**CITY OF DARLINGTON**
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT**
**400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC**
**NOVEMBER 9, 2021, AT 6:30 PM**

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons Howard Nettles, Sheila Baccus, John Segars, Bryant Gardner, John Milling and Elaine Reed. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Lee Andrews, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, W&S Superintendent Charles Shugart, Building & Codes Official Sheila Jones, Street & Sanitation Supt. Mr. Alex Gainey, Officer Kawon Martin, Lavonda Green, Officer Kim Nelson, James Jett, Keith Cauthen, Maci Shafer, Dee Pilgrim, Mrs. Anna DeWitt, Bobby Arnold, Ernest Boston, Carla Elvington and other visitors.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Prayer was led by Mayor Curtis Boyd followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2021**

**Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021, council meeting. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Gardner, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021, council meeting. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Gardner, Reed, Segars, and Mayor Boyd approved the motion.**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

*Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association*

Report for Council – November 9, 2021

Thousands of costumed children covered downtown on Friday before Halloween for the annual **Scare on the Square,** a partnership between the DDRA and Darlington Recreation to provide a safe environment for trick-or-treating downtown and an opportunity for families to visit our local shops. Thirteen (13) businesses and nonprofits not located directly on the Square set up tables on the courthouse grounds and joined in the fun. **Thank you to everyone who participated!**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH for your support of our program that allowed us to hold the Saturdays on the Square Concert Series!** While weather canceled our November concert, we are preparing for our 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 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 Miss Rock to reiterate the link that people can get because a lot of times people say they can't find out what's going on in the city so they can get the text alert. Mrs. Rock said they send something out once a week for sure and more than that if they need to. She said the website is buildupdarlington.org/signup and you can put in your email address, or you can put in your telephone number, and it will send a text to you.

**GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

BROOK SYLVESTER REPORT - insert

Ms. Sylvester said the Chamber went in front of the Zoning Appeals Board last night for a variation of the sign ordinance. She said they were granted a 365 day ok to put a 55 inch TV in their window to display advertisements and signs for their chamber members and other events in the city. She said Sheila with Codes Enforcement has helped them out a lot on the past couple of months with their building and they are looking to get it updated in the next couple of weeks so there is a possibility that she will be working from home some when they start tearing down the plaster on the walls. Their next Business After Hours is at Covered in Cotton on December 9th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Dancing With the Stars is January 27, 2022, at the Hartsville Center Theater. Darlington Country Club will be having their Christmas Business Bazaar on December 4 from 11am – 2pm. The Auxiliary of Carolina Pines presents the Fourth Annual Lights of Love. The tree lighting ceremony will be on Sunday November 21st at 4:30pm. Lights are available for $10 in honor or memory of a loved one.

**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. Lee Andrews** told council he wanted to update them on e-gaming. Lee said this has been the most rewarding event that he has done. He said most of the kids that come in are introverted and they are the type of kid that you would see that's being bullied. He said they have been doing e-gaming for about six weeks now and the kids have come out of their shell. They are talking and interacting with one another. He said that's the best thing they have done. Mr. Andrews said the money you've got invested in that is well worth it and although they only have six kids right now, it's going to grow. Mr. Andrews said they took the kids to Florence 2-3 weeks ago and they competed in their first tournament, and they beat St. Andrews which has a club about our size. He said of course they lost to Florence because they have been doing it a lot longer than we have. He said the kids that are involved are from ages 9 to 14 years old and these aren't kids that are going to play sports. He said the kids have come out of their shells, so they are interacting with one another. He said there's college scholarships available for these kids. Mr. Andrews said they will finish up this cycle this week. He said they will take December off and will be offering it again in January. Mr. Andrews said the guys that are in this group will actually help him run the next group. Lee told Council to stop by on Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 PM and watch the kids.

**Pastor Shernard Barnes - Traffic Problem**

Mr. Barnes said he was there speaking on behalf of the neighborhood which is in front of Cain Elementary School because they have a traffic problem. He said before the school was built for drop off and pick up they made it one way so the traffic could just flow. Now, traffic is going both ways and they have chaos. He said if you're coming in from Joe Louis Blvd. you're coming up First Street and Cain Elementary is on your right, but then those that are leaving and coming out of it and those of us that are not in line to go into Cain School to make pickups, but live on that street, we can't get there. Mr. Barnes said those who have already made pickups and are coming out of Cain School, we're running into each other. He said it's almost like being at the racetrack because it's three lines. You have a line that wants to go in and pick up kids; you have those who have picked up and they're going out this way; and you have those of us who are coming home, coming in this way. Mr. Barnes suggested that we go back to what we have been doing and make it one way and keep a flow. Mr. Barnes said, "The way we did it years ago, people would come in from the top (H Avenue), and keep going out in one direction. Mayor Boyd said we're working on getting that taken care of for you. Councilwoman Baccus said we did address that once already with the Chief of Police and with Mr. Scarborough with DOT. She told Mr. Barnes to talk to Chief Washington about it again because it was addressed when school first started back, and they were saying citizens were complaining about it. Councilwoman Baccus said they went back to DOT, and they were saying they felt like it wouldn't be a problem because of the way it was designed now. Councilwoman Baccus said, "But if it is becoming more of a problem, then address it with the Chief again and have him and you go back to Scarborough and discuss it with him again and let him know the problem you're having". Councilwoman Baccus said she will mention it again to Scarborough tomorrow.

**Mr. John Lewis**

Mr. Lewis said the reason he's here tonight is because he's really concerned about our roads here. He said we've got repairs done on them and they are not finished. We've got potholes.

Mr. Lewis said, “On North Street and Main Street they’ve gone in there, they’ve dug up, they put asphalt back down, but a 10-year-old child could do that”. On Oak Street where the doctors’ offices are, they went in there and cut the street up, it took weeks and weeks to go back and make repairs and when they made the repairs they decided they weren’t going to go all the way across the street. He said evidently we are paying to have this done and when I pay for something to be done I want it done right and I’m not going to finish paying you until you do that. Mr. Lewis said on Spring Street it’s the same thing. He said we need to get something done. Mr. Lewis said he lives on North Street and people come through there doing 40 to 50 mph, but nobody is ever there to check that. He said we have two school zones on Main Street, one at North Street near the library. Speeders come through there, but nobody pays any attention to it. Then you go to the school zone where you have Walmart. Mr. Lewis said, “If you are lucky you see the lights, you slow down. Well, I’m getting tired of slowing down and watching everybody else come past me just speeding through there”. We used to do a really good job covering that area, but we’re not doing a good job now. Mr. Lewis said, “Today I came back through there today, lights on, I slowed down-vehicles just going past me”. Mr. Lewis said we need more police coverage there. He said he’s not saying every day, but if we get out there and start stopping people, making them pay there’s consequences if you break the law and that’s what you’re doing. He said, we need to get out there and cover that until we get the traffic to slow down. Mr. Lewis said, “This is my first time coming here and I see this agenda and I go down to #6 and I don’t know why and maybe somebody can explain to me why we can’t ask questions of the council members, but the council members can engage us in discussions”. He said that’s really all that I have but I would really like to see something done about these roads and about speeding through a school zone. Mayor Boyd said, “I have asked for the roads to be patched (I fussed about that also). We went for five months without a City Manager, but we’ve got a good City Manager now that’s trying to get it done. Mayor Boyd said, “I can attest that I drove around town, and I gave him a list of things that I would like to see done”. Mayor Boyd said there are some roads that we can’t take care of such as Main Street, Spring Street, etc. and if we cut the whole road then we are responsible for it, but some of those roads are DOT roads. Mayor Boyd said there are holes in our roads that have been sitting and I have been fussing about it along with other council members. I’ve also been fussing about them needing to be paved, but our thoughts are, once you cut it, go ahead and patch it, so I agree with you on that. Mayor Boyd said, “I have also asked our Chief, especially with the shootings they have going on, that if a car comes through our town, stop them if they are doing something wrong. Not because of color, race, or anything of that nature, if they’re doing something wrong. If they roll through a stop sign, they roll through a stop light, they’re speeding, stop them. It’s then up to the police officer whether to give them a ticket or not”. Mayor Boyd said there needs to be more enforcement and I agree with that. It needs to be that if you are driving through our town there needs to be more presence. Mayor Boyd said I love our officers and I think they all do a great job, but I do think that you need to see more people stopped. If people are stopped in our city you take the opportunity of finding somebody that may have a gun or doing something wrong and then prevent that person from coming through our town shooting somebody else. He said not to stop everybody and give every single person a ticket, but again as much presence as possible to make sure that everybody is obeying the law. Mayor Boyd said we are addressing that and from my point of view, I agree. Mr. Lewis said we don’t have to have police sitting at the school

zones all day long, but they need to be there during the times that are posted, and they need to enforce the law. Mr. Lewis said "As far as street repairs and this not being mine this being the County's or DOT, we may need to do a better job of making them do their job. Mr. Lewis said we take Oak Street, they're not city. Our responsibility, but yet you let them cut the road and they go for weeks without doing anything to make repairs and people driving through there messing up their front ends and then when they do you go there to make the repair, I don't know who's inspecting that before they get paid, but they are not doing their job". Mayor Boyd said, "I agree with you, but also make sure you understand it's not just Darlington, it's not just DOT, it's everywhere, so yes, I agree that the patchers need to make sure that they are learning to patch". Mayor Boyd said, I want you to understand that I agree with you and we're trying our best to get our stuff taken care of. Mayor Boyd said, "For the citizens to know a lot of times things that are in bad repair, and they are in our city, and I agree even though it's in our city, go ahead and fix it, but of course we can't go fix a road that's not ours and then we're responsible for taking care of that road if we do something to it and if it's a state road". Mayor Boyd said, "And again, we have all called DOT to push and again our strings are attached so that falls back on you, call DOT along with us" Mr. Lewis said Russell Street got repaved, come down Oak Street, make a right-hand turn, turn right, but yet we can't do anything on North Street or Oak Street. Mayor Boyd said we didn't pave Russell Street, that was a state road. Councilman Milling said, "Mr. Lewis I agree with you. I think that Oak Street was cut for some water and sewer repairs. That's my understanding, I could be wrong, and it is misleading because you see the fresh asphalt that's there, but you got about 3 to 4 feet between where it stops, and the curb begins and there is a nice fall off and if somebody is coming you either better come to a stop and crawl through it or you are going to rattle your teeth". Mr. Lewis said that's because the people that did it didn't know how to do their job. Councilman Milling said, "I don't know why that was left without any paving on it, but I have also brought that to the attention so hopefully if it's our people…..Mayor Boyd said, "Our guys have been going out and I watched them. They have been doing a good job on their patching job, but I can't attest to DOT. Mr. Lewis said that's all that he has but he still does not understand why they can't ask questions. Councilwoman Reed said, I want to thank you for that comment because I did not like the bullets at all, but I was out voted. Councilwoman Reed said, "I didn't agree with our citizens not being able to address us because this is the only forum by which you can do, but I was out voted". Councilwoman Reed said, "As a councilwoman, I live on Tallulah Street, and we had a water & sewer problem, and it took the city almost a year before it was repaired. Councilwoman Reed said, "Because that is a state road the state would not do anything to repair it at the time and the city had to do it and we did not have the money so they did the best that they could. It is in terrible condition now and you can almost tear your car up because I'm in an area where the big trucks come for the oil mill, so I sympathize with you". Councilwoman Reed said, "I along with the other council members are really trying to address that problem about the bad streets. And as our Mayor said so many of our streets are state roads and once we touch them, as they did on my street, they will not come in to fix them. Mr. Lewis said, "I understand that, and I appreciate that, the council members that don't want to take care of this maybe next time they don't need to be council members". Mayor Boyd said, Mr. Lewis I will answer your question about speakers may not ask questions of council members is because of your last comment. Mayor Boyd said, we're not here to be harassed, we're here for your opinion. He

said everybody sitting on this council, I will attest-everyone, (I don't agree with everything everybody on this council does, but I will attest to this) every person that sits on this council wants the very best for the City of Darlington. Mr. Lewis said, Mr. Mayor, I had to respectfully disagree with you about my last comments like we said this is the only place we have to do those comments. Mayor Boyd said, "The purpose of that comment was so that we are attacked. Mr. Lewis said I'm not attacking anyone. Everybody on here is here for the council.

I'm just saying if people can't do their jobs then they don't need to be in the positions they are in. Councilman Gardner said he wanted the minutes to reflect that we never voted on public comments. Councilwoman Reed said, Yeah, it was the consensus of the City Manager, and we did vote on it. Councilman Gardner said, "We never voted on it. Mayor Boyd said, we didn't vote on it, the city manager brought it to us. Councilman Gardner said, "And secondly we're trying our best on the roads, Mr. Lewis. I think it was two or three budget cycles ago we raised the millage rate and we advocated to take all of that money raised to go into a fund specifically to pave the roads. Unfortunately, the majority of our roads are DOT owned and we've been working with them as best we can. During the last budget season, we bought an asphalt paving machine so we can work on some of our potholes. Councilman Gardner said we are working to address those 2 issues. Mayor Boyd said we also paved 17 of our roads.

**Mr. Barry Clark**

Mr. Clark, who lives at 210 Cashua St. said, "I'm rising very late in the game to bring strong opposition to what I see going on across the street from me at Genesis". He said his opposition is predicated on several things; one is simply the disruption of Segars court. He said Mr. Renny Johnson lives down at the end of Segars Court. He said I walked up to find his road being entirely torn up. I don't know how a private group gets to basically disrupt the life of a citizen without even discussing it with the citizen. Mr. Clark said he spoke with Mr. Johnson about this tonight. He said they just tore up the road and it's gone. It's no longer what used to be dual lanes where you could actually pass one another on that road. Mr. Clark said I drove to his house, but I had to pull over because cars were parked in Segars Court and wait for people to pass. Mr. Clark asked, "How does Mr. Johnson get city services such as getting his mail; how does he get his waste taken care of; how does he simply drive in and out"? He said Mr. Johnson is 84 years old and he loves him to death; he's a good man, but he has been hemmed back in a corner that he has no voice. Mr. Clark said he has great concern. He said when he spoke to the gentleman in charge of the project he said they spoke to Mr. Johnson and he said, he's in on this and he's all together with it. Mr. Clark said what they did was laid down a bunch of gravel that wasn't even padded down for him to drive over. He said that's what Mr. Johnson had to put up with for at least a week. He said Mr. Johnson can speak for himself I know but I think we as citizens and neighbors and friends need to be able to speak up for him as well. Mr. Clark said I have a larger issue. Mr. Clark said, "The larger issue is that previously brought before this council was the addition that's going on top of Genesis right now. What was very clear and brought out at that discussion was that the infrastructure was not there for the size and scope of the building that they want to put in. Furthermore, they are not approved for a lab. If you look at office residential, which I believe that they are approved as a physician's office. He said they are not approved as a lab, they're not approved as an outpatient service center,

they are not approved for pharmacy services. He said if you go under your own zoning districts Health and personal care is not approved. He said I don't know if it got grandfathered in or if I missed a meeting, but I have real concern about the size and scope of what they are trying to do in that location. He said it was previously voted down by this council and I feel silly having to stand back here again and tell a bunch of fresh faces what has previously occurred. Mr. Clark said, " and I pulled these papers out from my last discussion years ago and I don't know if something got passed simply because somebody gave them a permit to do it and the person who gave the permit wasn't around back then. He said I have real concerns there is not the infrastructure to provide the service that they are trying to provide. He said they can go out to the By-Pass and do equally well. they could build the grand hope health out there that they want to be and he's supportive of them to do that but not in the location they are. He said office residential as he understands it and was explained years ago was for a simple doctor's office for several practitioners not a healthcare organization. Mr. Clark said, and again I am in healthcare. I'm not opposed to them providing care. I love the care they provide, but unfortunately they don't have the infrastructure to be where they are and to do what they are about to do. He said, I have real concerns for what it's going to do for my neighborhood, for the historic district. That's not the place for that. David Eads office, sure perfect place-single practitioner providing care. I have concerns and again I rise in strong opposition to what I see going on and I certainly hope that Segars Court is addressed because that was wrong. It was wrong to do what occurred to Mr. Renny Johnson. Mayor Boyd said it was addressed and John Payne can explain that more. Mr. Payne said he met with Renney several times and at that time he seemed satisfied. In fact, he brought me a plant thanking me. He said he met with Mr. Johnson two or three times, and he has spoken with his attorney a few times as well. He said Segars Court is our road, it will be repaved, and it will be striped, and he will have access in and out. Mr. Payne said there will be no disruption to his water and sewer trash or any of that. Trash trucks will still go down. Yes, it's a mess right now because of the construction but at the end of the day there will be a road there (Segars Court). Mr. Payne said it is our road and he's had the research done on it and it will be repaved. Mayor Boyd said the city is doing what they're supposed to do, and we've stepped up to the plate to make sure.

**Ms. Jannie Lathan**

Ms. Lathan passed out copies of her letter to Council members to express support for the North & Oak Street Historic District expansion, concern about construction project on Oak Street and American Rescue Plan allocation (copy of letter attached)

November 9, 2021

Good evening Mayor and Council. I welcome the opportunity to provide Public Comments this evening.

First, I fully support the North and Oak Street Historic District Expansion and urge you to vote affirmatively in support of this expansion.

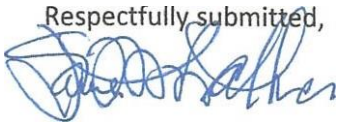
Secondly, many of the resident were surprised to see the major construction project underway in our neighborhood, on Oak Street. As you are aware, in the past the city held a public meeting, and the residents had an opportunity to express their concerns. That has not happened as this construction is now underway. Therefore, I am requesting the Mayor and City Council to direct the City Manager to hold such a public meeting, so the residents are fully aware of this project and the impact it could have on their neighborhood. You know there is always a right way and a wrong way to do something. As importantly, we need to see and be given assurance that commercial building codes are being followed, as they were not followed in the past. For example, the current building has no set back from Oak Street. This building was literally built all the way to where the side of the building is only inches away from the sidewalk. Needless to say, should anyone open one of the doors on this side when someone is walking on the sidewalk on Oak Street, a severe injury or a fatality could occur.

Lastly, my comments centers on allocation of our City's American Rescue Plan Act Fund allocation. It is my understanding that the city has been allocated several $Millions. Since Darlington's citizens are not allowed to ask their mayor or Councilmembers any questions, (as noted on tonight's Council agenda), I am submitting the following comments and questions. And I am also requesting a written response to my comments and questions within the next two weeks.

1. What is the exact amount our city received from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund?
2. Will there be a Council workshop (that will be open to the public), to determine how our funds will be spend?
3. Given the City of Darlington far exceeds HUD's definition of a Low-to Moderate Income (LMI) city; and given the Mayor and the majority of this City Council members voted to increase the usage rate which significantly increased the water bills for all Darlington's residents (in the middle of a Pandemic), and given the American Rescue Plan Act Fund is designed to address financial hardships and burdens imposed by the Pandemic; and given this water bill increase has imposed an additional financial hardship and burden on many of our LMI families; I recommend the Mayor and Council vote to allocate a significant amount of these funds to the Water and Sewer Department and to lower our water usage rate and lower water bills back to the Pre-Pandemic level.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Jannie Lathan

Mayor Boyd said, “Ms. Lathan, thank you for coming tonight and please note that as I post all the time, my number is (843) 206-4389. You may call me and ask questions 24/7 365. If I do not answer, I will return the call. Ms. Lathan asked, “Are you suggesting that I call you in lieu of

coming to make public comments". Mayor Boyd said, "No ma'am I'm just saying if you have questions, you are welcome to call.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**a)SECOND & FINAL READING - ALCOHOL BEVERAGES ORDINANCE 2021-16 SHEILA MARIE JONES, BUILDING & CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL**

Ms. Jones said she is coming before Council with the second reading for the proposed alcohol beverage ordinance Ms. Jones said the first reading when they went through it council wanted to change the end time to midnight and that has been changed so that alcohol sales can't go after midnight in restaurants. She said, also we have grandfathered existing businesses that currently have alcohol licenses to sell alcohol at the restaurants or establishments that they would not be in any way affected by the new ordinance. Ms. Jones said those are the changes you all requested and those were the changes that were made. Mr. Payne said to note that it's for on premise consumption. It does not affect convenience stores or any other entity. Councilman Milling said, "There were a couple of things in here as I was reading through, but if you look at D and go to #6 it says as part of the security plan the permit holder shall establish a policy that….and there is no "that". Ms. Jones said, "There is no 6 and it should have been omitted altogether". Councilman Milling said on #8 (the last sentence) says the drinking establishment will establish policies and security resources to assure compliance. He asked if the City review and determine that such policies do in fact provide for compliance and that the appropriate resources are available. Ms. Jones said, "The city will". Councilman Milling asked, "Do we need to put something in there to the effect that it shall be reviewed and approved by the city"? Ms. Jones said, "Yes Sir, we can do that". Councilman Gardner asked, "So #8 add shall be approved and reviewed by the City"? Councilman Milling said, "Which shall be reviewed and approved by the City". Councilman Milling said, "Going over to E, #3 where is says any application submitted under this section is incomplete or does not contain the requirements outlined, the permit shall not be issued until the application is complete and all requirements are met. Failure by the applicant to submit the required information or to correct the deficiency in 60 days will result in denial of the application. Councilman Milling said, "which to me almost reads that the person has got to submit their application for extended hours more than 60 days out so that we can review it and give them 60 days to get it correct. Milling said, so they have to come to us and say today is September 1st, I want to have extended hours on December 1st. If they come on November 1st they would not have time. He asked if we would review it if it was complete. Ms. Jones said, "If it came complete, they wouldn't necessarily need those 60 days". Ms. Jones said, "As long as all of their paperwork is complete. They may need to change their event date. Councilman Milling said, "They would just go forward and get the extended permit . If it was not and they wanted to do it in a shorter period of time, they would really have to hustle to get it taken care of". He said so they need to be aware that they've got to be planning things in advance". Councilman Milling noted with the changes/deletion made to the ordinance, the numbers will also change. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Second & Final Reading of the Alcohol Beverages Ordinance 2021-16 with the amended items. Councilman John Milling seconded the motion.**

**Councilpersons Nettles, Reed, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

**ADVERTISING RULES AND RATES FOR CITY VEHICLES – LISA ROCK, CITY PLANNER**

Mrs. Rock said, "Based on our conversation at the last meeting included ii your packets and handed out today, are the proposed rules for advertising on city vehicles. It states the advertiser must hold a city business, it details which trucks, it includes rules there are some things to avoid and if the vehicle remains out of service for repairs or inclement weather for more than 50% of the working days for that specific vehicle the business will receive a credit of one month for future advertisement or contract extension. Refunds will not be given. Mrs. Rock said the last page gives 2 options. The top option A was option #3 last time, and it would recoup approximately 53% of the auto expense for the sanitation department for those trucks if all the advertisements were filled 12 months a year. She said on option B she drew up another potential number to try and get that number closer to 100%. She got it to 69%. Ms. Rock said, "I feel like the cost per month is possibly going to be as high as I think you would be able to charge anybody to do". Councilman Gardner said, "Mayor, Councilman Nettles, I'm not familiar with the pricing for this style stuff, what do you all say about these rates? Are these fair rates"? Mayor Boyd said, "Yeah". Councilman Gardner asked, "Option B, is that fair"? Councilman Nettles said, "Most of my experience with the rates are more on esthetic, things like billboards and that sort of thing vs something's that more mobile with few exceptions. He said I'm not confident saying that they are or are not just because I don't have that much dealing with them". Councilman Gardner said, "Comparing them to the billboards". Councilman Nettles said, "Yes, compared to the billboards". Mayor Boyd said, I would say more Option A, but anytime it's moving it's going to be more expensive. Mayor Boyd said, "I think that's a good rate to get your name out and once they pay for it, it will be on there for a year. Councilwoman Reed said, "so those of you who do this kind of advertising are these the kind of rates you pay"? Mayor Boyd said, "Yes". Councilwoman Reed asked. "Which one"? Mayor Boyd said, "I would say Option A". Councilman Milling asked, "Is there anything that three years from now, two years from now after a term expires that if we looked at it and determined that there was greater value to advertising on the city vehicles that we could not change the rates"? Mrs. Rock said, "We certainly could and of course the bid that we accepted from the New & Press is a 3-yer contract so obviously that would be the time that we would take another look at it. Councilman Gardner said, "Assuming we pass this tonight would you just bring this back next year and let us know how it's going". **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Advertising Rules and rate for City Vehicles, Option A. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Firefighter Protection Gear Purchase Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh** Chief Cavanaugh said it's time to upgrade some of their personal protective gear for the firefighters (ballistic vests). He said this is a budgeted item and we have the funds to do it. Chief Cavanaugh said he received four bids with the lowest being $6,700 which is over the $5,000 spending limit. Chief Cavanaugh asked that Council grant permission for the City Manager to approve this purchase

so we can protect our guys. Councilman Milling said, “Your letter said the lowest bid is from AEST. Chief Cavanaugh said he had another bid to come in (from (MTR) after he did the letter. Councilman Gardner said, “So MTR quoted us the same thing as Wally’s”? Chief Cavanaugh said, “And actually with better protection and with the MTR people they have a $24 million life insurance policy on each piece of equipment. He said if something were to happen and someone gets injured, the policy is on every piece of equipment they put out. Councilman Milling asked, “Now does some poor individuals have to die in order to collect on this insurance”? Chief Cavanaugh said, “Injury or death”. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve MTR to provide the replacement for the body armor at a price of $6,710.00. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion.**

**DPS Grant for Laptops and TASER – Police Chief Kelvin Washington** Chief Washington said he applied for a grant last year to upgrade the TASERS and all of the laptop equipment in their patrol cars. He said they are all out of date, so they were able to secure funding through the SC Department of Public Safety through their JAG Grant. He said the JAG Grant is federal money that is sent down to the State and local agencies have to compete for those funds and they were able to compete for those funds and they approved our grant. Chief Washington said he would like for council to vote to give authority to the City Manager because they will be over the $5,000 limit. The laptops are out of date and need to be replaced and some are not working. As it relates to the TASERS, this is going to be the newest and latest technology that the TASER company offers. He said he hopes they don’t have to use those tasers but there are circumstances sometimes and they have to use them. He said the tasers are a less than lethal option for them to be able to take people into custody. Chief Washington said one of the things he likes about this new technology is that it will be tied into their body worn camera system so anyone that pulls out their taser, anyone within a certain number of feet of that individual that pulled the taser out, all the body cameras are going to come on. So, they will be able to see every single thing that happens there. Chief Washington said these purchases will be done through State contract where the bidding has already been done by the State. Councilman Milling asked, “Does the $67,939 grant cover all of the cost”? Chief Washington said it will cover the majority of the expenses. He said there is a small match of approximately $7,500 and we do have those funds on hand. Councilwoman Baccus asked how many Tasers and how many laptops you need to purchase? Chief Washington said right now they are in discussion about how many they are going to purchase. He said, obviously they are going to replace all of the laptops in the patrol division and that’s about 16 and then they want to replace all of the tasers in the patrol division as well. He said some of the equipment that they currently have they can still use. He said whatever they can use, they are going to use**. Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve DPS Grant for Laptops and TASERS. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

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

Mr. Payne said last year, as you know, the General Assembly in September 2020 passed the Business License Standardization Act of 2020 which is Act #126. Right now, the business license department is working with the Municipal Association to work all of the numbers because there was a great change that had to come about. He said, as you know, the city can't make a windfall, but we also don't have to take a loss in order to do that because we are changing dates which will go from May 1st through April 30th of a particular year. Those numbers have to be reworked. Because we have to have this particular ordinance approved we have two readings, we have to do one today and because we don't have the numbers this is just in name only. Mr. Payne said next month we will have all of the numbers that go along with it and we will have further discussion. But in order to meet the deadline of December 31st we need to have first reading tonight just in name only. Mayor Boyd said, "So that the citizens know this is not something that the City of Darlington is doing". Mr. Payne said the South Carolina General assembly passed this last year and we have no choice. Councilman Nettles said, "Correct me if I'm wrong, I thought we discussed this previously and that we had moved to that next. Mr. Payne said you did earlier in the year but there are about five steps that we have to go through, and this is just the next step. Mr. Payne said, and the model that we have is the model ordinance that the Municipal Association has gone through with their attorneys, and they recommend this ordinance. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading of the Business License Standardization Ordinance 2021-17. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Reed, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-18 TO RE-ACQUIRE HEWITT STREET ALLEY FROM DARLINGTON COUNTY - JOHN PAYNE**

Mr. Payne said earlier this year the city passed an ordinance to give the County the area around Fountain and Hewitt Streets in order to aid them in their new courthouse project. After they completed their architectural reviews, they decided they don't need the alleyway that runs from Hewitt up to Bankers Alley and City Lane. He said the County Administrator and county council have asked that we take that back and we have to have two readings for that. Councilwoman Baccus said, "If I understand clearly, the section you are talking about is the alley that runs between the old Carolina Bank and the store on the left. Mr. Payne said, "Yes ma'am, it's about 160 feet". Mr. Payne said it would actually aid the city in the future if we decided we wanted to set up a venue or whatever we might decide to do. Mr. Payne told council there is a map that's highlighted in yellow behind the ordinance that shows you going between Carolina Bank and the buildings on the left. Councilwoman Reed said, "So Hewitt Street wasn't us". Mr. Payne said they just want to give the alley back. He said when they took it they didn't realize the alley was included and it doesn't need to be included in their courthouse project. Councilman Milling asked, "So, we would be getting that 1/10 of an acre of Hewitt St. and Bankers Alley back"? Mr. Payne said it's just the straight alley up Hewitt up to Bankers Alley and City Lane that crosses it like a T. Councilman Milling asked, "Who will have Bankers Alley"? Mr. Payne said Bankers Alley comes from Main Street and then City Lane goes down. Mayor Boyd said, "We didn't give them that". Mr. Payne said, "No we didn't give that, we still have that". Mayor Boyd said if that's a city road, it's still ours. Councilwoman Reed asked, "So what are we re-acquiring? Mayor Boyd said ``If you turn off the Square between Merle Norman and Carolina Bank the alleyway

right there". **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve ordinance 2021-18 to re-acquire Hewitt Street Alley from Darlington County. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilman Milling said, "So much of said Hewitt Street as shown in yellow. Councilwoman Baccus, Nettles, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion**. Mayor Boyd said, "So we are agreeing to re-acquire Hewitt Street Alley from Darlington County which would stop at the back of the Merle Norman building back up to the Square.

**NORTH/OAK STREETS HISTORIC EXPANSION DISCUSSION- LISA ROCK, CITY PLANNER**

Mrs. Rock said, "The City of Darlington Historic Landmark Commission would like to expand our residential historic districts". This would extend the protection of the historic district and keep more character in our beautiful homes and neighborhoods. This will enhance the city by capitalizing what Darlington has going for it, which is a place that's a charming historic town that was initiated several years ago by a homeowner's request. The homeowner is a person who lived at Oak and North Streets in the red brick house. Committee members have canvassed these property owners and physically knocked on doors and they are here as well to speak. Mrs. Rock said this is all based on the state's survey of properties that was done back in the late 80's. She said the commission has identified several areas that need to be extended and this is one where the property owners were in favor of it. Mrs. Rock said at this time the commission proposes to expand the Cashua / Spring Street District by adding properties along North and Oak Streets especially given City Council's concerns about protecting historic neighborhoods in recent months. She said this would add an additional 14 properties to the district. (The yellow area is the proposed addition) Mrs. Rock said in 2018 they had the commission members go to the people and they actually signed something saying they were in favor of this. She said once added to the City's historic district we plan to assist homeowners in applying for state recognition as well, as this gives them an opportunity to get tax credits. They can get 10 to 20% federal and state tax credit for renovations that they do as long as it amounts to $15,000 or more. Mrs. Rock told the council that included in their packets is more specific information about tax credits that's available. She said they mail that information out once a year to homeowners because properties do change hands. **Ms. Kay Pierson** said, "One of the things that I thought about is that I really hope that this work occurs. She said the people who live on Oak Street and North Street have asked and they really want this. She said it's a well-kept area and there's numerous examples in the homes of different architecture and the yards are nice and it's a valuable part of the older homes in this community. She said we have a very large stockpile of owner-occupied older homes both in the district and out of the district. She said I know you all have been to Georgetown and watch the properties develop there. She said she has seen the same thing in Camden; she has seen it in downtown Columbia, all over the state and in Charleston. She said that is very possible in Darlington. She said we may have more individually owned homes that would be eligible for the register. She said I have a number of people here that will speak tonight. Two people will talk about their experiences renovating some homes. She asked those citizens who were there tonight and were in support of this to put their hands up. There was a sizable collection of people. Ms. Roseanne Brasington said she was one of the people that went door to door and asked people if they would like to have their homes in the historical district and each one of the old contributing homeowners said that

they would very much and very strongly like to have their home designated in a historical district. Ms. Brasington said, “That was five years ago when we brought it before council, and I don’t know why it wasn’t approved”. Ms. Brasington said she had a visitor a couple of years ago and they were so impressed with the beautiful old homes in Darlington. They said in their hometown all of the old homes have been torn down and they were so impressed that Darlington had preserved so many of their old homes and asked her to take them on a tour of all of the areas that had old homes in them. Ms. Brasington said I think it will be a great asset to Darlington to try to maintain all of the old homes that we have here.

**Ms. Rose Pruitt** said she is strongly in support of the Oak Street addition to the existing Spring / Cashua historic district. Miss Pruitt said some of these folks have tried for a long time to get included in that. She said these folks, all of us, that own older homes know how expensive it is to maintain them. She said being on the national register, being in a local historic district like this really does help with certain financial aspects. She said, just this week or last week I was notified that I received a grant from The National Parks through the federal government that’s going to be disbursed through The State Historic Preservation office that will pay for a new roof for my house. Ms. Brasington said, “The fact that I was already on the National Register, (my property is in the W. Broad Street Historic District) I was able to apply for that grant and a second grant for my brother’s house down the street for a total of $75,000 to cover new roofing material for those”. She said sadly since that was the first time I had made those applications I didn’t realize I could have applied for more roofs in Darlington, not just the ones that we own, but the others as well. Ms. Pruitt said the kicker was that it needed to be on the National Register now. She said only eight properties were given those grants in the State of South Carolina because that’s all that qualified. She said those grants are going to be coming back up next time because those are for storm related grants and I’m sure that these folks would like to be included in the opportunity to do that. She said nothing will catalyze the neighborhood to organize and get into a historic district faster than encroachment from a commercial neighbor but those are the kind of things that we need to look at in advance. She said that’s a lot of people that’s coming here asking you as a City Council to approve that. She said you are the only ones that can let them into a local historic district, but the Historic Landmark Commission can offer you assistance in applying for the national register. Ms. Pruitt said, “I would like to remind you that inruns around the Historic Landmark Commission will cost you federal funding, and state funding. Ms. Pruitt said, “Things like that signage that just got approved, there was no certificate of appropriateness; she said the Public Square, that's a historic building that should have come through us for approval, and it did not”. She said that’s not the first time. She said those are the kinds of things that can cost you funding. Ms. Pruitt told council she wanted to remind them that the Board of Zoning Appeals is under Section 50-4 and is required by Darlington Municipal Code to have a member of the Historic Landmark Committee on the Zoning Appeals Board and I don’t understand what the delay is or understand why there is a delay, if you’re trying to rush something through that maybe we might not like, but do consider that those are the kinds of things that can get you in trouble and cost the rest of us as citizens and owners of historic properties money in the end. Councilman Gardner said, “You’ve been an advocate of our city in different ways. Would you like to serve on the Zoning and Appeals Board? Ms. Pruitt said, “I would not mind doing it, but I think that we’ve actually decided internally that there might be somebody better suited for it, but if that’s not a possibility then you

know I will do it". Councilman Gardner told her to get them to get the application to Ms. Rock. Ms. Pruitt said, "I think that we've got that under control because there are a lot of ordinances here, so there is no way anybody can learn all of those rules and regulations and be aware of them". Ms. Pruitt said, "You need to consider, I know there's a big drive to boost the commercial interest and get that taxpayer base up but remember people that live here pay taxes too.

**Mr. Chip Paugh** said the folks on the commission have asked him to mention a couple of things and support of expanding this historic district. He said the first thing that came to mind as he sat down and thought about it and tried to jot down some notes, was something that she admitted to a little bit that we're very interested in developing our commercial aspect. He said anyone who wants to develop the Commercial aspect is interested in investors. He said attraction creates two kinds of investors: short term investors who will come and visit our historic district, they will visit our stores and restaurants and they will make an investment in short term. Then there are long-term investments. Good, quality historic districts, established mature residential neighborhoods actually attract other business investments. He said the next thing he wants to mention is historic preservation. He said old houses are being torn down rapidly all across our country. He said we lost a gem on West Broad Street and rather than tearing that down maybe we should have spent more of an effort trying to find somebody who would save it. Mr. Paugh said when they came to Darlington they came with a different attitude. They came with the attitude that we want to put this thing back the way it should have been, the way it would have been if it was back during that time. He said investment in a historic district is tough and as these ladies have already proved there are grants, (I wish somebody that had knowledge of grants would have helped me along because I didn't get any grants to do 207 Orange Street) but we can help somebody else. He said they've got some other ideas about sprucing up our historic districts that they are going to see in the future. He said please understand that our historic districts are valuable, and he was shocked to find out that some of those homes as big and grand as they are or not included in our historic district. Mr. Paugh said, "So let's do the right thing and let's put these old homes that belong on the national register, on the national register and let's preserve our historic heritage. He said there are plenty of places for commercial development and we don't need to be encroached upon in the historic district to do that, but we need to protect what we do have. Mayor Boyd said, "Just to clarify, I'm in agreeance 100% with the historic district. I am not in agreeance with West Broad Street because Broad Street was not left alone because of the city. We did a number of things to try to make sure that house was taken care of but the city can't go buy an older home, (even though as much as we would like to go buy all the older homes and fix all the homes up in every square of the town) we can't do that. Mayor Boyd said that house was left alone, and I hated to see it torn down; everybody hated to see it torn down. He said please know that the city did not go against that, we did everything that we could, and we've got documentation that we did everything that we could. Mayor Boyd said, "What I challenge is that you are a special group of people. I love older homes, but I don't have the money to fix an older home up; I don't have the time and patience. It takes someone with love and care to take care of that home so once you fix that house that you've got, it's a continual thing, but you've got to love that and cherish it and we appreciate that very, very much because it does attract lots of people coming into our town. Mayor Boyd said, What I challenge the historic district to do is that when you see an older home

like that, you all come together and try to save it". He also encouraged them to become like a club similar to a homeowner's association where they raise money for different things. He said maybe there's a way that all of the homeowners that are in historical homes could come together and you let them know where grants are at, and they let you know where grants are at. He encouraged them to bring their group together that way also, without it having anything to do with the city. He said whether you raise money together to help each other or tell each other about different grants. Mr. Paugh said this past week was his first meeting and one of the first things that he suggested (they have Maci looking for grants) is to see what they can do to help some of our older citizens that have some of these older homes that are no longer physically able to do some of the things that need to be done, or they are no longer financially able, or they are on a fixed income and can't pay $20,000 to paint a house. He said Maci is looking into some possible grants for that. Mayor Boyd said, "You all don't live in the same area but it's still like a homeowners association and the purpose of that homeowner's association is so that when I pull into your neighborhood and all the streets are paved they don't have to ask the city "you got money to fix my street, or you got money to fix this". He said it's all done, and you all take care of it because it's your area. Mr. Paugh said, "William Jackson talked with me last night about me filling that spot so you will be receiving my application for that". Councilman Milling said, "While we are having this discussion I want to point out several things that I've heard everybody talk about and my concern is that the way the Historical Commission, the Planning and economic development people, the zoning people are doing things is piecemeal. He said we need to have a unified plan where we are looking at, ok for zoning, where do we go zone for commercial properties and what types of commercial properties because we cannot advance to the future if we stay with our economic area exactly where it is. So, if we want the City of Darlington downtown to have some growth we've got to make determinations about where we want this growth to take place. The planning and economic development- what areas of our current commercial area and any potential expanded commercial area what types of businesses we can attract. From the historical commission, I have some concerns about the way that ordinance is currently drafted because while there are some homes that are beautifully maintained in the historical district there are some homes that are sorely lacking needed repairs. He said not every home is going to be great. some homes are going to be OK, and some homes need a fresh coat of paint, they've got vines growing up the sides of the houses. Councilman Milling said the people who live there are nice people but somebody in a different historic area may be taking care of their home better. He said I'm with the Mayor. We need to have something so if it's going to be a historic district let's have the homes looking like historic homes and not ever reach the point. There evidently are problems with some people being able to maintain their historic homes. Not any of the historic homes are inexpensive to maintain. Councilman Milling said, "I am not sure that everybody that gets in a historic home is aware of the commitment they've got. He said I just want this stuff to be coordinated so that everything is working together. He said there's a home sitting on the corner of Cashua and N. Ervin and it's my understanding that that person wanted to do some things that would have made the home look better, but they got rebuffed by the Historical Commission. He said whether that's correct or not, that's his impression of what happened so that home is sitting there with nothing being done to it. Councilman Milling said I think we need to take a look…Lisa Rock said that the homeowner is about to get a letter about the vacant building ordinance. Lisa said we are trying

to work on this problem from several directions because it is a big problem that has a lot of different avenues. She said what they are asking today, the commission is asking for the approval to notify the property owners in writing who would be affected who have actually asked for this to be done so that we can bring back an ordinance to add those properties to the historic district. Councilman Milling said, “When you bring back an ordinance to add those properties I’d like for you to bring back maybe some drafts of new ordinances”. He said this one was drafted, I think in 1983, 1985 somewhere along there, so it’s 30 years old. He said we mentioned Georgetown, we mentioned Camden. I’d like to see what some other people are doing with ordinances and see whether ours has got some things that need to be tweaked on it. Councilman Gardner said, “The only thing I’ll add to this is since Sheila isn’t here, John, if we could get our demolition list and get that appropriated to the Historic Landmark Commission and the other boards and when it’s updated, give them an updated list”. Councilman Milling said, “One of the things you are right about is that business with the Chamber having the sign that’s going to be the tv. Those types of things didn’t even exist”. Ms. Pruitt said, “So it’s clearly against the ordinance, but along the lines of what you were saying before that is an area, the financial aspect of it. She said we can’t force people out of their homes just because they are old, and they can’t afford to keep it up”. Ms. Pruitt said what they are looking at now in the commission it’s not just that type of federal grant that I got, but we have put together a package that will be administered by the City of Darlington which hopefully will be funded in the next go round. She said they will decide who that money goes to and that is their focus that the funds be spent on residential properties with possibly elderly folks who can’t afford to fix that roof. As a commission we will have some leeway to make sure it gets here, but again we need that historic designation because that’s where those grant dollars are coming from. Councilman Milling asked if the grants are coming out of the feds or are they coming out of the state? Ms. Pruitt said it’s federal money that’s being disbursed through the state and the state disperse it to the individual or to the municipality. Maci Schafer said a lot of these grants that are for Historic properties are historic funds set aside from the state, so they have to be on the national register in order to qualify. Councilman Milling said, “If I understand you correctly, people can apply to be on the national historic register regardless of whether they are in a Darlington historic district”. Ms. Pruitt said, “They can”. She said the designation to be on the national historic register is more of a prestige thing. She said there is no monetary reward for that and there are very few legal protections unless you accept federal grant money and at that point, then yes there are restrictions, but it doesn’t keep you from selling your property or building onto your property. She said if you take federal grant money like she’s about to do then they will say if you want to make changes to your historic dwelling then you need to send it for review to the state level. Councilman Milling said, “Under our current ordinance any proposed changes in the exterior structure in the historical district has to be approved by the Historical Commission. So, there is a list of things and if you all say, “No” then the homeowner… Ms. Pruitt said that’s not exactly true. She said if they are not accepting federal dollars and they send something to us for approval such as putting vinyl windows in and we say ”W*ell that’s not historically anchored for your home”* and we don’t approve it, these are voluntary historic districts. She said while we might not approve it, in 12 months they can do it anyway. She said these are just recommendations. She said If they would meet the regular zoning and code allowances for the city they can still go ahead and do it. She said these are voluntary historic districts and there is

nothing keeping them from doing some of the things that they seem to think that they can't do. Ms. Rock said to answer your point in terms of comparing it to other municipalities, our local commission and every municipality goes by the Secretary of Interior's standards. These are national standards that go down through the state and are sent to us, so when they are looking at it, they are looking at it through that lens. She said our specific ordinance only discuss the exterior. If you live in Charleston for example, they include the interior. Councilman Milling said, "I was told right or wrong, that with respect to Hartsville, that they didn't have such ordinance as this or Historic Landmark Commission, yet they had a way that they protected homes that had historical value to them. He said I don't know whether Florence does or doesn't. Ms. Rock said the reason that these historic districts were created was that people lived in Florence, they would come here, buy an old house on W. Broad Street, and move it to Florence and that is what we had to stop before all of our great homes that are here were exported and we had nothing left but vacant lots. She said that is the reason that historic districts in the city were created so that we could prevent that kind of loss of historical and cultural value of the city that is not a tangible asset. Councilman Milling asked, "If a homeowner had a piece of property within the historic district would they no longer be able to… if the house was capable of being moved to Florence or being moved into the country, would they no longer be allowed to sell their house and allow it to be moved"? Ms. Rock said they would have to get special permission from the commission. Councilman Milling said, "If the commission said, "No, what happens"? Ms. Pruitt said in a year they could probably do it anyway. Ms. Rock said the Codes Enforcement could stop that. She said for example, the teacherage next to St. John's Elementary, had that historic designation on it (it's clearly a contributing factor). The school district just wanted to demo it, but the commission and the City Council stopped that because of our ordinance and because it was on the register, because we had these protections. Ms. Rock said, "We were able to work with them to get it to somebody that would, even though they did end up moving it, it stayed in Darlington County rather than being torn down". Councilman Milling said, "One of the matters addressed tonight was how having the historical districts is an attraction to people coming in and that is good for business and can have long term, short term investments and I'm not sure under whose umbrella it would fall, but it seems like if this is something that's going on that we really don't have a marketing plan that says, *come visit Darlington and see the homes built by Mr. Reese or the homes built by somebody else*". Ms. Rock said we have invested in several items; we have an entire section on the website that details every single house that's on the registry. She said The Eastern South Carolina group that is trying to draw more tourism to the Pee Dee. She said they have a specific marker for the historic district. Councilman Gardner said, "We've gone on for 40 minutes now, seems like another agenda item we may want to entertain in the future". He said he would appreciate it as well and get some education on what the other districts are doing, the historic district in Georgetown, in Hartsville and in Camden. He said I think Charleston is probably out of our league. Councilman Gardner said, to get an education on what they're doing as far as their historic ordinances. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the North / Oak Street Historic District Expansion. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Milling, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

**RECEIVE AS INFORMATION**
**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**
None

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**
**Councilman Gardner** said James Street, Oakview and Oak, those three streets have open potholes that have been there for multi-months. Councilman Milling said and Hampton Street. Councilman Gardner said he has Hampton Street and Cashua Street down there because we patched them, but they need a little work. He said if we could revisit Hampton Street, revisit Cashua Ferry and then get a coat on James, Oak and Oakview.

**Councilwoman Baccus** said, "I'm still trying to understand why the street and sanitation department or the water department when you do go out and patch some of the streets, specifically King Edwards Avenue, the patching that was done is not level. It's not smooth, so I don't understand what's going on with that". She asked, "Why once the streets are patched are we leaving all of the orange cones all over the city"? She asked why we're not taking them off the streets and cleaning up the streets. Alex Gainey said, we take the cones. He said I don't remember being on King Edwards Avenue so I'm not sure who patched that one. Councilwoman Baccus said it needs to be redone because it's not level.

**Councilwoman Reed** said I want to thank you so much for the work that you did on Tallulah Street.

**Councilman Milling** said there is a cone sitting on the corner of Florida and Oklahoma Drive. He see there's water that's coming out of that main that's been like that for several months. Councilman Milling said, "I have been requested to mention signs on the Warley Street near the cemetery that are still there after the construction work has been completed that says, "road closed ahead". He said the people at the cemetery tell him that there are vehicles that are turning around and going back. Councilman Milling said, locals know that Warley Street is open all the way through Broad, but I just don't understand why those two big signs are still sitting there on the edge of the road. Councilman Gardner asked if they are DOT signs. Alex said I believe Davis & Brown brought some of them and I think the city brought some of them, so some of them belong to the water department and some of them belong to Davis & Brown. Councilman Milling said, "I noticed where the apartments are going that will be located on East Broad and Russell Streets that the foundation level is being built up, so I hadn't seen any signs of a retention pond or anything". Mayor Boyd said he's going to build a retention pond.

**Mayor Boyd** said he would like to have a system in place to clarify, protect and help us all so that we don't have to constantly call and say, "Why isn't this done or when was this done". We will have a system in place so that whoever calls, it will be in the system, and it will be dated that I asked for whatever on such and such date. He said we can retain when it was asked, and they can also go back in and tell us when they took care of it, and it will be prioritized that way so that way we know at the end of the year or five years from now what was accomplished and how fast it was accomplished. Mr. Payne said in your packet, in the memo from me you will see

(WOS) Work Order System which is an electronic ticketing system to where you don't have to in the future, either come up here or call or worry about if anybody is getting your message. Mr. Payne said there's instructions and he'll be glad to have Mr. Bill come up here and walk us through it. He said he has gone through it and it's pretty simple. He said you will be able to go through your email and it's just a ticketing system. He said it will come to him initially and he will farm it out to whichever department it needs to go to. There will be a date that it comes in and a date that it was assigned. Mr. Payne said I'll be able to watch it. As you can imagine, I've got seven members calling, texting, writing, or coming by and at one point or another when doing my other duties something is going to slip through the cracks. This is a way to keep those from slipping through the cracks. Councilman Milling said, "I asked Howard some several years back that the water department would have to make a cut and so I guess the process at that time is that they would pack it back after repairs, but they don't have the equipment that does the patching". He said there was nothing that was communicated from the water department to the street & sanitation department that said I am cutting the pavement at such, and such a location and I anticipate so there wasn't any way for the street and sanitation to be able to come back in in a timely manner. Mr. Payne said this will address that. Mayor Boyd said they have department head meetings now, so they all talk.

**Councilwoman Baccus** said I would like to know about the water leaks on Third St., Jessamine Street, Chestnut Street. She said there's three water leaks on those streets that have been running for four or five months. She said she would like to know when those are going to be addressed and repaired. Mr. Shugart said we fix leaks daily. We try to set them in priority. We look at which ones are most dangerous to people or property first. He said the ones that are not a danger to people or property and that are not leaking to the point where it's costing us a lot of money then we set them at the least priority. Mr. Shugart said we fix about four leaks a week since I've been here. He said every leak that they have fixed with the exception of three has been a repeat, a recall on a prior leak that was there. He said some have had as many as 15 repairs on 18 feet of service line. We are no longer fixing or repairing water lines that way. We are making permanent repairs to them and that the expense there is not just going out and repairing the leak today. It's the cutting of the asphalt, creating the list of the cuts for Alex and his folks, and going back out and re-paving. Mr. Shugart said the actual device that we fix the leak with is the most inexpensive component of it. The way that we fix leaks today since I've been here has been the type that takes practically all day long to fix. He said to remember that my staff is all new. I have the same number of people that were here before with two of those being temporary employees. The staff that was here had a collective 137 years of experience in the water business. My current staff collectively has about 21 years. He said his guys are going to take a lot longer to do something. He said these leaks that you are talking about, if they are in our list, we will get them. However, we've got to prioritize them in some sort of fashion and if they are not a danger to people or property they'll be at the bottom of the list.

**Councilwoman Reed** said I would like for you to check the leaks on Jessamine and Brunson Streets. Mr. Shugart said, "What we need to do guys, if you all will for me, is call City Hall and

speak to Charlotte, Teresa or Tracy, give them the location, give them the address, they will create a work order, once a work order is generated our guys will get to it.

**Councilman Gardner** said the one in front of my house which is right beside Judge Milling's house, it's been like that for a year, so I'll get you next year if it's still there. Councilman Gardner said I've had the homeowner bring it up to me a half dozen times, and I haven't brought it to you all but one time. He said those kinds of leaks, and I understand they aren't the highest priority, but I would appreciate it if we could get it done within six months to a year period.

**Councilwoman Baccus** said all the leaks that I have mentioned, I have reported them four or five times already. She told Mr. Shugart, I've been to your office several times already and brought them to your attention, brought them to Charlotte's attention and I've even brought a couple of them to Mr. Payne's attention, so it's not like they're not being reported because I report it. Councilwoman Baccus said that everybody that knows me knows I'm all-around South Darlington every day. She said too much doesn't happen in my area that I'm not seeing or people not calling and telling me about it. She said I understand you've got priorities, but we just want to get them fixed. She said citizens are complaining, we're charging them $100 for water, but we can afford to let water run on the ground.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Councilman Gardner made a motion to go into executive session at 8:41 pm for discussion of a personnel matter, attorney consultation, and American rescue plan funding. Council may or may not vote after the executive session. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

***5 Minute Break***

**Councilman Milling made a motion to end the executive session at 10:05 PM. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Gardner, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

**Councilman Milling made a motion that we pay Sellers Septic Tank Service the sum of $17,640 in connection with the pumping of sewage from the Limit Street pump station when it broke down. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Reed, Baccus, Gardner and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

**REMINDER**

Tuesday December 7, 2021 - Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council - 6:30 PM

**ADJOURN**

**Councilman Segars made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Gardner, Baccus, Milling and Mayor Boyd voted to end the meeting**.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer