

# City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes October 20, 2021

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Jackson, Ms. Burns, Ms. Sprott, Mrs. Ishman, Ms. Brown, Ms. Shafer, and Ms. Rock; and Streets and Sanitation Department Head Mr. Alex Gainey.

Ms. Burns gave the opening prayer.

Mrs. Ishman made a motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2021, meeting as written. Ms. Martin made the second. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Rock reported that the Beautification Board has spent \$2,415.47 of their budget this year and has \$4,584.53 remaining.

Ms. Sprott asked if they could spend money on planting some pansies in the bed in front of the Veterans Memorial and for the beds outside of City Hall. Mrs. Ishman commented that pansies are about \$15 a flat. Ms. Sprott made a motion to include up to \$200 for pansies for the flower beds at the Veterans Memorial and in front of City Hall. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**City Administrator's Report:** The City Manager was not present.

**2022 Calendar Approval:** The Board agreed to meet the third Wednesday of the month January through October at 5 p.m. for the 2022 Calendar year. Ms. Burns made a motion to approve dates and time for the Beautification Board meeting for the calendar year of 2022. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Pride of Darlington Awards and Certificates:** The Board previously voted to give the Business Pride of Darlington Award to Carolina Bank on Orange Street next. Ms. Rock made a motion to send a Pride of Darlington Certificate to the house on Syracuse Street at Terrell and to Norma Lundy on Orange Street. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Grab A Bag SC Litter Day:** Grab A Bag SC Litter Day will be Saturday, November 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon from the City Administration Building, 410 Pearl St.

**Arbor Day:** Ms. Rock will send the location for the Arbor Day ceremony to the Board when determined. The event will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3.

**Christmas Decorations:** The Board requested that the City put up the Christmas Decorations and take down the Fall Decorations the week before Thanksgiving, so they would not be up at

the same time. The Board agreed to meet and show Mr. Gainey where to put up the Christmas decorations at the entrances and hang up the little wreaths that Ms. Brown keeps in her attic.

The Board also discussed the mosquito issue downtown around certain businesses. Mr. Gainey replied that they do not have a licensed person to spray in the department. He is in contact with DHEC to see if a commercial license allows for him to sign off on the City's license. Mrs. Sprott asked if the streetsweeper was operational. Mr. Gainey said that there had been some service issues with it and that the mayor wanted it running at least 40 hours a week. They had to wait to get enough CDL drivers, and they should be able to get it out sometime during the week soon after everyone has been properly trained on how to use it. Mr. Gainey said that the Street Department will be using the winter to catch up on shrubs on the side of the road and other things that they get behind on during the summer. The Board discussed its displeasure in how the sidewalks look with overgrown weeds, dirt, and ivy covering them. Mr. Gainey said that he explains to the grass crew how to care for the sidewalks, but unless he is there supervising they tend to not do it. Ms. Burns said something needed to be done about the drainage on Cashua Street at Spain Street being full of dirt since the street was repaved. Mr. Gainey said that he had notified SCDOT about Cashua Street and that the drain covers were slowly being replaced. Mrs. Martin asked that Mr. Gainey also notify SCDOT about the drainage systems on Jessamine and Daniel Streets. Mr. Gainey said that Jessamine Street's drainage system is not deep enough to tie in other pipes and water won't flow up. Daniel Street drains to the old railroad bed and that ditch needs to be cleaned out. Mrs. Ishman said that a sinkhole on Roanoke near Woodcreek needs to be addressed. Ms. Sprott said that there are a few sidewalks at the handicap accessible corners that are full of dirt that turns to mud when it rains. She said it needs to be shoveled so that it is usable. Ms. Sprott also asked Mr. Gainey about what is being done about the cherry picker digging up yards when collecting debris. Mr. Gainey said that the second person on the cherry picker should be raking that stuff up and that he has asked them to fill in these holes with dirt. He said he would get a list of the areas that need to be filled in and fill them because the City has 400 yards of dirt. The Board asked Mr. Gainey if he could have the street sign poles repainted this winter as well. Mr. Gainey said that it wasn't on his list but it might be an Eagle Scout Project and that he would check to see if they would like to do it.

**Garden Club Update:** There was no update.

**Unfinished Business:** Ms. Rock said that she found creeping thyme as a ground cover option to reduce the labor needed to keep the City's streets neat. The Board discussed possible locations, including the City Lane parking lot, and decided to put it in the right-of-way at Dedicated Community Bank on Cashua Street.

The Board will not meet in November or December.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.