CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
DECEMBER 7 2021, AT 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons Howard Nettles, Sheila Baccus, John Segars, and Elaine Reed. Councilman Bryant Gardner was in attendance by phone. Councilman John Milling was absent. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Bailey, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Lee Andrews, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, W&S Superintendent Charles Shugart, Building & Codes Official Sheila Jones, Street & Sanitation Supt. Mr. Alex Gainey, Ms. Maci Shafer, Mrs. Anna DeWitt, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mr. Todd Hardee, Ms. Gloria Hines, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Ms. Rose Pruitt, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Ernest Boston, Ms. Carla Elvington, Mr. Bobby Bryant from the News & Press and other visitors.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer was led by Councilman John Segars followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Lisa Bailey said they participated in the Litter Pickup Campaign that is done statewide that is called "Grab A Bag SC". She said this is the Lieutenant Governor's project in coordination with Palmetto Pride. They participated on November 13th and in those three hours they had forty volunteers cover more than six miles and collected more than 60 bags of trash, 2 tires and a mattress for a total of 381 pounds of trash off of our streets. Mrs. Bailey said of those volunteers they had Mayo High School Beta Club and Environmental Club represented and the Darlington County Intervention School JROTC and the Darlington Garden Club. She said Mayor Boyd was there in the beginning and put out a challenge to the group that got the most trash off the streets he would give them $100. Mayor Boyd said, "Mrs. Bailey called and said it was almost a tie, so he's got $200". Mayor Boyd said*, "We appreciate your service for coming out and it's a big help to the city but it's also some help to you to realize that and others to not trash our city". Mayor Boyd said, "I tell people it's a detail and you all are a perfect example of detail. If you come in and your buttons aren't button right and all this kind of stuff, they will get you, right. So, you want to look sharp, you want to present yourself well, you want to make sure everything is in place and you're ready to go. That's what they are trying to teach you is detail. In the city detail is very important and we appreciate the sanitation guys coming out and taking care of cleaning up our city. He said our goal is to manicure our city so that when people ride through they say, ``that's a beautiful place; we would love to come visit Darlington". Mayor Boyd said, "we challenge everybody to do that. Stop and pick up trash.* Mayor Boyd presented the BETA Club and Darlington County JROTC with a check for $100*. Also, a picture was taken of the group along with Mayor Boyd.* Mrs. Bailey said if anybody wants to do a litter collection, she has plenty of bags, gloves, vests, and litter grabbers. Mayor Boyd said this was probably our best turnout.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021, council meeting. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons

Segars, Baccus, Gardner by phone and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Boyd said he needs to make an amendment to the council meeting tonight. He said he would like to have a short discussion on adding trees to the public Square. It will be under New Business, Item E.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda with the added item under "New Business, Item E Trees on the Square. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Gardner by phone, Segars, and Mayor Boyd approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association

Report for Council — December 7, 2021

The DDRA annual holiday **#ShopDarlington contest has kicked off**. The contest encourages folks to shop at five (5) DIFFERENT businesses between Thanksgiving and Christmas, send in your receipts with an entry form, and you have a chance to win one of three $100 cash prizes. The more you shop, the more entries you can make into the contest! The idea is to have residents explore Darlington's shops, especially those they have never entered, as owners and managers work hard to stock a variety of unique items. You can see more information on the contest or print entry forms at www.BuildUpDarlington.org/shopdarlington.

We also continue to make plans for the DDRA's **New Year's Eve Block Party on Dec. 31**. **The Level 10 Band & Show** will be back in town to ring in the New Year! **Southern Events Photography** will have a photo booth to create fun keepsakes, and the **Darlington Fire Department** will help with a balloon drop at midnight! We are working on some other special touches to this event, so, if your business would like to get involved, please call my office.

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

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ms. Sylvester said they had a lot going on this past weekend. They had the Christmas Parade; the Tree Lighting and they also had an event at the Country Club. Ms. Sylvester said tomorrow night they will have their December Business After Hours at Covered in Cotton from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. The address is 2080 Society Hill Road. Dancing With the Stars is January 27, 2022, at the Hartsville Center Theater. Ms. Sylvester said they are sending out invoices and they are getting a lot of membership renewals back as well as new members. She said their Annual Membership Banquet is February 24, 2022, from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Grand Old Post Office. Ms. Sylvester said, "Last time I was here I did mention that I would possibly be working from home, however the

contractor did back out so Landmark Properties did open up the bid again for the contractors to come in. The New Year's Eve Block Party with DDRA will be December 31, 2021. Dominion Church will be having their Christmas show on December 19, 2021. SPC is doing a food drive with Harvest Hope Food Bank, so you can go into any of their locations to drop off your donations.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTES PER PERSON MAXIMUM)

*Speakers may not ask questions of Council Members
*Council Members may engage speakers in discussion
*Disruptive behavior is not permitted

Mr. Gregg Blair said he's a member of the Darlington Task Force of Concerned Citizens and he was asked to present a list of streets that are in need of infrastructure. He said he would like for council to take into consideration some of those streets. Mr. Blair said, "And if possible, if they could have something in writing on the cost and if they have taken any of this into consideration at the next council meeting". (List of proposed streets that were presented: Farm Street, Lee Street, Edwards Avenue, Chestnut Street, Jessamine Street, Ross Street, Cross Street, Reid Street, Joe Louis Blvd., Hunter Street, Abe Lincoln, Jordan Street, Hickory Street, Pine Street, Tallulah Street and Main Street/Broad Street @ Hardees.) Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Blair for the list.

Pastor Leo Woodberry said he is the Executive Director of New Alpha Community Development Corporation headquartered in Florence, SC. He said they work regionally as well as statewide. Pastor Woodberry said, "Thanks to Lisa and staff you already have packets, and this really brief overview will lead to further discussion with the city staff and with the council as we are currently doing with Lake City, Florence as well as state legislature. 1) He said they are working with others to set up cease fire zones where areas much like a drug free zone can be established in cities with legislation pass to try and reduce the shootings that is epidemic in our communities. 2) President Biden's executive order #14008 that is tasking all 17 federal agencies to take 405 of their sustainability investments and give that to distressed communities starting next year. 3) They want to discuss with the city setting up a Resilience & Sustainability Commission so that will help the city of Darlington be positioned to receive federal funding through the state, through the newly established Resilience and Sustainability Office headed by Ben Duncan that was set up by Governor McMaster. 4) Looking at the city possibly doing a resolution to make this a renewable city which can open the door for funding for energy efficiency (solar, electric vehicles, etc.) Pastor Woodberry said they are currently working with the SC Office of regulatory staff and Office of Energy on putting together the State's EV Plan for South Carolina. 5) They also want to talk about some other environmental issues around sustainability. Pastor Woodberry said he hopes that they can work with both the council, the city manager, Mayor Boyd, and others to ensure that some of these billions of dollars get to Darlington and communities very much in need.

Mr. Linwood Epps said, "This past weekend we had the parade and then we had the caroling. I just want to make a comment about the speaker at the caroling. It was our own Chief Washington. Personally, I think we need to have him back next year. I think he needs to go to every church in our community and preach one Sunday. We're having a, when I say we, the Kiwanis Club, who sponsors the carol lighting is having a meeting Monday, I suspect that it's going to be brought up that he will be our speaker next year. Mr. Epps said, "But if you weren't there this past Sunday afternoon or evening to hear him speak, hopefully you will be there next year, if he speaks". Mr. Epps said, "He is a wonderful speaker and he's an asset to the city".

Mrs. Joyce Thomas said she is a member of Darlington County Council. She said it's imperative that we all work together. She had a short clipping from the Community Times paper in reference to the City of Darlington Planning Department wanting your input. Mrs. Thomas said, "In order to get your input everybody needs to know what's going on. Mrs. Thomas said, "Everybody doesn't buy papers all the time, and of course, I think this may be a biweekly paper, but this paper is not conducive to everybody across the city. Many people don't even read the paper, so I asked prior maybe two months ago, to have something sent out in maybe one of the water bills so the majority of the citizens can find out what's going on in the City of Darlington. She said I don't know whether the Ministerial Alliance would be an agency to talk about in reference to….but we have to get the word out to everybody. We just can't get a portion of the news out. Mrs. Thomas said, "Also, I would like for you to reconsider, and I read this in the paper, where you're meeting at. It said Joe's Grill, I believe; dates are December 10th, 17th and of course you have the schedule for January, but please if you would kindly reconsider the place, the time and location so it would be accessible to everybody. I think it would work much better with the city and all involved. Mrs. Thomas said, in reference to leadership and commitment in general, community leadership and development and commitment will make everybody working together in collaboration. We need to get together as a city and as people. We're all here working for the same thing, I hope. So please, Mayor and Council let's work together a little more and support each other and the neighborhoods. She said may be visit some of the places. She said she would be more than glad to entertain visiting some of the neighborhoods. Mrs. Thomas said some people don't even know that other sections of the city exist but I hope that we would get together on this as a community so we can all work together before we start spending all of the rescue money. She said I would appreciate it if you would reconsider where we are having the meetings at. Councilwoman Reed asked Mrs. Thomas if she had any suggestions as to other places we could consider? Mrs. Thomas said, "I do, but I think it would be better in a group setting if everybody could get together and the majority talk about where we need to meet rather than just one or two places all the time".

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND READING BUSINESS LICENSE STANDARDIZATION ORDINANCE 2021-17-JOHN PAYNE, CITY MANAGER

Mr. Payne said this is second reading and this is a requirement by the South Carolina General Assembly. It requires us to standardize our business licenses to be from May 1st of the given year to April 30th. Mr. Payne told the council the new rates were included in their packets. We did not calculate these numbers they were given to us, but this is a requirement, and we have to have a second reading by December 31st. Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the second reading of the business license standardization ordinance 20 21–17. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Segars, Gardner by phone and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-18 TO RE-ACQUIRE HEWITT STREET ALLEY FROM DARLINGTON COUNTY- JOHN PAYNE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Payne said as you will recall the city gave to the County from Fountain to Hewitt St. down to Hewitt Alley, but the County does not need Hewitt Alley anymore and they have asked us to reacquire it. **Councilman Howard Nettles made a motion to approve Second reading of ordinance 20 21–18 to re-acquire Hewitt Street Alley from Darlington County. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Gardner by phone and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

NEW BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE PEARL, MS. LILLIAN BRUNSON – MAYOR CURTIS BOYD

Mayor Boyd said a lot of times we give out different things for people like a "Key to the City", but when he became Mayor he and Mr. Hardee came up with what they call "The order of the Pearl". He said there's a lot of people in life that don't get recognized until after they die. He said there are a lot of great people that live among us and don't get recognized as much as they should be. Mayor Boyd said The Order of the Pearl is for somebody in the city area, but doesn't necessarily have to live in the city, but somewhere in Darlington that has portrayed and helped a lot of people throughout their lifetime. Mayor Boyd said, "I have been Mayor now for two years and we started this two years ago with the idea…..and then the pandemic hit, and we couldn't really be around anybody. We finally got to where the first person I gave it to was Harvey Drawdy. He said the second person on my list is who we decided to present tonight. This person is very inspirational and has done a lot for everybody in the neighborhood and cities and Darlington- Mrs. Lillian Brunson. Mayor Boyd said he was in the third grade when she was his first teacher, and she has taught a lot of people in school. He said she has taught a lot of people with the Girl Scouts, and she has taught everybody, I think, in town to swim. Mrs. Lillian Brunson says she loves living here. She has been here all of her life except when she went to college and with her husband when he was in the Air Force. She said she loves teaching swimming, she loves teaching school, and she loves the Girl Scouts. She said she especially loves teaching swimming, and she has been doing it for 48 years and she hopes she will be doing it for a few more. Mayor Boyd and Todd Hardee presented The Order of the Pearl to Mrs. Brunson.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-01 TO CLOSE CROSS STREET AT THE RAILROAD CROSSING - JOHN PAYNE, CITY MANAGER

Mr. Payne said this request was brought to us by the railroad. Mr. Payne said it's a little technical so he would like to read the letter. "Whereas the City of Darlington owns and maintains Cross Street where it crosses the SC Central Railroad crossing identified as 632697W; and whereas Cross Street crossing is a non-signalized crossing and cross bucks and railroad signs is the only means of providing advanced warning for the crossing and whereas the SC Central Railroad in conjunction with the Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Engineering Services propose and request Darlington City Council to close the Cross Street crossing that has been identified by the Federal Railroad Administration as a redundant or closely spaced crossing. Mr. Payne said there are three crossings: 2 others have much better signals. He said they call this redundant and it's within 2900 feet of the other two and they are requesting that we close this. He said this will take 2 readings and we will also have to have a public hearing. Mayor Boyd asked if they will be the ones to do the work and close it up. Mr. Payne said, "Yes Sir. We will handle the road part and they will handle the railroad part". Councilwoman Reed asked if this was something permanent and if we are offered anything alternate"? Mr. Payne said, "Yes, this is permanent, and we are not offered anything alternate". Councilwoman Reed asked would 52 By-Pass be the only way for the residents on that street to use. Mr. Payne said, "Yes they would have to use 52 By-Pass. Councilwoman Reed said it seems like they should come up with something else. Mr. Payne said, "Again, this is the request of the railroad, this is not staff". Mayor Boyd said, "So we don't have to do this, correct"? Mr. Payne said, "No, we don't have to do this, they are requesting it". Mr. Payne asked Lisa if there were two or three houses back there. Mrs. Lisa Bailey said, "We've sent notifications to probably 12 property owners that are affected. She said the people to the left of the railroad track all have the option, there's another street there that they can turn. The folks south will have to go south to Governor Williams Highway to exit". Councilwoman Reed said,

