make sense, because it's all one property it just needs to be corrected as one property under the general commercial. Mayor Boyd said the hospital is already zoned as general commercial. Mr. Lockacre said that is our understanding. Mr. Lockacre said so we are not trying to change the system or what's there. Mayor Boyd said there are two lots there. Mr. Lockacre said yes it should be all one, one general commercial property. Ms. Angela Johnson said first off I'd be remiss a little off topic and I'll just agree I am taken off guard when I heard Brenton Dana come up here because I remember the triplets birth I was a cashier at Piggly Wiggly and to hear him come up here a full grown adult it's been years since I've heard anything about the Dana triplets. I remember that day like it was yesterday everybody coming into Piggly Wiggly talking about the Dana triplets. She said to piggyback on what Longacre just said from a historical perspective the CRC has been in the community for decades and we have been at that location for decades and we felt strongly that we have been a strong contributor to the City of Darlington. She said nothing that we have ever sponsored or partnership with others to sponsor has come close to compromising the culture of any area in the city, namely Orange Street. We have always been a strong supporter of the City of Darlington and nothing is going to change that. What we are doing as I stated in the last meeting, it's simply to ensure that we are in compliance with what the City of Darlington requires. We want to be in compliance with the City's ordinance and that's really the only thing that we are doing right here. Mayor Boyd asked if the lots are already split in two lots on the map. Mr. Longacre said that it was originally deeded as just one big lot. Mayor Boyd said the front is already zoned as general commercial but the back is zoned as residential. Mayor Boyd asked, is it a reason why you want to rezone the back? Mr. Longacre said to have the one property as the general commercial. He said that building that is on the section that's

listed as residential it was a maintenance building originally for the hospital which also doesn't make any sense if it was part of the hospital, as a maintenance building why was it never set as one big general commercial property. Mayor Boyd asked if they were looking to build anything on the back of the building. Councilman Nettles said if you're not looking to change anything or build anything what's the problem with the way it is. Mr. Longacre said over time there was activities and things in that building through the CRC. Mr. Longacre said the last thing there was a little thrift shop consignment store which under ordinances and codes would not be consistent to have that part of the CRC in that building. Councilman Nettles said, your thought process is to do what with that building change. Ms. Johnson said as she stated in the previous meeting the Board has just been reassembled and what we are doing is working to re-establish CRC as a critical part of Darlington's culture and environment so we are still making decisions as a board as to how we are going to proceed so we have not made any specific plans for how we are going to proceed with 203 Orange Street. Councilman Nettles said you don't have plans but that doesn't mean that you could not develop plans in the future to do something more drastic is that right. Ms. Johnson said Councilman Nettles we have one plan right now and that is to ensure that we are in compliance with what the ordinances are as they are to that. Ms. Johnson said to ensure that we are following suit with what past precedents in Darlington have dictated, so I have asked for the city council to provide me a precedent and in going through your minutes for the past two to three years I have only been able to identify one that I think specifically is in line with what we are experiencing with the CRC requested to be zoned as general commercial and that is the one for Avenue D and Main Street. So as I understood in the minutes from May of 2019 and June of 2019 this is a situation very similar to what we have here. She said we have a community who has property that they were attempting to have operate as commercial as opposed to residents. She said it's her understanding based on what is in your minutes there was almost 300 petitioners in that neighborhood that did not want to pursue that area becoming used as commercial but it was still able to because apparently that was the right thing to do based on city council's understanding and so we are just attempting to do the same thing. We are trying to do what's right in our CRC line of business. Councilman Nettles said, You still have not answered my question. You talked about what your short-term plans are and I'm just trying to make sure I understand that you are not saying that you don't have potentially long-term plans that are going to be more impacted to the historical district so that's just what I'm trying to find out. Ms. Johnson said I have answered your question with my very first statement when I explained Mr. Nettles that we have been here for decades and have done nothing to impact the culture of the historic district and we will continue to govern ourselves in a manner that's consistent with protecting the culture of Darlington. Councilwoman Reed said, So let's just be clear in your reorganizing the CRC Center Board you wanted to be incompliance with Darlington's policies, rules and codes, the codes says that you needed to be general commercial or commercial, you were told that based on because it was that's how the front part has been operating on all this time and all you wanted to do is to make sure that all of the property which is one piece has the same code. Councilwoman Reed said we don't know from what I'm understanding you saying you are not aware when it was

separated different coding on the back or from the front and all that you just want to be in compliance with Darlington and our Board, our codes has said this is what you need to do, you are not trying to do anything else. Mr. Longacre said exactly. Ms. Johnson said we did not get to see the minutes but what was stated in the last meeting I think Lisa may have stated it that as far as this zone categorization that we have that's something we did not start until the seventies. Councilwoman Reed said that she is understanding now, because there was this understanding that there were two codes one for the back of the building and one for the front. All you are trying to do now is, I think is an issue with the codes. Ms. Johnson said it is her understanding she does not want to get the organizations mixed up, Lisa has planning already ruled. Ms. Rock said the Planning recommends to Council. Councilman Gardner asked, Are we going to discuss this project now are we going to wait until it's public hearing? Mayor Boyd said let's just cut it here and we will finish discussing it later on.

Denise Stanley

Ms. Denise Dargan Stanley, present owner of the Lindbergh's Barbecue, said her brother who have been in service for over 35 years here in the City of Darlington. She said she is in the process of getting this business back up and going. The Fire Department did the inspections and everything. She said there are still some flaws there that she got to correct. Ms. Stanley said she is looking out to you guys to help me make this plan come true. She said her brother was real faithful in Darlington with all the businesses that he had and I'm really proud of him. She said he passed in last year June 6th and she is the baby sister he has been like a father to me but I am trying to step into his footprints to carry on what he wanted but in order to do that I need to know all about what's going on in Darlington. She said she was past Law Enforcement, I work in Florence 22 years in law Enforcement as an officer. She said she worked with the S.C. Department of Disability and Special Needs for the latter part of her law enforcement years and I'm very pleased with what I have heard hear tonight that understanding the conversation and all that. I am real pleased with that when you come in as a new kid on the block but I'm still looking at some things that I need to get done. I have been waiting for a City Inspector report but I have not gotten that. I have called several times but I have not gotten it, I don't know whether you have anything to do with that but I have not received that report but I will continue to try. I am not sure if anybody in here can help me with that or not. Ms. Stanley said I just want you all to know my plans and I am seeking your support in helping me to make this come true. I am quite sure all of you are familiar with the restaurant there 1215 Main Street. She said you know there was good food and she plan to continue that. She said she has the recipe for the barbeque. Ms. Stanley said I stand before you tonight to say that I am pleading on the case of my brother who has passed whose goal was to continue to be a part of Darlington and make this restaurant a success and I'm looking for you guys to piggyback on with me to help me be able to do that. Councilwoman Reed thanked Ms. Denise and said she just wants to make clear that what you are in need of is the inspection report. Ms. Jones said that has been mailed but if I can get your email address I'll make sure you have it, it will be in your inbox in the morning. Mayor Boyd said it may still be sitting at the post office. Ms. Stanley

said that she is anxious about getting the business open. Mayor Boyd said let us know if we can help you. Ms. Stanley thanked the Mayor and city council.

Mr. William Jackson

Mr. Jackson said he is here to talk about the property on Orange Street. My history goes back to we bought a house on St. John Street in the late 90's and I have been there ever since wanting to get involved with the city so I have been on the Historical Landmarks Commission for about 4 or 5 terms. You guys paid for training for the landmarks Commission and it kind of what all goes into historic district and stuff like that and really if you look back at what goes on in historic districts when people come into town to invest money recently somebody on the other corner you know saw the house saw the potential in the house knew it was a historic district because of the marcations and demarcations along the street so he spent four years and who knows how much money turning an older house that was not bad but turned it into one of the greater houses in the neighborhood. It's been proven that historical overlay districts preserve the old houses which a lot of people are looking for so I'm here to say you know just trying to figure out a compromise some kind of way that we can keep the back half of that property or back two -thirds of that property the back portion of that property is zoned R-10 at best just because anything other than single family dwellings back there really would as you drive down Orange Street, Park Street and go down St. John's Street Sanders Street that' probably the most intact historic district that Darlington has most of those houses have not changed they are pretty much unaltered houses they were not ever cut up into apartments, they were not ever changed into something else. Even Edwards & Jones there right behind the bank you know they kept the exterior side, I'm pretty sure since the size of the rooms that they have kept that house to it's original intent. Mr. Jackson said so if Edwards & Jones ever moved out somebody can move right back in there and turn that back into a house. He said it's his understanding that that whole strip down Pearl Street which should be General Commercial that whole strip down there was zoned R-10 and the city realized that with some business that was going on there the city realized it was zoned residential when if should have been zoned commercial. I don't think that they thought about that whole property that went from Pearl Street all the way back to Orange Street then that was one continuous piece of property so they just went through and said hey this all needs to be zoned general commission so let's zone the car lot, the dentist office, what was the old florist building, the CRC building, the old hospital and the dairy bar all that stuff it was just wrong zoned so they went so many feet back and said okay this all going to be general commercial. Mr. Jackson said Lisa if I'm wrong with any of this or Sheila please correct me. He said it cut the hospital building it drew a line through that building which was obviously a problem and I get that. I would love for all us to figure out a way to keep the Orange Street side of it as a residential section and definitely the front side should be general commercial. Councilwoman Reed said in the historical district where does it stop at Wells, where are the lines and we need to come to some kind of compromise. Mr. Jackson there are no plans for it right now, I think the neighborhood, one thing I forgot to say is you know I have been in sales for over 30 years and it's still hard for me to get up to speak in

public I get my words all tangled up, trust me we talked to everybody in the neighborhood and everybody is really upset about it but there is only a few people that are really willing to get up and do this because they have just got a fear of public speaking, number one fear in the world. He said everybody in that whole neighborhood is really really concerned that if you get a general commercial with that, I'm sure they have great intentions not to do anything to hurt the city of Darlington I felt it in their voice. Mr. Jackson said she dose not want to see anything happen, you know if the property changes hands and they want to put up a AutoZone there, and it's zoned general commercial there is nothing that can be done now we got neon lights and who knows what stuck right in the middle of Orange Street it's just that this is scary for us because now stagnate investment housing in that area because I'm like I'm not going to spend a 100 grand on my house that was built in 1893 and there is some neon sign place right there. So zone general commercial is just really scary so it's almost like you know if there was ever was an intention for a plan for somebody to buy that property and to do something that would affect the Orange Street side of it just deal with it then let's just leave it the way it is for now.

Chip Paugh

Mr. Chip said he was the first one that kind of got the letter and started screaming about this. He said he had a couple of handouts for everybody. He said the first one that you are going to see on the top of this is a copy of the Sanborn fire map from 1913, now these maps are available at the Library of Congress and they are also available on a website from the University of South Carolina you will notice the highlighted area that is on that map that's the corner that we have in question tonight. There was a house on that property from somewhere in the late 1800's up until the late 1960's that was the McKeithan household, the McKeithans were very influential in the neighborhood and in the City of Darlington. He was a president of one of the local banks, he also founded the town of sawmill town of lumber very important people it was clearly residential area. If you will also notice the back lot was separate the piece that was the American Legion building on Pearl Street at that time was separate. I believe when someone came through and they established these historical districts they recognized the fact that that was in one time a historical site now if you go through the city's own website and you identify what the historical district is you will find that the St. John's historic district is on the National Historic Register along with the photographs that document the sites that are on the National Historic Register is the lot in question and the building in question that are on Orange Street these are all placed on the national historic register by photo documentation on the city's own website. Mr. Chip said so clearly I believe the evidence shows that this has not always been commercial this has always been a historical site. According to our own city code of ordinances chapter number 50-7.2 clearly states revisions to inventory map you will find this on page 2 highlighted, it clearly says at the bottom of that paragraph the changes within the historic district shall not be made without due consideration by the commission. I don't know if Mrs. Pruitt is here tonight. She is back there I made a phone call after the August meeting met Mrs. Pruitt by phone and she informed me that as the chair of the Historical Landmarks Commission that she was not even aware that this was even coming up before the city council. Someone in

the audience said no, I think you might be confusing me with Ms. Pierson. Mr. Chip said Ms. Pierson I'm sorry I stand corrected on that, thank you. He said he spoke to her and she informed him that she was not even informed that was going to be a potential change in zoning to property that's in this historic district so that's just not cohesive with our own city ordinances. If we continue on and we look at the third page you will find Darlington city code section 50-13 b1 where it's highlighted every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property that requires minimal alteration of the building, structure or site and it's environment or to use the property for its originally intended purposes. Someone with some great wisdom took a lot of time spent a lot of money to develop our historic districts to protect the historic districts in our city. As a personal investor in history and a renovator of a home I can understand why they did that because I don't want that neon sign across the street from my house the residents that surround that area do not want something else across the street from their house it's not a fight with CRC, we don't have a problem with CRC whatsoever we appreciate what you are doing for the community all we are trying to do is protect our investment in our community and the livelihood of our historic district right now. Mr. Jackson and I sat on my front porch this evening before the meeting. We sat on a quiet street enjoying a conversation. He said if they sell that piece of property a store front goes up those could become tractor trailer docks if we make that general commercial there is going to be no restrictions for that so I'm asking the city council to recognize the money, the investment and time and the residents of this community by voting against this and keeping this zoned R-10.

Jackie Lynn Jernigan

Ms. Jernigan said that she is a resident at 106 North Sycamore Street and as a homeowner I am concerned because it does affect the value of the home when something else becomes commercial and I know that because I have been studying real estate. She said as a homeowner too as a grandmother I have grandchildren and I like for it to stay a neighborhood because we walk across the street my mom and dad live on Orange Street and I live on Sycamore and me and my grandchildren walk down the street and go to my mama and daddy's. If something some kind of commercial business comes up there it's not going to be as safe for them to play and run around in the yard. We have already got a school house down the street that brings in a lot of traffic to our neighborhood, we got the firehouse the police station and as you said that little complex down there. Ms. Jernigan said she would like to keep it as a neighborhood not only because I have grandchildren but because of my personal investment in my home. I want it to stay where it has value and it will affect the value if you guys change that and my parents have been there in their house since 1974. Those homes are beautiful all the homes in that area if you ride around Darlington there are a lot of beautiful homes so not just for the aesthetics but because I'm going to invest in it I understand they have money invested but like Chip said earlier, You guys I encourage you to go look at his house, I have watched him work and heard him work. It is quiet now that his work is done but it's beautiful you guys need to go look at it it's gorgeous. I try to take very good care of my house and keep curb appeal at

my house. I would like to keep my investment so please consider not changing that zone to commercial.

Latonya Dash

Ms. Dash said that she is the pastor at St. James I am next door to the CRC so I rise to this evening I have heard so much about everyone's concern about the CRC and the history of Darlington so I ask the question whose history are we trying to preserve. Are we really trying to preserve the history of Darlington or are we really trying to just preserve a particular part of Darlington. So we are asking that question the CRC is a part of that history and so if we are going to make a wrong a right we need to make a wrong a right. Now if we are with being out of compliance and if right is right, right is right, wrong is wrong. She said she do believe that if it was the other way around if it was a wrong there would be no problem to make this right. She said that she also do believe that with the unknown I have heard the questions so what are your plans for long term what are your plans for the future if we knew the future we would know the future we could predict the future and so I do believe that the unknown is always scary but everybody who walked in here today there was one unknown but you did not seem to be concerned about that unknown and that unknown was whether this bench or this chair is going to hold me nobody inspected it you just sat down in faith believing that the chair and the bench were gonna hold you so I say all that to say if that the CRC it is commercial and so it's to be treated as that and if it's residential, a residential lot and property should be private. I witness with my own eyes the back lot that's in question tonight being used by families for picnics, dog walking, and dog fetching. If it's residential why is it being used for that. That's what you do in a commercial lot so the residents of Orange Street treat it as such already. Pastor Dash said she petitioned city council to make a wrong a right. Councilwoman said that Rev. Dash was her pastor. Mayor Boyd thanked Rev. Dash for her comments.

Unfinished Business

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 2021-13 ZONING FOR 203 ORANGE STREET

Mayor Boyd said he is sure we have comments on this. Mayor Boyd asked Sheila to address some of this. Mayor Boyd said his question is how is it zoned right now. Ms. Jones said that she has heard this all night that you know it's general commercial and they are trying to make a wrong a right and what's residential and so when our zoning maps was created in the 70's, 1973 that property the one in the corner the little building was general commercial. She said that front half of the old clinic or hospital whatever it was was general commercial. The part that was residential and why this is one property is now two different one parcel but two different zoning districts it is because that back lot was five different parcels in 1973 so at some point after 1973 after our zoning districts were made it was combined but when it was combined it wasn't made into just general commercial, so to say we are making a wrong a right it's not necessarily making a wrong a right because it was intentionally residential to begin with

it was five different properties and when it was purchased the zoning never changed. So the back half was five different properties so the current building that's on the one parcel in the long stretch that actual building is in a residential district. Ms. Rock was showing the property to Council. Ms. Jones said so the original just this part (in reference to a map Ms. Rock had) was general commercial the rest of it was all residential in the original zoning maps. Councilwoman Reed said whatever it was it was just one piece that was broken up into these parts they were separate Ms. Jones said originally they were separate because all of our zoning maps have each individual parcel. Councilwoman Reed said but there was no owners because when the CRC acquired it they acquired all of that as one piece. Ms. Jones said yes at one point after our zoning maps were made and it had the five parcels of land that was residential and the front that was general commercial. Ms. Jones said she was not saying that it was not when CRC acquired it, likely it was all one. She said however what I'm saying is that in the spirit of our zoning district residential in that back half it was residential so when they combined the parcels that it did not change into general commercial and the back half was left residential. She said I'm just saying that originally when the front half was the clinic and the other side was whatever it was everything that faced Pearl Street on that block to what Mr. Jackson said absolutely on the other side where Park Street Florist and the AT&T building that was residential for whatever reason that has since been changed to general commercial because that's properly zoned general commercial on this one. We never changed it was general commercial in 1973 and the back half was residential in 1973 and it was 5 parcels of land in 1973 when it was combined I have no idea that it was the deed was transferred to CRC as one parcel that's fine too but that's not necessarily making a wrong a right by changing the entire block to general commercial. Councilwoman Reed said she was not sure about what she mean by that. What we are saying wrong a right the fact that if they acquired it as one you are going back prior to them saying it was in part and that 's what you are dealing with now is that the fact that you have knowledge that it was in five areas and they are not that is what and so obviously those whenever it got to be split up or whatever it got to be one it was something that was not correct along the line as far as coding or as far as how it is on your documentation. Councilman Reed said we are where we are now because of that; because there is I don't know where there is any other place where one piece has the two different codes. I'm not sure of that and if that's the case that's what we are trying to correct now that is what appears to us is wrong that you got one piece with two different coding we want to get that straight. Councilwoman Reed said according to them they have taken the steps to be in compliance with the city which says and according to what they got back it should be zoned general commercial, we want to move on as you see they are in the spirit of trying to get this corrected, I'm saying now if we are not the ones to make that but in the past because it has been cited there has been the same group of citizens who complained about the same thing off Avenue D we did not bare it and so you know we can because the CRC has indicated that they don't want to do anything that would cause a problem but they want to be correct. That's getting the wrong to right. Ms. Jones said I get what you are saying but as a city we do have another property the Gensis property that is zoned two different so the original property is zoned core commercial and the rest of the

property is zoned office residential and that has not been changed. Ms. Jones said that they are still core commercial and office residential. Ms. Jones said I do understand the residents concern because general commercial does pretty much allow anything you want to do there. So when I was looking at it and it may be something that they could do office residential. It's still residential but it does make the commercial uses more strict so that you can't just do anything there. So you know there can be a compromise if that's what council is so choosing to do but making all of it general commercial I'm not sure would be prudent for the citizens that are in that historic district. Councilman Baccus said where is Edward & Jones located. Ms. Jones said right next to the bank on Orange Street. Councilwoman Baccus asked what is Edward & Jones zoned. Ms. Jones responded that she would have to look it up. Ms. Rock said she thinks it's office residential. Mayor Boyd asked when was the front changed to general commercial. Ms. Jones said it was in 1973. Ms. Jones said in 1973 when are maps were made it was general commercial. Mayor Boyd said in 1973 when we actually started the zoning. Ms. Jones said that was when our zoning maps were mapped. Mayor Boyd said at that point they said we are just going to make the front half general commercial. Ms. Jones said and the back five parcels were residential. Mayor Boyd asked is there anything else on the back of Orange Street in that area that is general commercial. Ms. Jones said only the AT&T building the next block up. Mayor Boyd asked what is the church beside it zoned as. Ms. Jones said the church on the front side is general commercial. She said she would have to look and see. Councilwoman Baccus said the AT&T building being zoned general commercial so at this point they could come in at any time and put up a flashing sign, is that right or wrong? Ms. Jones said yes they could. Councilwoman Baccus said the challenge of whether the CRC is gonna put up a flashing sign has no merit because AT&T could do the same thing. Councilwoman Baccus said she does not think the CRC wants a flashing sign, they don't have a desire for anything like that. Mrs. Rock said to answer some of the questions that were asked about what is the zoning district, she said Edwards & Jones is office residential and AT&T is core commercial. Councilman Gardner said after the AT&T building it is all residential until you get to the Fire Department. He said he does not see how we go essentially in the middle of our historic district and we go and do a general commercial. He said he understands the flight with the building and how you have the back section of the building is not general commercial. He said he is interested in bringing the general commercial line back behind your building, it looks like you have to do some new property markers that go about where that oak tree is. He said he was comfortable with you moving that GC back to that line to encompass the whole building but from my perspective we need to maintain our historic districts they are there for a reason it's what brings Darlington such character it's our beautiful homes. He said that he was also a little taken aback with the city code that he unfortunately brought us where it ways changes within the historic districts shall not be made without due consideration by our historic commission, so we have not brought it to the historic commission then that's also an issue. Councilwoman Baccus said she does not see an issue with making it general commercial they already stated that they have no intentions of doing anything against Darlington's ordinance or that's going to hinder or harm the City of Darlington or the historic district. She said the City had no problem definitely this

council had no problem when it was on the corner of Avenue D and Main Street when those citizens did not want a part of that park and the basketball court. She said that park had about two or three hundred signatures who said they did not want a basketball court but this council had no problem ignoring those citizens and making that property general commercial but I guess because of the side of town it was own and who brought it to council which I feel like those citizens was ignored and I'm not saying ignore anybody that's not what I'm trying to say all I'm saying is that CRC clearly stated they have no intentions of doing anything that is going to harm the historic district. Councilman Gardner said the park that you are mentioning is the Terrence Carraway Park and we knew what their intention was they said they would like to change it so that they could fulfill building a park for Terrence Carraway and I don't think that is comparable. He said you are talking about changing it for an unforeseeable future, if there is an interest that comes about that they would like to change the general commercial and come up to us and ask us to change it for a specific reason then I would be happy to hear it but just a general commercial blanket ordinance in the middle of a historic district just does set a good precedent for preserving our homes. He said when we were on Edwards Street we had a house torn down and we had half the community blow up at us and that was just one home, I mean image if we put a gas station in the middle of our community. He said he just don't see without clear understanding what they want to do with the land that we should blanket authorize in a general commercial. He said it just does not seem smart for the future of the city. Councilwoman Baccus said the point was those citizens did not want a basketball court but you had no problem voting to put a basketball court in the middle of their neighborhood. Councilman Gardner said from his understanding and this is all a long time ago but we had different personality issues within the different groups that were trying to do that it wasn't the whole community like you elaborated it was. Councilwoman Baccus said it was about 200 signatures that they had on petitions. Mayor Boyd said D Avenue was before he was Mayor and it was a conflict because I was Mayor but she only had one person to bring in no names and nobody else showed up so they might have been 200 signatures but I don't think it's 200 people in that neighborhood and there is not a basketball court going there. It will be a nice almost million dollar park going there for 400 officers that have died in our state and it's again as Mr. Gardner said when Ms. Allison Carraway and myself brought that to the city council we had a plan at this point we don't have a plan and that's why I have an issue with this, I don't have a issue with CRC either I did have an issue with there is no plan it's been this way for 48 years it's out of compliance with the city because the city did that. Mayor Boyd said at any point that you bring up a plan to say this is what we want to build here we want to do something and at the point then we can address that. Mayor Boyd said if she dies or moves on or something happens and it's already regulated at that point then anybody else could come along and put whatever they care to put there in the middle of the neighborhood. Councilwoman Reed asked is the AT&T building in the historic district. Mr. Jackson said it starts right after that. There was more discussion between city council and the audience. Mr. Longacre said the building that faces Orange Street was used as a thrift shop or consignment shop so if it stays zoned as it currently is does that mean the CRC can continue to operate as it has for the last 30 years if it's

still zoned as R-10. Ms. Jones said as long as it has not been shut for 90 days so our conformity ordinance as it reads so it would be out of compliance if it has not been running for 90 days. There were more back and forth discussion. Ms. Rock said she was handed this as a part of the public hearing and I will hand it to you Mayor so you will have it for the minutes. It is a petition of opposition to proposed zoning change of 203 Orange Street it says" The purpose of this petition is to voice our opposition to the proposed zoning change of 203 Orange Street, Map#165-02-02-041, from R-10 low density residential to GC general commercial. We all desire to see our city rebound and prosper, but we also desire to protect and preserve our Historic Districts and Residential Neighborhoods. We have more than enough vacant commercial buildings and properties within our city to develop. We do not need to remove portions of our historic districts and intrude upon quiet residential neighborhoods. We the below signed citizens are asking you to oppose the zoning change." Ms. Rock said that there are several names. Ms. Rock said that she had a correction Avenue D and Main Street that park that zoning has always been general commercial it was not changed and a park was always allowed and is a permitted use in all zoning districts. Ms. Johnson asked how many signatures? Mr. Jackson said about 12. They was more discussion with the audience. Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to close the Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-13 Zoning for 203 Orange Street. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd all in favor of motion. Councilwoman Baccus said she was still thinking.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2021-13 REZONING 203 ORANGE STREET FROM R-10 TO GC – LISA ROCK

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to rezone Ordinance 2021-13 rezoning 203 Orange Street from R-10 to GC. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted against the motion. Councilman Milling recused himself because of the representation he has had with Ms. Johnson and her daughters. Councilman Gardner said please understand that my interest as a council member I can only speak for myself at this point but if you would like to rezone the part of your building that is outside of general commercial that you all have an issue with I will be happy to support that but the backside I just would not feel comfortable especially in the historical district. Mayor Boyd said I have no problem with it either if we have a plan with what we want to put there so until we know what's going to be put there I would prefer to wait.

NEW BUSINESS

CDBG RESOLUTION FOR DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE PROJECT – LISA ROCK, CITY PLANNER

Mrs. Rock said we are asking council to approve a resolution authorizing submission of an application by the City of Darlington to the Division of Community Grant Programs of the South Carolina Department of Commerce. This is a grant for $750,000 for downtown streetscape improvements the total project cost estimate is $825,000. The City of Darlington shall provide

the local match and we have previous had resolutions and discussions with the County and county council has approved to provide us with that 10% of the cash money that's $75,000. We have discussed this in the past in a few meetings. Any cost savings will be shared with the grants administration on a pro rate basis and that the City Manager offer us to execute documents in conjunction with the application and submit all necessary documents in accordance with normal policy. We do need to approve this so that we may apply for this funding of the project area and this is in your packets here is this core commercial area of downtown that's where all the projects work would happen and this was approved by commerce to be that area. The project behind that is kind of a general scope of work. In talking with the Department of Commerce working on this, this would include paving a significant portion of the trail if you look on the map you will see the blue line which goes behind the library and connects to downtown as well as landscaping, trees, security cameras, benches, ash trays, garbage cans, etc. in these areas. It would also include paving the Ward Street parking lot, this is the parking lot behind the old Wells Fargo building and Chiantis and Wilson Senior Care redoing that whole corner purchasing that last little corner putting sidewalks and landscaping and that sort of thing and repaving and redoing the landscaping and things at the South Main Street Downtown parking area next to the News & Press and of course adding security cameras to all these areas. We will also be adding amenities and furniture in the public walkway which is the McClellan Building which connects the parking area behind the building to the Square and to the front where people can access the businesses. This would also include the decorations on the signal boxes which would feature our history and awnings for the buildings, on the back of the building that would face the new courthouse this is why the County is working with us they are putting in so much investment 17 million dollars on their new courthouse and they would like to look at something a little nicer than the backs of those buildings as they currently are and their match money would go towards painting the backs of those buildings putting awnings and making that a more attractive place considering how many people would be going to that facility visiting. This would also include paving the Carnegie Library parking lot and creating on Hewitt Street that section of Hewitt Street where the Carolina Bank Plaza Building and there is the Merle Norman shop there is a street that we own and we gave the rest of the street to the county. She said we gave the whole street to the county they don't want it all they want to give it back to us. A section of the street that is one way that goes beside the buildings we would concrete that into an outdoor seating dining kind of area with lighting and landscaping and things like that. Councilwoman Baccus said out of curiosity what is this corner right here. Mrs. Rock said that's how the zoning map goes and I think it's somewhat connected to how those parcels are created along the old railroad bed and that's why it's at that weird kind of angle. Mayor Boyd said this grant only allow for a certain distance out from the square, it also did not allow for us to use any of the money to touch other people's property as far as the buildings painting the fronts of the buildings and so forth except for the match part and the match part would be coming from the county so our agreement with them was that we would use that to paint the back of the buildings for them. Mayor Boyd said if there are any additional funds left over then we could use that to do whatever to paint and

put awnings on someone's building so that the citizens know that we did not all of a sudden get $825,000 and just do whatever we wanted to with it. There are limitations of what you can and cannot do with it and how far out you can go. Mayor Boyd said we are grateful to the County for providing the $75,000 match as we have already agreed for them to pave the Carnegie Library and they are looking at giving us back that part of their portion by the McCClellan Building and the Merle Norman's there in the corner. So we can use that for whatever. They are not looking to make that a driveway through they would like for it to be closed. Mrs. Rock said this would also include some wayfinding and decorative street signage decorative stock funds all based on what the Beautification Board has in their design plan for downtown. She said you can see an example of that stop sign there at Cashua when you enter the square. Councilwoman Reed wanted to know why do we have to have a resolution. Mrs. Rock said that it is required. Councilman Bryant said he would just like to thank Councilwoman Thomas and Councilwoman Godbold for their efforts on the county side. Mayor Boyd said he greatly appreciate the assistance. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the CDBG Resolution for downtown Streetscape Project. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Segars, Milling, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all in favor of the motion.**

CITY ADMIN BUILDING – LISA ROCK, CITY PLANNER

Mrs. Rock said that the City Manager asked her to bring this to you. You have received this in your packets previously back in June. We are discussing the Dargan House which is at the corner of Liberty and Pearl Street which use to be used as the City of Darlington Administration Building. She said we got an appraisal for the property it is appraised at $220,000. It has about 4,800 square feet. The building is perfectly usable turnkey it could be leased, could be sold that's up to you all. She said the City purchased the house for $177,000 and then we probably dumped at least that much into it to get it into a usable space because City Hall was a little too crowded. Mayor Boyd asked when did we purchase it? Mrs. Rock said we purchased it in 1999. She said Hurricane Matthew in 2015 the water damaged the building, the chimney on top of the roof fell into the attic space because of the construction of the building it did not go any further than that. We did over several years got the roof replaced and the chimney fixed. She said it has not been painted since 1999 and it needs new HVAC units. Mrs. Rock said so the question right now is for you to decide what you want to do with it. Mr. Payne (city manager) said "I remember back in the spring when this item came up and the council asked for an appraisal. He said as he started he found the appraisal and he just don't want it to sit on the shelf so what the administration is looking for is some direction. Mr. Payne asked do you wish for us to pursue selling it or do you wish to keep it, we're just looking for guidance. Councilwoman Reed asked were there any recommendations. Mayor Boyd said that his suggestion is that if you lease it to someone for any amount of money a $1,000, $500 or $2,000 a month then we are still totally responsible for maintaining it. The Mayor said we already dumped a lot of money in it and as old as it is. Mrs. Rock said the only serious inquiries about the property over the past five years has been people that wanted to tear it down and just

because the location is in the commercial district across from Piggly Wiggly and Roses is very popular. She said she has seen these kind of houses used for doctor's offices and some sort of professional offices before but we have not had such interest. Councilman Nettles said he is not crazy about selling the building. He said he understand we don't want the overhead and we don't want to continue to invest money in it if it's not doing anything for us. Councilman Nettles said that he would really prefer that we could figure out how to lease and incorporate maintenance cost into the lease if there is a way to do that. Councilwoman Reed said she does not want to maintain it. Councilman Gardner said my interest is right now is just to take this as information, hopefully we will get a work session with our new City Manager coming soon and at that point maybe discuss it as a group; do a little brainstorming, but I mean right at this moment I just want to say thank you for the information. Mayor Boyd said we will table that at this moment.

BOARD &COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – LISA ROCK, CITY PLANNER

Mrs. Rock said we have received Dr. Andrew Cohen's application to be on the Williamson Park Committee. She said it is included in your packets. He has served on the Williamson Park Committee for years until his business took him away and his foundation has funded many projects at the park. Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Andy Cohen for Williamson Park Board. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Reed, Baccus, Milling and Mayor Boyd all approve the motion.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 RESOLUTION – JOHN PAYNE, CITY MANAGER

Mr. Payne said as you approved the resolution earlier for the CDBG grant we also have to pass a resolution in order to receive coronavirus funding it's called the American Rescue Plan Act Darlington's decision is not competitive. We are going to get this money. He said over two years we will receive $2,957,193.12. In order to do that we have to pass this resolution designated and authorized representative and a contact person for purposes of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Mr. Payne said "I as the City Manager would be designated as a municipality's authorized representative and Mrs. Pridgen in her capacity as the Clerk & Treasurer will be designated as the contact person. Mr. Payne said in your packet is information**. Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Resolution – John Payne, City Manager. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Segars, Milling and Mayor Boyd all in favor of the motion.** Mr. Payne said we also need to designate Ms. Pridgen as the contact person. Mayor Boyd said Ms. Pridgen as the contact person.

Mayor Boyd said that he asked to amend the agenda for the DDRA. He said the City sponsored June. July was the first one but it got rained out at the beginning then it turned out to be really good. August got rained out at the end kind of died off it was still a good turnout. This one was September and I don' know if anybody got an exact count but I would guesstimate a thousand people were there. It has been brought up a number of times from people just walking around

through town and they come up to me and was saying how well they enjoyed it. People of all ages and all parts of the town were there and everyone just really sit down having a good time enjoying good music. He said he does not agree with the alcohol period because he is not a drinker but there was nobody out there that I saw a little drunk or causing a disturbance. It was just a bunch of people coming together having a great time and it made Darlington really look good. He said as we sat there I spoke with Lisa and told her a lot of people don't want to see it end. I think she has a partial sponsor for it if we were to do one in November. The City could also sponsor part of it for November and then in December instead of having it the first of the month, she said if she could get sponsorship from the DDRA is the privilege to have a party for December 31st as a New Year's Eve party will be on the Square. He said of course the DDRA would have to approve it. I'm not asking for any funding for that I'm just asking to see if the city will be willing to help find anything along with to continue this and then of course it is going to get cold in January, February, and March and we won't really do much outside, but I just hate to see it cut off and she got it going really good. I think everybody thoroughly enjoyed it. It made the City of Darlington look good. As Mr. Milling has asked a lot of times there is no way to quantify what it brought back into our town, but our purpose I would think of that is to make our town look good and be able to see what's going on on social media and good comments for our town so it's good publicity. Councilman Gardner said it was a wonderful community event. I could not imagine having it at the Racetrack alley. It would have been just impossible. Councilman Reed said that was the best place on the Square. Councilman Gardner said he never seen such a crowd besides for our big festivals. Councilwoman Reed said that is what happens with level 10. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the DDRA funding for November and December music events for the amount of $6,500. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Segars, Milling and Mayor Boyd all in favor of the motion.**

Department Head's Reports

No questions on the reports.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Reed said that she was just concerned about those bullets under number 6 and we worked it out so I just wanted to convey that to the City Manager. Mayor Boyd said we always have the opportunity to speak ourselves and we allowed some of them to go over tonight. Councilwoman Reed said we have to be flexible. Councilman Gardner asked if she was comfortable with it as we have it just without the word not. Councilwoman Reed said don't restrict it because I'm encouraging folk to come. She does not want them to feel like at the point where they can't say or be exposed to all of the council that they can't express themselves or get any feedback from us. Mr. Payne said just for clarity's sake I spoke with Ms. Baccus and Ms. Reed this morning and we discussed this. According to the ordinance I did want to mention that we can change this in the future but right now based on precedent you get five minutes for public comments but the ordinance states two minutes. Mayor Boyd said we are

happy to have our new City Manager with us and happy to have Mr. Milling with us. He said Mr. Milling I hope you know that you have a bunch of people praying for you. Councilman Milling said he certainly appreciate all the prayers and I think that's the difference between my not being here and my being here so thank you each and every one of you. Mayor Boyd said the community sure came together.

Councilman Bryant Garner made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 PM Police Chief Washington & Fire Chief Cavanaugh to discuss personnel matter. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, City property/appraisal and personnel matter – City Manager John Payne (The City of Darlington may or may not vote after Executive Session.) Mr. Howard Nettles seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus, Segars, Milling and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

BREAK

EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING @ 8:30 PM

Upon motion of Councilman John Segars, seconded by Councilman Howard Nettles, the Executive session ended at 8:55 PM.

REMINDERS

Tuesday October 5, 2021 – Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council – 6:30 PM

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Shelia Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

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Assistant Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

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Mayor