“There’s no railroad crossing across the By-Pass because they go under the bridge”. Lisa Bailey said, “The railroad is going to upgrade the crossing at Chestnut Street. She said they will be adding the signal lights”. Councilwoman Reed said, “I got that, but I’m just saying it seems like we could figure out an alternate way that they would maybe connect to Henry Street or something”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “So you’re saying the only purpose for the closing is simply because the railroad has a…..Lisa interjected and said it’s to reduce the hazard in having a second crossing in that space and they can’t put apparently the same kind of….based on the traffic flow on Cross Street they can’t justify putting the lights and the bars, but they can justify it on Chestnut Street. Councilman Nettles asked, “If they close it, does it impede the emergency vehicles from getting to or from there”? Lisa said, “The fire, police, and EMS all have not said that it would be an issue”. Lisa said we specifically sent it to them before we brought it to you all. Councilwoman Reed said, “If it wasn’t an issue, to me, they would be using 52 By-Pass right now because that would seemingly be easier if that’s such a problem, but it’s not and I don’t think that’s fair to the residents there to close it permanently. And since they are using it, I don’t see….we don’t even have anything on accidents or nothing going on”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “My question was, (before you interrupted me) at that intersection….there’s not a lot of houses on that street, but where that railroad track is located how many accidents have occurred at that railroad track to make it a problem, a hazard”? Lisa said, “The railroad is concerned less so about the vehicular traffic, but if the train were to be turned over or something at that location. She said you’ve got two railroad tracks coming in right there and obviously that’s their top concern”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “They have been using that railroad track for 40 or 50 years and they haven’t wrecked yet, but I don’t see the necessity to close the street and inconvenience the citizens”. Lisa said the only alternative would be for us to buy property and make a road to connect Cross Street to some other street. Councilwoman Baccus said, “The alternative is to leave the street the way it is and not close it because there is no hazard”. Mayor Boyd said, “I agree with Mrs. Baccus and Mrs. Reed that it’s going to be a hindrance to those people. He said, ``I feel like I see what the railroad probably wants to do because I was going to ask the same thing she was asking, were there any accidents and there probably never has been an accident there”. Mayor Boyd said, “Probably what they are trying to do is get it to where there are no crossings without a signal light, so they are not going to put a signal light there, so they will still always have an open sore there”. Councilman Nettles asked, “Can we have a representative from there come speak to us so that we can ask the questions just to make sure we’re all on the same page before we do anything because I don’t feel like we have enough information to make any decisions at this time, personally”? Mrs. Bailey said, “Yes”. Councilwoman Reed said, “I actually think we have enough information, I just don’t think that’s fair at all”. Lisa said we have already noticed that the public hearing will be next month so hopefully we can get the railroad to come. Mr. Payne said we can do it one of two ways: we can table it for the moment, or we can go ahead and have first reading in title only. Mayor Boyd said his suggestion would be to table it because if you go ahead and do it now, you still only have a month. He said it will take two months to go out and talk to everybody to see what their concerns are. Mr. Payne said, “Ok, we will table it and get a representative from the railroad to come”.

SOUTHEAST DARLINGTON HISTORICAL SURVEY BIDS - LISA BAILEY, CITY PLANNER

Lisa said the Historic Landmark Commission has been interested in making sure that all areas of the city are cataloged and recognized for the input they’ve made to the city and to the state. She said this project would do an architectural survey of Southeast Darlington between Planters Drive, South Main Street, the cemetery, Old Florence Road. and Joe Louis Blvd. (Info showing the areas was included in council packets – Copy Attached). She said they received funding from the state

historic preservation office and federal historic preservation funds to fund half of the survey. Lisa listed objectives, scope, goals of the project. Lisa said there are considerable vacancies and underutilized space, and you have the investment that Georgia Pacific has made of $140 million. People are looking at that area for investment and there is railroad access there. She said before any of this investment or economic development takes place, we catalog and identify these historic stories before they're lost.

Southeast Darlington Architectural Survey (Attachment)

Objective

The Project represents a continuation of the City's goal to preserve and protect its rich history, one of its major drawing cards for tourism. The Project would survey the Southeast side of Darlington to gather, organize, and present information about historic properties in photographs, narrative, maps and drawings, in order to identify properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and to identify properties eligible for potential local designation. The Project will promote a richer understanding of the City's historical and architectural development and encourage economic incentives for rehabilitation, cultural tourism development, education and local compliance with state and federal preservation and environmental laws.

Scope

About 20 percent of the property in the project area is vacant, in disrepair, or dilapidated. The age of the properties dates back to the early 1900s, and those structures have not all been maintained. As such, demolition, fire, or crime could easily wipe out potentially significant properties immediately.

The City will hire a historic consultant to prepare and research the properties and produce Architectural Survey documents for future development of the area and to be included in the records at the Darlington County Historical Commission and Museum. The consultant and City will partner with the Commission to secure, scan, and catalog any materials found.

A historical keystone in this area is the Darlington Memorial Cemetery, which may help create a historic district for the city in that area. That designation could help property owners get refunds or tax credits to help historic property owners get funds or tax credits to help alleviate the costs of rehabilitation of their historic properties.

Goals

The report will identify specific properties or areas for potential nomination to the National Register of Historic Places as well as background information in the future economic development of the area. Since the area has considerable vacancies and under-utilized space, it will be the focus of an upcoming redevelopment plan soon.

In the long-term, The City would like to see the neighborhood revitalized and to be able to use this area for future development of residential and business opportunities, but the City wants to avoid damaging or erasing significant historical properties and landmarks. With the added industrial development from Georgia Pacific, the motivation to clean up the area will be greater than ever.

The city does not want to bulldoze any potential cultural resources without first documenting them and recording their significance in case the property can be salvaged or incorporated into future development plans.

The Architectural survey aims to restore trust within the local African American community within the city. Racial conflict and neglect, specifically of the history of the African American community, has created serious tensions demonstrated by the lack of cataloging African- American contributions to the city and state. The Architectural Survey will help to bridge the gap between generations and preserve cultural heritage to provide the backdrop of current events and politics for better understanding throughout the community.

Timeline

December -Staff will meet virtually with the State Historic Preservation Office and consultant

January- Public meeting
June - Draft report and survey
August 31- Final report and survey

Funding and Proposals

The project will be funded by $6,000 in the Planning Department Budget 590/265, already approved by Council, and the City put out a Request for Proposals upon the announcement of the grant award. The Federal Historic Preservation Grant of $6,000 will cover the remainder.

We received four proposals.

1. Access Preservation (Staci Richey) - $11,740
2. Kraemer Design Group (Cassandra Talley) - $11,930
3. Ralph Charles Muldrow - $12,000
4. Simons Young & Associates - $12,000

Staff recommends selecting **Access Preservation,** the company has worked on grant-funded surveys in South Carolina previously, has experience documenting the African American story, and provided the lowest bid at $11,740.

Mrs. Bailey told council they will also see the timeline on the information sheet; Council will approve the bid for the consultant; In January they will hold a public meeting; In June they will receive a draft report and survey and by the end of August they should have our final report. The project will be funded by $6000 in the planning department budget from line item 590-265 which has already been approved by council and the city will put on a request for proposals. The Historic Preservation grant funds of $6000 will cover the remainder of the cost. The four proposals that we received are as follows: Access Preservation (Staci Richey) $11,740; Kraemer Design Group $11,930; Ralph Charles Muldrow $12,000; and Simons Young and associates $12,000. Staff recommends selecting Access Preservation. The company has worked on grant funded surveys in South Carolina previously with the State Historic Preservation office. They are known to that office which is the office that approves and denies who's going to be on the registry. **Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to accept the Access Preservation bid for Southeast Darlington Historical survey for $11,740. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Segars, Gardner by phone and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

2022 PROPOSED CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

Mr. Payne told the council in their packets they will see the proposed regular city council meetings for the year 2022. He said they are all the first Tuesday of each month, but they can always make any adjustments as needed. **Councilman Nettles made a motion to approve the 2022 proposed city council calendar as presented. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Segars, Gardner by phone and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

TREES ON THE SQUARE

Mayor Boyd said we've been awarded a $5000 grant from Duke Energy for beautification. He said we haven't received the money yet, but we are supposed to receive it sometime this month. He said they are proposing that they use the funds toward putting new trees on the Square in conjunction with the County. Mayor Boyd said he spoke with Charles Stewart, and he wanted to check with the city first before he presents it to the County Council and see if we can work together. He said they are willing to take all the trees down and that's what he's going to propose to the county council. He said they will put the trees in place, so they'll have about the same amount of cost that we have. Mayor Boyd said the cost that we've gotten so far on the trees to start with (if they got all holly trees) would have been a little over $6,000. He said they took this to the Tree Committee, and they propose alternating between those the sugar maple tree. Mayor Boyd said we don't have an exact price on that yet, but as a guess, it will be between $5,000 - $7000 so the city may have to come up with a little bit more than what the grant is. Mayor Boyd said he's not asking for approval tonight, only discussion on this. He told council if everybody is fine with going forward with this January and February is the time it needs to be changed. He said it's county property and the county is helping us and we would like to try to take this grant toward helping them to replace the trees and make our city beautiful. He said the holly trees will be 12 feet and look like a big Christmas tree. He said they haven't gotten a price on what size sugar maple we can get, but these will be the big bag trees with the roots in the bag. We will keep the two oak trees over next the old BC Moore's area; over next

the Mexican restaurant they will put hollies on that side and hollies in between the others on the on other side. He said Charles Stewart suggested that they would possibly fix the electrical that's in there also and add water to it. He will propose this to the county council if everything is good with us to work together. Councilman Nettles said, 'I don't have an issue with the thought process of it. I just want to make sure we do our due diligence, and the trees aren't going to be something that we're going to have to cut down or going to be invasive in the next five years". Mayor Boyd said, "We took it to the Tree Committee and that's what they discussed. He said the largest they get is 10 feet at the bottom which is way less than the area that's there. He said they suggested the sugar maples because they go straight up and not cause problems". Mayor Boyd said they will be adding two oak trees, not like the other oak trees, but the willow oak which would go straight up. Mayor Boyd said the Tree Committee are the ones that propose this type of tree with the thought process that it would last. Councilman Nettles asked if these trees are going into the existing place where the old trees are coming out? Mayor Boyd said, "Correct, those trees will come out and they will de-root all that and the new trees will go in. Councilwoman Reed asked, "So, what do we need to do"? Mayor Boyd said this is just for discussion tonight. Councilman Segars asked, "What kind of issues with this many trees with roots and sidewalks and that sort of thing". Mayor Boyd said you're taking ones out and putting ones back in. He said all of these trees are supposed to have roots that go down and not out. Councilman Nettles asked. "Do we anticipate any construction issues when we pull those trees out and we're removing those roots that are existing now? Do we anticipate any kind of sidewalk damage or anything like that where we will have to come up with extra dollars to fix that"? Mayor Boyd said, "Our proposal to the county is that we are going to buy the trees and then they are going to be the ones to tear the trees out so if they start tearing up and they send somebody out there that bust something up then that's on their part. He said there's enough space around there so they shouldn't bother the concrete. Mayor Boyd said the Bradford pears are already at a point that….Lisa said Clemson Extension has said that pretty much every Bradford pear tree needs to come down in South Carolina. She said it's an invasive species. Councilman Nettles said, "I think we can all agree that the courthouse needs some upgrades, so I don't have any problem with that". Mayor Boyd said, so we will present it to the county council for them to discuss it.

RECEIVE AS INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mr. Payne said all the department heads will come up and give the council a brief presentation of what they have been working on recently and what they will be working on in the future. They each have no more than five minutes and then they will open up for any questions that you may have.

Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh said the biggest question they've had is about their inspection process. He said beginning July 1st they went ahead and put a daytime fire marshal on. The Assistant Chief has moved over to daytime to help with inspections. He said right now they have had 76 businesses inspected this year. He said someone asked, "How do we choose businesses. Chief Cavanaugh said they will get a list from the front office of all the businesses in the entire city. He said when they get a list it includes people who have landscaping

businesses, plumbers, and roofers. He said if you have a business inside your home, which there are a lot of, we generally do not go inside your home and do inspections. He said when they do the first business license they will help out and go do that. Chief Cavanaugh said, "If someone opens a business up this week we have until this time next year to go ahead and get them reinspected". He said, "We've also put another fire marshal in place; one of my captains went and got certified, so now there's three of us. So, hopefully they will knock this process out a lot faster and a lot quicker. Chief Cavanaugh told Council if they look on the sheet it tells some of the things they look for such as fire extinguishers, exit & egress problems. He said these are violations that the fire marshals write citations for. He said the citations vary and so far this year they have not written a fine for people. Chief Cavanaugh said they'd rather educate people rather than charge them money. He said the violations can range from zero days to correct to 30 days to correct depending on the severity of the violation. Chief Cavanaugh said they are working on replacing some of their equipment and gear and things that they need. Mayor Boyd said, "Charles will be given the authority when he goes in to do more than just check fire extinguishers for the fire department, he will check if business licenses are done". Chief Cavanaugh said he will check the business license form and get Sheila in Codes and the front office and make sure they are ok and keep a list of that. Chief Cavanaugh said, "Any decision we make in reference to helping shut a building down or having close the door, it's not a decision Charles makes, or I make. It's between Charles, the fire marshal, myself as the Fire Chief, Sheila with Codes, and the City Manager. He said all of them meet together before they make any harsh decisions to do anything.

Mr. Lee Andrews said there isn't anything going with recreation, so the big question is what is going on with our land at the sports complex. Mr. Lee Andrews said he talked with our surveyor Mr. John Nesbitt and he made a promise that we will have the topographical survey hopefully by Christmas. He said every time he talked with him he had to go back out there. He said it's not the type of survey where they tap a post, but they've had to cut grid lines through the 116 acres. He said they were going from one point cutting trees down. Lee said at one point and time Councilman Gardner went to Charles Bailey and asked who was hunting the property. Lee said, "I guess he thought somebody was cutting shooting lanes in there, but they're getting to the end of the survey". Mr. Andrews said, I talked with Derek and after the first of the year he wants to meet with me and council to sit down and prioritize what you want done first. At that time, he should be able to come in with some numbers as far as a budget goes to start moving forward and getting the ball rolling in the next 12 months. Mayor Boyd said, "We want the citizens to know we aren't wasting any time but at the same time there are people that will slag on you". Mayor Boyd said, "I don't mind calling anybody, it doesn't really matter who I irritate and so the same with you all just keep calling them to make sure they're staying right behind each other is all we ask". Mr. Andrews said, "Every time I answer the phone and it's John, there's a heavy sigh and he says, Lee I'm getting it to you". Mr. Andrews said they are waiting for the delineations to come in which will tell them where all the wetlands are and what type of wetlands if any are there. He said we're not just sitting on the property; there's a lot going on even though it looks like nothing's going on. Councilwoman Reed said, "This is more about the city and the participation. She told him to let them know where they are. Mr. Andrews said it's not just Darlington, Covid hurt participation numbers everywhere, but the numbers are coming back

up now. He said they are seeing it trend back, but the only thing that's not trending back right now is their non-athletic programs. He said it's twofold-the courthouse has been using one of our buildings for court and this was our main hub. They will be moving out completely by the end of this month, so we are looking to get the building back and possibly put our offices back over there. Mr. Andrews said what they have gained in that process is another building that is being utilized heavily in the mornings for walking. So, we'll have two places that are going. He said they are looking at getting back into the travel scene after the first of the year with our seasoned citizens.

Lisa Bailey said she was asked to give an update on several things. 1) The status of the comprehensive plan - She said the Pee Dee Council of Governments has been drafting our new comprehensive plan since January of this year. The date on the plan is set for 2035 which is when the city turns 200 years old. Of the 10 elements of the plan six are already written and a draft was included in your packets. There's also a draft at the water department if any member of the public would like to look at it. Staff is asking for community input in a variety of ways. They are having a community survey and they have some of these surveys up front at the water department. They will be at Joe's Grill for two hours each Friday morning in December and January from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM. Lisa said they chose the location to be stationary so that it would be a consistent time. Councilman Nettles asked, "Lisa what is the forum for that meeting?. Lisa said it's more of a one-on-one conversation style. Councilman Nettles asked, "Are there single or multiple facilitators or is it just you"? Lisa said, "I'm there and Ms. Lindsay Privette from the Pee Dee COG is there". She said if anybody would like to go through the survey and discuss a swot analysis for the city with her one-on-one they are welcome to make an appointment to do that. She said they are working on incorporating this into an online platform and she's trying to find a way that we can verify that the people who are going online to take the survey are actually from here. She said she would come talk to any civic group that would like to discuss it. Lisa said she is just starting to send the survey out to different civic groups and clubs, businesses, churches, etc. They are working on a version of the survey to go into the water bill in January. They didn't have time to get it into December's water bill. All of the survey material will be compiled and worked into the final document, and it will go to the Planning Commission, and they will recommend it and present it to you for you to have first and second reading. 2) Tree Removal - Lisa said to date, we have spent $10,000 of the $20,000 line item. They have removed nine Bradford Pear trees, a leaning pine tree and 3 dying oak trees. Her initial plan was to spend $8600 on removal, $5600 on planting, and $5800 on trimming. Lisa said we still have at least one dead tree on the removal list that was planned for this year on North Street near the library. Lisa said she keeps a running spreadsheet of tree issues. 3). Vehicle Advertising - Lisa said she's working on a page for the website that details the rules, it has the forms, and photos that can be downloaded. She said to date, nobody has asked about this advertising despite us discussing it in this room three or four months in a row. She said she hasn't seen any interest in that yet. 3) The Streetscape Grant Award - The City was awarded a $750,000 Downtown Streetscape Improvements Grant with the County paying the match portion of $75,000. These are federal dollars, and we will have to proceed according to the federal guidelines, and they do require an environmental review of the project before we can do anything. In the meantime, the Pee Dee COG is submitting a bid to secure an engineer and they will send that to us next week

and we will have it posted for 30 days as required. The grant period is 24 months. Lisa said in the calendar year for 2021 the city has applied for more than $4 million in grant funding and has been awarded over $2.5 million dollars. Three additional grants will be submitted within the next 14 days. Lisa said there are other plans in the works including an Annexation Plan, the Downtown Master Plan and a Revitalization Plan for the Southeast Darlington neighborhood. She said they are waiting for the historic survey to be done for Southeast Darlington before we move forward. Councilwoman Reed asked if the tree removal plays into the streetscape since it's all downtown? Lisa said, "We will be taking out some Bradford Pear trees with the streetscape in the parking lot on S. Main St. and probably on Ward and Russell Streets, but there will be landscaping at both of those locations and obviously they will add trees when we configure that parking lot". Mayor Boyd said, "So we've spent basically half the money on that line item, so $8,600 is what you estimate us spending for removal and we've already spent that so we've already spent at the end closer to July when our time runs out do we go ahead and say, "Well we've got $5,000 left so we can go ahead and get some trees down, let's plant some trees or… Lisa said, July is not the time to plant. She said if we are going to do any planting we'll do that this time of year. Mayor Boyd asked, "At the end, if there's $50 is left in there what happens to the $50? Does it roll over, do we get roll numbers, or do we spend it or….Lisa said we don't roll over. Mr. Payne said it goes into your fund balance. Mayor Boyd said, "But I'm saying, is at that point, if there was a $1,000 left and you say we can go ahead and get two more trees down that needs to be cleared out, could that be done"? Lisa said it depends on the scheduling with the tree folks. She said she can schedule them and call them to come tomorrow and unless it is an emergency situation I'm put on a schedule, which could be 2 weeks from now or it could be six weeks from now. Mayor Boyd said, "The fiscal year ends in June correct, so if in April we still got $5,000 left and you say there's probably enough to take some trees down, at that point can we go ahead and start trying to plan to take some trees down because we know we will probably have a big storm that"…Lisa said usually around April, if there's any money left, I try and do trimming because it cheaper and it saves us in the long term. Mayor Boyd said, "Like on Pearl Street, Broad Street, there's still some that were down. I don't know if they fell down or we took them down, but there are still stumps there. Mayor Boyd said, "I would like to see that cleaned up, if we could add it in there…. Lisa said there is one caveat with stump removal: the tree companies will not remove the stump unless you are removing the sidewalk for them, so either city staff has to remove that piece of the sidewalk and then coordinate with the tree folks. Mayor Boyd said, "They removed the stumps in front of Piggly Wiggly". Lisa said they were doing just that. They didn't take the root under the sidewalk out. Lisa said, "A lot of times the tree folks will not come in because it damages their equipment to be so close to the sidewalks". Mayor Boyd said, "I would like to see the stumps removed".

Sheila Jones said fiscal year to date they have collected $245,101.90 in permits, plat reviews, zoning appeals. Upcoming demolition they have 1201 S. Main Street, 304 Darlington Avenue, and 155 Tallulah Street. They have condemned two houses-one on Howard and one on Davis Street. Ms. Jones said they have cleaned five lots and the street and sanitation helped them get them cleared. They have 3 more lots that need to be cleaned; 2 are coming out of violation so they will have to get estimates on those. Sheila said they have started a missing address campaign. Sheila said, I talked to the fire department and it's a code that you have to have 4-

inch numbers on your house and a lot of the houses are missing that and makes it sometimes difficult for first responders to know where those are. So, as we see those I've created a postcard to send out to them so that we can get everything numbered". Sheila said they are working with Darlington County who somehow changed addresses and refused to let people pay their taxes because the address was wrong. She said she had to go out and get all of the information to prove that this is indeed their house, and this is indeed their address and has been for twenty years and please change it back. Councilwoman Reed asked Sheila about the letters the residents have been receiving regarding registering their properties that they're not living in. She said I read one of the letters and of course there is a fee please tell me about that. Councilwoman Reed said, "Here is the question that comes to me, we are already paying taxes on our property and why is it that we have to pay another fee to register it? Sheila said because the program was brought to council and council approved it. She said the idea is to entice people that have vacant properties and vacant buildings to do something with them-to fix them, to sell them but the problem is cleaning them up. The thought process is that we're trying to get a count, a database of all the vacant properties that we have". Sheila said, "Let the people know that grandma doesn't go to the hospital and now all of a sudden it's a vacant property and we want money". Sheila said it's going to be something more of a long-term when it looks unkempt, the grass is grown up, nothing's happening with it. At that point as well we're going to say this is a vacant property you need to register it or do something with it. Councilwoman Reed said, "The two main ones that I want to get cleared up and get them answers-they keep this property up, just need to register and they don't feel like they need to pay. She said I was going to ask because they came to me and I said I would ask to see if we could get it waived because it's not grown-up it's just they need to register". Another property is on Tallulah Street. His mother owns the property, but he got the letter. Sheila said I believe the letters went to who is on the tax roll. Councilwoman Reed said, "yeah, I guess she gave the house to him, but he doesn't have any other property. She said he's living there but his mother has several pieces. Sheila said, "So, if this particular one he's living in it, so the letter just says all they have to do is check the box, it's vacant or it's occupied and mail it back and then it will go on the database that it's an occupied structure and it's not going be a vacant registered property because it's not vacant". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, if a citizen can't pay $100 or that $400, then what"? Ms. Jones said the ordinance reads that it's a misdemeanor and they get a summons to court". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, it goes before the judge and the judge will decide". Ms. Jones said the judge will make a decision whether to impose any misdemeanor fines or whatever by statute he can impose.

Mr. Charles Shugart said they are having issues with sewer collection and asked for a purchase order for Limit Street pump station. He said one of the three grants that we have open right now is for $1,772,000. He said Frank Horne Construction moved on site just after our last meeting in November. He said they are laying out pipes on Joe Louis, Gandy, and Third Streets. They have surveyors all over town doing work. Mr. Shugart said that in that project we have the renovations of the Grove Hill Pumpstation which is an emergency situation right now. He said he has talked to the folks at Ferguson, and they promised to get a pump here by the first of next year, possibly by the end of the month. Mr. Shugart said we were going to start at Alltel, but because this is an emergency situation, Mr. Horne is going to pull his folks

off and put them into Grove Hill and get that pump going for us first. The Farm Street gravity sewers and Allen Street pump station renovations grants ($1,028,000 grant from CDBG) we are in the design phase of that he said he has worked with Davis and Brown which is our engineering firm and the surveyors, and we should be able to get that into a big package before the first quarter ends in 2022. The third grant is the Allen Street force main and Old Florence gravity sewer. He said this is the one that we pushed through right at the last day in September. It eliminates the sewage pump station we've got at Bowen's Manor and puts in a gravity sewer there and it addresses a lot of issues with the Allen Street force main that actually runs up Kirven Street. Mr. Shugart said he, along with Ms. Pridgen and Mr. Payne spoke with the RIA folks last Thursday and got instructions from them and submitted some documents to them. He said he spoke with them by phone today and they said that we should have a notice to proceed by the end of the week. Also, we closed the East Broad Street sewer main renovation project. Mr. Shugart said he has a big issue with sewer collection which started back in October. He said this is an ongoing problem all over the state and all over the country it's with these disposable wipes. He said there are some cities that have outlawed them completely. He said we do have a sewer ordinance that says nobody can put in a thing in the sewer that would damage it and these things are beginning to be more than just a nuisance to the town. He said we started on a clogged sewer line on East Hampton Street in October, and we didn't finish until the first of December. We went over there every day from November 15th until the first of December and pulled bowling ball size clogs of these disposable wipes out of the sewer over there. They ended up with approximately 3,000 pounds of these flushable wipes out of the sewer line. Mr. Shugart said that the sewer line is only 275 feet long and it only serves four houses. He said they actually had to tear out a manhole out of the middle of the street because it was one built back in 1908 and it was unworkable. They couldn't get in there and use our modern machines to clean it. He said he and his men worked Thanksgiving evening, Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving weekend and two weekends in a row every day. Mr. Shugart said that's a huge issue and we will talk about it again several times before we bring closure to it if we can, I hope. Mr. Shugart said we've got to get the word out to stop using disposable flushable wipes. He said they may be flushable, but they don't disintegrate in the sewer, and they cause huge problems. Mr. Shugart told council he wants them to go ahead and approve the purchase order for Limit Street pump station. He said they have been in an emergency situation on Limit Street for quite a while now and we've got a diesel pump operating over there. They are having to change out some of the parts such as the discharge line which is not designed to be worked everyday 24 hours a day 365 days a year. So, we've had to change out that plastic line several times and we have to continue to do that. Mr. Shugart said he would like to go ahead and buy that diesel pump to keep in our inventory for future issues that we may have, but he'll come back to them later. Mr. Shugart said, "But tonight I've got two bids on just the pumping apparatus. He said they have looked at rebuilding pump station several different ways one way was to put in a generic pump station that we also want to do for seven of our other pump station and that's at a cost of approximately $107,000 he said he doesn't have any in his budget to spend but he does have enough money in sewer line maintenance to cover the cost of rebuilding it as is which he estimates to be around $52,500. He said the first component of that is the pumps and he has 2 bids for that: 1) Tim Carver - $11,000 and one bid from Clearwater, Inc. for the and/or equal - $8,196. Councilwoman Reed said, "So you've been

through everything, and this is the best route to take". Mr. Shugart said I think so, it's the least expensive way. He said he sure wants to put in those generic pump stations in the other locations and for the one they plan to do at McLeod, but this is the best way to go for today. Mr. Shugart said I think it will last quite a while and I think we will get this service out of it as long as it is maintained correctly, and we pull preventive maintenance in that area and on the pump station like we should on all of our pump stations. Councilman Nettled said, "Can you tell us very specifically what it is you were asking us for tonight"? Mr. Shugart said, A purchase order to purchase pumps for $8851.68 from Clearwater, Inc. Mr. Payne said he's asking you to give the city manager permission to sign off on that because that's above my threshold. Councilman Nettles said, and this is all of your homework and you have done your due diligence this is your best opinion of what we need. Mr. Shugart said, "It is". Councilwoman Baccus said, shouldn't we be getting three bids on everything? I think we required three bids, not two bids". Mr. Shugart said, "Well, I couldn't get anybody else to bid on it. They could get a pump here next year. These folks are looking at getting it to us in 8-10 weeks and the other folks are at 16 weeks and the other folks said they didn't think they could get it in 2022. Mr. Shugart said I told them we would have to have it in four months. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Well, I think that should be in writing from them that they can't get it in 2022. She said the requirement is three bids. Mr. Payne asked, "Is that requirement anything above a certain dollar amount, I believe is it $10,000"? Councilwoman Baccus said, "No, it's $5,000". She said everything that we do over $5000 requires bids and I question the work that's being done. Is all of the work that's being done in the water department being properly bidded out? Councilwoman Baccus said, Because I seem to remember at the last meeting you came and you said the same thing about some work that Davis and Brown did in the water department and seemingly none of this is being bid out, it's being handed to Davis and Brown and that's not proper. So, why is none of this stuff being bidded out in that department. Mr. Shugart said I don't know what specific work you're talking about. councilwoman Baccus said, you just said the design phase of something for Allen Street. Mr. Shugart said, "You all, this City of Darlington, gave Davis & Brown to do that design work prior to my coming to work here". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I don't think so. All of this is supposed to be bidded out". Mr. Shugart said, "You all started that in March of this year". Councilwoman Baccus said we didn't just give David & Brown permission just to do work in the city. That has been a question for the last four to six months, years-longer than that. It's been questioned about handing work to Davis and Brown. This has been years and years and years of questioning, and you seem to be doing the exact same thing. Mr. Payne said, "It's my understanding that, and this was a long time before I got here, Davis and Brown has been the city's engineering consultant firm for decades I believe". Councilwoman Baccus said, "It doesn't matter. Any work is supposed to be bidded out. I don't care if they are the city's engineers or not, you can't just hand them work. Our procurement laws require that all work is bidded out. Mr. Payne said, "I have not signed any purchase orders that are above my threshold so I'm below the threshold for procurement". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I have looked at invoices in the water department since August and I've seen a lot of invoices with Davis and Brown name on it for $12,000, $15,000, $10,000, $8000 and all of those are above $5000. Mr. Payne said I have not signed off on them. Councilwoman Baccus said, "They were paid; somebody wrote them a check". Councilman Gardner asked Ms. Pridgen if she knew what Councilwoman Baccus was speaking of. I said, "I don't know what invoices she is seeing, but anything that's

turned in from the department heads and it's approved, and it's in the budget, we pay it. If it's something that came through in the water department and it's a budgeted item we are going to pay it just like any of the other bills". Mr. Payne said, "So Charles, at the moment let's table the Limit Street project that you're talking about and let's ask that other firm to give us in writing what she requested, and we will sit on it until we get it, and we will do nothing else unless it's emergency management. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I have another question just for information for the community. The fire hydrant on Third Street that's leaking, is that in motion to be repaired"? Mr. Shugart asked, "Did you submit a work order for it"? Councilwoman Baccus said, "I submitted it to you in writing on 11/29 at 2:30 pm. Councilwoman Baccus said, ``I submitted it to you and I submitted it to John Payne". Mr. Shugart said that was last week. I don't know if we've created a work order on it or not, but I'll certainly check on the Third Street fire hydrant. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I'm also following up on Farm Street where the fire hydrant was repaired on Farm Street and it looks like a five-year-old did it". Mr. Shugart asked councilwoman Baccus if she went over there today. She said, I did and it still looks like a five-year-old did it. Mr. Shugart said we've gone over there almost every day. Councilwoman Baccus said I looked at it today, it's not level, it's not smooth….Mr. Shugart said go by and look at it again because we worked over there late this afternoon. Councilwoman Baccus said I went by there on my way here. Mr. Shugart said, "We spoke to the neighbor and the neighbor tells us it's always been wet there and it's wet there now. He said we can't do a lot with that until it dries out. He said we have taken dirt over there. We have leveled the grounds out there and I think we've done a really good job with what we had to work with and the neighbor agrees, but you don't agree obviously". Mr. Shugart said, "So, we'll take a look at it again, but we'll continue with it until we get it. It's a wetlands so it pretty much has to repair itself and we'll give it as much help as we can". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Farm Street, that area was only soaking wet because the fire hydrant was leaking for a year. She said, "once you all fixed that fire hydrant, which is fine, but that person who owns that property if I came there and it looked like that I would be upset because I would want to know why you left my property looking like that". Mr. Shugart said we left it that way because it was wet and it needed to dry out. He said I know we've been over there several times last week and at least twice this week and I went over there today and I thought it looked pretty good today. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Try to go back over there again and straighten it out". Mr. Shugart said, "Well, we're not through with it. We will continue with it until we get it right". Councilwoman Baccus said I'll check back with you next week. Councilwoman Reed asked, "So what is the problem, what keeps it wet? Mr. Shugart said it's a wetlands and it stays wet and it stays wet above there all the way over to the next street and it drains into a basin there and creates a spring on the other side of the road that has a defined ditch as a creek that runs around behind those apartments and catches all of the runoff from those apartments also.

Alex Gainey said I was asked to come to you all tonight to give you the schedule for the vac truck. He said the vac truck itself, it's hard to come up with a schedule for the vac truck. Mr. Charles Shugart and I have been working on it for a while trying to figure out how we could come up with a schedule. Unfortunately he's had to use the vac truck a good bit lately for sewer issues. The operator that I have for the vac truck also operates the sweeper. He said we've had council members that wanted the sweeper out on the street; we've had citizens that wanted the

sweeper out on the street, so we put the sweeper out on the street. Well, he can't operate both trucks at the same time. So, what we've tried to do is leave the truck available to Charles Shugart while he's having all these sewer issues. Right now, with fall and all of the leaves falling and everything else, we've had the street crew going down to Main Street, Pearl Street, Cashua Street and they've been edging. They have been putting some debris in the road so the sweeper has been going by trying to clean that stuff up. Alex said another thing is technically I've got the only operator for the vac truck. When that piece of equipment was purchased it was set up so that one operator would come out of street and sanitation and one operator would come out of water and sewer. Mr. Shugart has hired an individual and he is supposed to eventually operate the vac truck, but right now he hasn't been trained on it. Mr. Gainey said Mr. Shugart does have an operator that can operate it but he hasn't been trained on that particular truck, but he has operated vac trucks in the past. Mr. Gainey said when they do take the vac truck out we try to focus on an area and get that area clean, flowing and satisfied that it's either flowing properly or if we find an obstruction or a collapse, it's a state storm drain, which 90% of our storm drainage system is. We will notify the state and get them to come look at it so they can figure out what they need to do to try to repair it. He said whenever they take it out to an area they may be there a day, they may be there a week or they may be there two or three weeks; it's just however long it takes. He said we do know we have some issues in some areas. We have some obstructions, not exactly sure what it is, but we have ideas as to what it may be. We don't know exactly what it is and that's why we came to you a couple of months ago and asked about trying to buy a new tractor for the camera so we can actually put this camera in the hole to see what we've got. Mr. Gainey said it might be something that we are able to handle in house or it might be something that we have to contract out, but without the proper tractor for the camera we can't figure out what some of our problems are. Mr. Gainey said, "But once we get some of these sewer issues behind us, we get the fall behind us, which means leaves aren't falling and everything else we don't have to run the sweeper as much then we'll try our best to come up with some kind of schedule for vac truck to let you all know where it's going to be at. Mr. Gainey said since he took over stormwater in 2019 he's been trying to focus on areas instead of just sporadically hitting areas when people call in. Mayor Boyd said, "What I'm asking for is a grid- section 1, section 2, section 3, section 4. How many sections you put it in and this is where we're going to start. Of course if there's an emergency or somebody else is using the truck you should be able to come back and say, well…. If our citizens come to us and say well, when was the last time you cleaned Limit Street or when was the last time you cleaned Broad Street and you say, "I don't know". I should be able to look at them and say Broad Street was just cleaned two months ago, but they are fixing to clean Limit Street next week, but they haven't cleaned limit Street because five things got in the middle of it and there was an emergency over here and now we lost our driver but that's next on the list". He said just have a schedule laid out and that way we know they are prioritized to make sure each section is getting cleaned. Mr. Gainey said, "Ok". Mr. Gainey said, "Like I said, once we get all of these sewer issues behind us and the fall, we will try our best to get something like that schedule, but in the meantime we can let you know when we go to an area. He said we pretty much keep up with where we are going and how long we are there and what we find. He said they have been mapping things and putting obstructions on the map and I am more than happy to share that information with you so you can pass it on to the citizens when

they call you. Mayor Boyd said, “Like the street sweeper I have asked for years now can the guys go out and blow the streets and can the street sweeper go by early mornings and is there a schedule for the street sweeper”. He said they’re just Looking for it to be consistent as much as possible and as we grow we can hopefully have it to where you don’t have to share a driver you can have that one guy and all he does is wake up every morning and sweeps the streets are the streets being swept so that we don’t have to have them up there in the middle of town trying to blow and stop, blow and stop and it’s not really good…Mr. Gainey said I can say right now I can put the sweeper on the road and an hour after he gets by it looks like he hasn’t even been through there. Mr. Gainey said, “Right now it’s just a rough time of the year to be trying to sweep those roads, but we’re doing it”. He said he spent a bunch of time on Pearl Street, Main Street, Cashua Street, the Square; he’s been trying to keep it swept up. Mayor Boyd said we have a set schedule for when they are supposed to pick up the trash so do we have a set schedule for when the truck should be coming out. Mayor Boyd said, try to schedule a set time for the sweeper truck to be out there and for the vac truck to be out there. Mr. Gainey said, “Ok, we’ll get you a schedule “. Councilwoman Baccus said, “I also asked you about the vac truck several times, you and Mr. Payne about why the vac truck is not being seen in South Darlington but I also You myself and Mr. Payne discussed Jessamine, Chestnut and Reid Street. And you and Mr. Payne were supposed to get with Treasure Scarborough about Jessamine, Chestnut and Reid Street, so what was the result of that? Mr. Gainey said I talked with Mr. Scarborough numerous times. We've had scheduling conflicts but we actually have a meeting scheduled in the morning at 9:00 AM. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know who was meeting with him in the morning. Mr. Gainey said, “Me, if Mr. Payne joins us, Treasure Scarborough and Kevin Williams. He said we are meeting at 9 o'clock in the morning to discuss those areas. Mayor Boyd said, “Ask him about the ditches on the By-Pass too that I’ve been asking him about and I just keep getting excuses from him too. He said I’ll ask for everybody and again I’m not upset with anybody but my name is on the plate, their name is on the plate. Now ask for everybody and I keep saying this over and over just give us a date and try to stick to that date of when it’s going to be done. The same with DOT I’ve asked them over and over when the ditches are going to be done, give me a date”. He said, “So, schedule it, write it down, and everybody tries to stick to it to make it accomplished. Councilwoman Baccus said the last question I have is for Mr. Payne about Jessamine, Chestnut and Reid Streets. She said at our last meeting I asked for a cost estimate for repairing those three streets. Did you get the cost estimate either from Davis and Brown or from Alex? Mr. Payne said, “No ma’am we do not have that yet”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “So, it’s been going on for two months how long is it going to take to get an estimated cost”? Mr. Gainey said, “To start off with, the storm drains that you are referring to are all state storm drains”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “All of them on our other list are state storm drains that we brought into executive session too. We don’t own none of those streets on that list”. Mr. Gainey said, “When we meet tomorrow, me personally, I think we spend enough of our money doing engineering work for the state's projects so we need to get them on board and let them spend some of their money to handle some of their storm drain issues. Mr. Gainey said, “I don’t mind helping but we don’t need to go in the hole trying to fund their projects for them”. Councilwoman Baccus said, so you only got a problem with that one project but all of the others you brought into executive session were also state streets. Mr. Gainey asked which ones did we bring into the executive session? Councilwoman Baccus said,

"Broad Street, Siskron Street, Country Club, all of those are state streets. You didn't have a problem bringing a bid for them now you've got a problem with Jessamine, Chestnut and Reid getting a bid? Now we don't want to help them because it's those streets. No, if we can help the other ones we can come up with a bid for those three and this has been going on for two months. I have asked the same question for two months and I don't understand why Mr. Payne can't get it done. All you've got to do is ask Davis and Brown to come up with it. They came up with the bid for the others. Mr. Payne said, "I met with Davis and Brown last week and Mr. Shugart and I asked them to expand on those numbers so we should have something very soon".

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Boyd said I would like to thank Lisa Bailey for getting Roosevelt Scott as Grand Marshal for the parade. Mayor Boyd said I want to thank all of the department heads for what they're doing to try to help us get out from underneath our issues and try to make everything better for the City of Darlington.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to go into a short Executive Session at 8:35 PM for discussion of contractual matters (Council may or may not vote after Executive Session). Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Segars, Gardner by phone and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

5 Minute Break

Councilman Segars made a motion to end the executive session at 9:08 PM. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus, Gardner by phone and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

After coming out of executive session Mr. Payne said we had three projects to vote on. Councilman Segars made a motion that we except project #1 (Signs Plus Systems, LLC) at a price of $6000 for signs. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilman Nettles voted aye; Baccus voted nay; Gardner voted aye; Mayor Boyd voted aye.

Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve the fire hydrant removal and replacement and sidewalk replacement for $8,000 paid to Evans Pavement Services. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Gardner, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Nettles abstained because of a conflict of interest.

Mr. Payne said Project #3 is to do the wastewater treatment plant bed 4 exploratory work. This is to give the city manager the permission to spend the bid of $35,238. **Councilman Segars made a motion on project #3 that we approve the city manager up to $35,238. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus, Gardner and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

REMINDER

Tuesday January 4, 2022 - Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council - 6:30 PM

ADJOURN

Councilman Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted to end the meeting.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer