CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
FEBRUARY 8, 2022, AT 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons Howard Nettles, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, John Segars, John Milling and Elaine Reed. Also present was Mrs. Lisa Bailey, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Lee Andrews, W&S Superintendent Charles Shugart, Street & Sanitation Supt. Mr. Alex Gainey, Ms. Gloria Hines, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Ms. Anna DeWitt, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mr. Melvin Fox, Mrs. Pruitt, Ms. Kendra Vandross, Mr. John Lewis, Mr. Ted Stanley, Mr. Gregg Blair, David DuBose, Nathaniel Fox, and other visitors.

Mr. Bobby Bryant with the News & Press was present.

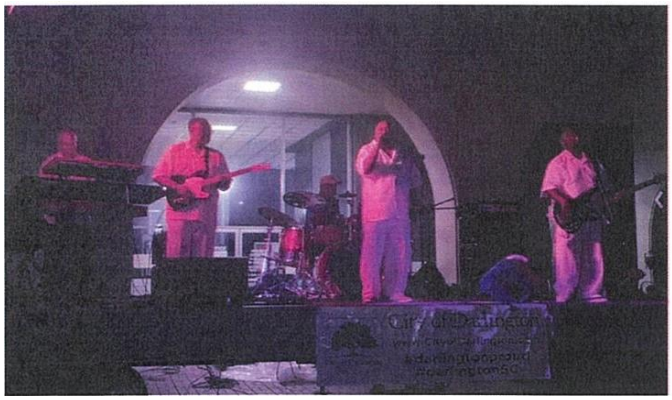
INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Prayer was led by Councilman Bryant Gardner followed by the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 4, 2022 & JANUARY 19, 2022
Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting on January 4, 2022. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Gardner, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting on January 19, 2022. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Gardner, Baccus, Segars, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA
Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for tonight's meeting. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES
DDRA - LISA BAILEY
Lisa Bailey said she has something different than her normal listing of events which is included in their packet. .She said tonight she is here to request hospitality tax funding for the concert series. Mrs. Bailey said last year the City graciously funded the concerts and it was a great thing to see all of the people come together. She said music is something, that I think we can all agree, brings the concerts brings people together and it certainly did that in Darlington. She said the Square was full of people of all ages and it was nice to see the community get together with their friends and neighbors. Mrs. Bailey said she has not seen, other than something like

the Sweet Potato Festival brings as many people into our town Square. Mrs. Bailey said they are proposing that the dates be the 2nd Saturday of the month from May through September and then again doing a New Year's Even block party. She said based on the overall success of the concert series in 2021, DDRA is requesting an additional $25,000 to sponsor the 2022 series which will include the New Year's Eve block party. Councilman Milling asked, "What was last year's funding? Was it $15,000? Mrs. Bailey said it was in the end, but we came and asked for funding the first time and then we came back and asked for more funding, and it ended up being $22,500. Councilman Gardner asked, "This time we will be fundraising"?. Mrs. Bailey said, "We fundraise last time but with covid it's been very difficult. Councilman Nettles asked, "So Lisa are you looking for an answer tonight"? Mr. Bailey said, I would love one tonight if you can do that. If not….. Mayor Boyd said, "I think the DDRA was wanting to see if they could find out ahead of time so that way they can go and be planning and promoting in advance. Lisa said, "Generally the bands, pre-covid would book a year in advance but now they are booking at least six months in advance". Councilman Nettles asked Mr. Payne where we stand on hospitality. Mr. Payne said, "We are over $900,000". Councilwoman Reed said, "If we paid up to twenty-two last year, I don't see any problem". Councilman Gardner said, "I'm fine with it as well. I ask that we do more fundraising this year. Lisa said we're hoping this year to get more regional acts. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve $25,000 from the hospitality fund for Saturdays on the Square. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**



Request for Funding

Music brings people together, and that certainly happened during the Saturdays on the Square in 2021. I have not seen many events bring so many people from all corners of the City together like these Concerts have done.

Dates would be the second Saturday of the month May through September. Times would remain the same.

<u>Benefits to the City</u>

Displaying a positive image of the city

7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 14	Publicizing the City as a great place
7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 11	to live
7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 9	Bringing vendors, and potential new
7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13	businesses, to town
7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10	Business license fees from vendors
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 31 / Jan. 1	Promoting one of the City's biggest assets, the Public Square

Based on the overall success of the Bringing Downtown Alive! Concert Series in 2021, known as Saturdays on the Square, that the City sponsored, the Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association requests additional funds of $25,000 to sponsor the series again in 2022, including another New Year's Eve Block Party.

Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association
Report for Council — February 8, 2022

The DDRA presented three individuals with $100 cash in our annual holiday **#ShopDarlington contest** last month, Nellie Lawhon, Julie Howie, and Shelly Jones. We had more than 100 shoppers submit entries. The contest encourages folks to shop at five (5) DIFFERENT businesses between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The DDRA continues our monthly **Member Breakfasts at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 24, at Taki's Diner, 609 Pearl St.** These meals are at no charge for members and a small $5 fee towards the meal for all others. The events allow our businesses to build connections and strengthen our local economy.

The DDRA Board has approved $5,000 for facade grants for 2022! The DDRA Improvement Incentive Grant Program helps businesses and property owners to make repairs, install signage, and paint. Since its inception, the program has been in direct connection with more than $177,000 worth of upgrades. The grant deadline is the 24th of each month until funds are exhausted.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Taste of Darlington on Thursday, April 7, at Darlington Raceway and our Annual Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday, April 13, at Darlington Country Club! Anyone with ideas, or contacts for musicians, should send them to 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.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE

Ms. Brook Sylvester said the Chamber is undergoing renovations at this time. The Chamber is closed to the public, but she is there in the office. The Annual Banquet for the Chamber was supposed to be held on February 24th, but it has been postponed until March 24, 2022, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm and South of Pearl will be catering the event. Dancing with the stars has been postponed until March 17, 2022, at the Hartsville Center Theatre. Chianti's is having an event for Super Bowl Sunday. She said Doors open at 3:00pm and close at 12am.
It is $5 at the door and $9 a plate. Ms. Sylvester said a couple of their Chamber members are hiring Mayflower & Takis. Darlington County Club postponed their golf tournament from January 22nd to February 12th at 10am.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Boyd said a lot of times when you're sitting in town you don't see the big picture of Darlington- you see what's on Facebook and how they talk about us. Mayor Boyd said, "I love Darlington and I think all ya'll love Darlington too that's while you're all here. He said Darlington is the true Pearl of the Pee Dee. He said a lot of people are questioning the officer park on D Avenue. He said Mrs. Carraway has worked really hard with that. He said Terrance died in October of 2018 and within a few months Mrs. Carraway was given a piece of property to start the park for all the 400 officers that died in the State of South Carolina. Mayor said people question why it is taking so long, but as you ride by now by July she should be done with the park. He said it's looking wonderful around D Avenue and Main Street coming into town. They have done a fantastic job over there and he wants to commend Allison Carraway for that . He said the sports complex people think we're never going to get it done I promise you everybody on this council up here has diligently worked to make sure it's getting done. Mayor Boyd said, we're supposed to vote tonight on some stuff. Hopefully the architect will be able to if we vote tonight he can get started on drawings. He said we can start showing you drawings that we've been working on getting everything done and hopefully within another year we'll have work moving. Kids out there playing make our town a beautiful space for a sports complex, so that's coming. Mayor Boyd said, "The apartments on Broad Street - as you see for years the nasty looking old warehouse over there finally got torn down. He said Broad Street is looking good; 29 apartments are going up over there by Sam Evans doing that work. People think that I own the property, that it was mine, that I got the road paved because it was mine over there". He said Sam Evans brought that property and Sam Evans lives here just like you do. Mayor Boyd said the houses are already rented. He said, "Somebody asked me the other day and said there's a lot of new apartments going up. I hope we have enough people to fill them up". Mayor Boyd said, "They are already full. We don't have all of the apartments filled yet, but people are moving into town, so we do have new people moving into town". He said we are working on eventually trying to have some housing developments to start besides apartments so when people move out of the apartments they will have houses to move into. Mayor Boyd said Mavis Tire is supposed to be coming by the Walmart area in Ward 1 section. A gas station is going on 52 By-Pass on the corner of Timmonsville Highway by Fastenal. The Historical Society is getting ready to start breaking ground in March - $2.5 million dollars. The courthouse is $14 million in the middle of our town. Genesis Healthcare, I think is $13-$14 million right in the middle of town. Got approval last night to put the trees on the Square. Got approved for the $750,000 downtown grant that they are in the process of getting all of the paperwork ready for

that. All of that should be starting and we will be spending more money downtown on the Square, so a lot of great things are happening. Mayor Boyd said, “There’s a lot of talk and discussion about water. He said you ride by, and you see little Ms. Charlotte sitting there in the water department; you see the other ladies sitting in the water department. The little, teeny mailbox out front, you drop your little water bill, you drive off, you leave…. Not a whole lot going on. Those ladies are probably sitting there doing absolutely nothing, right? And six months since Mr. Kinsaul (He said Kinsaul, but I think he meant Shugart) has been here, they have processed 58,543 payments. That’s 487 payments a day in a 20-day month. The water department guys - Mr. Kinsaul retired and a lot of those guys moved out. Mr. Shugart moved in and has done a wonderful job working really hard with the water department. Are they doing anything; are they sitting there doing nothing? That's what we hear a lot of times. Let me tell you what they did: They repaired 229 leaks in 6 months. That’s 2 Leaks every day in a five-day work week, 38 leaks a month. They completed 82 sewer service line clean outs in 6 months. They completed 2034 work orders in 6 months. They completed 1923 orders for going out and fixing meters, turning meters off and different things of that nature. They completed 2576 sewer pump station maintenance checks. So, the water department is very busy constantly trying to maintain what we’ve got. And what we’ve got is an old system that we are trying to upgrade and bring to a modern-day system. Mayor Boyd said, “The other day the guys were waist deep in cold water trying to fix a waterline that broke that somewhere years back nobody put a shut off valve on it. So, when you see the guys in the water department, or you do like me, see the guys in the trash department stop and give them a sausage biscuit or something and tell them thank you. Be nice to them. The guys are out there trying to make our town better, so we appreciate their help”. Mayor Boyd said, “I say all that so that you can kind of see what’s going on. I’m not sure if everybody has got the paper but we’ll make sure that you’ve got it. If you want a copy you can go on the website, or we’ll give you a copy also. He said the water department has their own set amount of money. We have a general fund and the water department fund. The water department at the end of the year for 2014 and 2015 both years were in the negative $15,000. In 2016 they were in the hole $321,515 and in 2017 they were $451,432 in the hole. In 2018 they were $511,325 in the hole and 2019, pre-pandemic as everybody calls it, they were $444,953 in the hole; In 2020 $784,342 in the hole. Mayor Boyd said, “In 2021 after I raised the water bill. If you want to fire anybody don’t fire them they voted for it, some of them did some of them didn’t”. But when I sent Howard Garland…. and he said let’s sell our water Company, but you’ve got an option. Mayor Boyd said, “I love Marion, South Carolina. It's a great town and they sold their water company. Other places have sold their water company. We could have sold our water company. He said when somebody buys something what do you think they want to do with it? They want to make money. So then if they want to raise the water bill they raise the water bill and they would have to raise the water bill because they would be buying a water system that was broke, flat broke. Mayor Boyd said, “We had an option. We could have done that and that’s what I heard from Howard Garland, let’s sell it. Also, I heard from Howard Garland let’s sell our water tower with the antenna that’s up there making $42,000 a year. Somebody was going to pay us $500,000 for it but we’re making $42,000 a year. It takes a while to make $500,000, but it’s supposed to be getting ready to go to 5G so hopefully we are going to get more money on it so why would you sell something if it’s going to continue to make money that you didn’t have to do nothing with. If we sell our water

system we have no control over it, but we still have control over it. So now after we raised the water bill everybody voted on it (most everybody) in 2021 nine months the water bill went up in October of 2020. We did not raise the water bill during a pandemic. During a pandemic I went and bought a piece of plywood that used to be $8 to $10 and during the pandemic and still now that piece of plywood is $30-$45. He said everything is higher, but we've been in a pandemic for six or eight years. The water bill went up in October. So, for nine months since the beginning of the year (the year prior to that we were $784,000 in the hole) once it was raised and we got things back under control - new water department guy, new city manager, we're now at a $29,000 loss. Mayor Boyd said the general fund in 2014 was negative $389,196. In 2015 $185,432 in the positive; in 2016 $4,284 in the positive. In 2017 136,996 in the positive. In 2018 $151,051 in the positive. In 2019 pre pandemic -$273,785 and 2020 -$412,730 negative. He said this past year we're back to a positive of $375,312. Mayor Boyd said, "The water bill went from a base of $49.10 to $67.15 for the base. If you use 6000 gallons of water your water bill should be $78.57. He said Florence South Carolina is $73.00; Hartsville is $74.81; we're at $78.57 and Darlington County is at $84.20 so we're in the average. According to the accountant we're about where we should be. We still aren't where we should be because we don't have everything fixed. Mayor Boyd said, "Late fees - we were told that we charged the City of Darlington residents $168,000 last year in late fees. That is not correct. We charged the City of Darlington $171,242 in late fees. Councilwoman Baccus said, "That's not true, it's $186,000 because she added them all up". Mayor Boyd said $171,000- $186,000, a lot of money in late fees. He said we are not in the business to charge people for late fees, we're in the business to charge people for water. He said when somebody doesn't pay their bill they get charged a late fee; they charge a cut off fee. It takes our employees time to go out there and fix it and workers at the desk time to do extra work they have to pay a penalty. He said everybody has to pay a penalty if you pay late. The picture I'm going to paint for you tonight is that the year before that was $157,728 in late fees so it wasn't like all of a sudden we started charging late fees. In 2021 we charged $171,000 in late fees; the year before in 2019 was $125,000 in late fees. He said for eight years we've had over $100,000 in late fees. He said customers are constantly paying late fees. He said he personally talked to a lady today that got her water cut off. I'm not going to pay… so everybody hears this on Facebook. I'm not going to pay your water bill. Today for probably the fourth time I paid somebody's water bill. Do not come back at me and say I'm trying to praise because I told you I would take my money and give it back to the city so that was one reason I helped her. He said I don't help everybody because some of them don't want the help, but I knew she needed the help. He said she was two months past due. He said her water bill would have been over $160 if she hadn't been charged the late fee and a $50 cut off fee. He said when they cut her water off today guess what she wanted. He said she wanted water. Mayor Boyd said water is important. We need to educate.. I hope everybody on Facebook is listening to me, water is important. We have to have water; we have to have lights and power ,but we did not all of a sudden start turning everybody's water off because they couldn't pay their bills. All of a sudden during a pandemic it was cut off because they continuously didn't pay it before. So, what I'm trying to explain to you is people want to paint a picture that the City of Darlington is a bad place; every county, every city charges a late fee. We don't want to charge people fees. Mayor Boyd said, "This past year we were at $29,000 negative and if we had done the three months of the water bill being raised we would have been

pretty much evened out. He said, “No, we wouldn’t. We would have been $171,000 in the hole if everybody paid their bill on time. He said I don’t like to collect late fees. I own 11 gyms and people call me and they’re late and they say they charged me a late fee. I call in and get the late fee returned back to them. He said if the people didn’t pay their bills on time we would have been $171,000 more dollar so what I’m trying to show you there is even though we raise the water bill, until we start getting things fixed we’re gonna always be in the hole because we’ve got a lot of stuff that’s broken. Mayor Boyd said, “Can we give people their money back”? “No”. “Can we go back and lower rates”? “No”. I wish we could. Mayor Boyd said, “So, what I’m asking and begging everyone to do is to help clean up some of your own yards and I’m not just talking to you I’m talking to the public. Help these guys. Clean your yards up; clean your streets up. Jump up and help your neighbor and everybody work together . We’re in this together, we live here together. You don’t have to live here, you can move. I live here, I’m not moving. I want you all to stay here. We all can live here together. I want us all to be a happy family, but I know that’s not the wonderful world that we live in. I know that everybody’s not going to be happy, but we’ve got to work together. We’ve got to get off Facebook and quit criticizing and talking crap about our town because we live in a beautiful, beautiful city. I can walk anywhere in this town in these 4 square miles without a gun, without a knife and know I’ll be able to walk back home. I had my friend Danny when I was running for election put people in jail and those guys would walk up to us and were happy to see us. Mayor Boyd said we’ve got a beautiful town. Is it perfectly safe? No, it is not perfectly safe. I tell people if you want to see a perfectly safe place go to Vintage Place where a man pulled a gun out and shot my friend dead. Was it a safe place? It seemed to be. He said crime is everywhere, but we’ve got to get our stuff fixed. It was brought to my attention the other day about playgrounds. Playgrounds were built prior to me coming into town, into office. Hampton Street is in the middle of town. It’s a center of the town playground. People praise it, love it all the time. He said last I checked it was put on your bulletin as building it in Ms. Baccus’ ward. Bowen’s Manor is in Ms. Baccus’ ward. In Ward 2 is the Terrance Park. Mayor Boyd said I’m not sure what ward this is, by the tennis courts. Mayor Boyd said that has had zero dollars added to it and we’ve got to get that place fixed. Councilwoman Reed said that’s in her ward and thank you. Mayor Boyd said in Bowen Manor we’ve got a $44,000 playground over there the year before last. He said we’re working hopefully tonight to put $27,000 more dollars for a total of $71,000 playground in that neighborhood. In Hampton Street Park – my understanding was right at $245,0000 playground. We spent $80,000 on the property and we’ve got about $325,000 on that playground and we are looking to put $4,000 more dollars on that playground tonight. The Terrance Caraway Park that we were told that look like ants could play on it. We spent $46,000 on it. We spent $31,000 on a basketball court and $150,000 on the property for a total of $227,000. Hopefully, $15,000 more dollars will go over there to make it a nice entertainment area. All three parks are all nice and we are working to make the whole town look good. Mayor Boyd said, “I brought that up because it’s like some people don’t think we’re spending the money properly, but that money was actually spent before we got here. It was approved before we got here”. But we’ll continue to try to make that much better as we continue to grow. Mayor Boyd said the last sheet he’s going to put up on the board is a bigger picture of what’s going to be spent. He said he’s not going to read everything on there, but you’ll get an idea of what’s what and where it’s spent for the different infrastructure. He said infrastructure is the dirt, gravel, water lines, sewer lines and

the stuff that we have to have. Where your sewer goes, how you get your water line, where your water drains go. The infrastructure brings in more businesses into our town. As a whole the city doesn't really see that. He said, "Mrs. Hines my understanding is I think you asked for this a while back but it never got presented now we can try to present it so you can see where everything is kind of going. Mayor Ward said Ward 1 is Ms. Baccus' ward and it goes from the other side of Walmart all the way over here to the library. He said the numbers presented are from 2010 – to 2021 and $7,830,000 was spent in that ward. In Ward 2 which is Ms. Elaine's ward which is the other side of S. Main coming from there all the way to the By-Pass and on the side near St. John's Elementary. $5,505,000 has been spent on infrastructure in that area. Mayor Boyd said in Ward 3, Spring Street, Country Club-Oakdale area, $565,000 was spent in that section. He said ward 1 and ward 2 together a combination that was put for them was another $750,000 grant for infrastructure for that section. Mayor Boyd said there's been a lot of money that's been spent. He said a lot of things have gone on and a lot of things are going on and I ask that you work with us because we're working with you. We've got a good council here and everyone sitting on this board and is trying hard to give it the best that Darlington can be. Have we got all the potholes paved? No, not yet, but we're trying to. He said they are trying. They are working with DOT, and they are working well with us. The railroad is working well with us, and Senator Malloy has worked great with us. He said we've got a lot of great things ahead and we're working really great with the County in the last few years that we've been here. We have a lot of good projects, and more things are coming up with that also. Mayor Boyd said, "I appreciate your time. Sorry to take up so much, but I wanted to kind of give everybody a quick update.

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

Ms. Gloria Hines had a copy of this letter distributed to council members which she read: Citizens yards are being damaged by improper use of the cherry picker, if the operator of the cherry picker would stop when the pile of debris, wood or other material get low and use the pitch folk the damage would not be as bad for the sod. Most time when I see the truck coming there are two men in the truck, some time the rider get out and sometimes he does not. We got better service when they used the pitch folk. You went up on the water bill but, the service didn't get any better.

It would be good also if the driver of the trash truck could take time when he makes stops to write down the street names on a pad where there are potholes, since they travel over the city anyway. This was mentioned to another city manager before.

Thank You,

Ms. Gloria C. Hines

Mr. John Lewis said, “Mayor you mentioned several times tonight about road repairs and I wanted to express some appreciation about getting the metal plates off and got them replaced on North Street and Main. Mr. Lewis said the pothole repairs they did there was once again quality is lacking. He said the thing I really want to talk about tonight or discuss, is that we’re not following procedures in these meetings like we should. Mr. Lewis said, ‘On here it says approval of minutes of meeting. You approve them. We don’t see minutes of the meeting. One of the first things that should be done in the meeting is you go over old business, and you discuss the minutes of the meeting, then you get approval. Not approval for something that I haven’t seen. I don’t know if anybody else has seen it in here. You have somebody take your minutes down and the next meeting they share it because there’s things that could be put in there that we need to know about. And there’s things that may not have gotten in there that should have been. We need to make sure that everybody understands what’s going on in these meetings, what’s approve, what’s been discussed. You can’t do if you don’t have the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Lewis said, “Once again and this is something you and I discussed at the meeting last time right here at public comments, speakers may not ask questions of council members, but yet council members can ask questions of me or anyone else. I don’t see where that’s quite the way it should proceed. And you agreed with me the last time. He said we’ll look at this and we’re going to get that out of it. Well, it’s still not out of there so technically I couldn’t ask anybody any questions in here at all, but they can turn around and ask me anything they want to ask me. So, let’s open it up and make it a true two-way street that we are on because it’s not right now. You guys approved all of the minutes for the meeting. We’ve never seen them. We should be a part of that. Mr. Lewis said, “We have a lot of people in this city that would love to come to these meetings. We've got some that are elderly, some that may be handicapped or have no means of transportation, so why don’t we help them? We could have a bus and have people that contact us and let us know they want to come to the meeting and the bus picks them up. If we can’t do that, ask for volunteers to bring people to the meeting so that we can get more input from the entire community because right now what you see here is primarily the same people that come every month. We need to be open to ideas and ideas come from these people out here. Mr. Lewis said that’s something we need to look at.

Mr. Ted Stanley said he would like to thank the mayor for that presentation because it made a lot of things clearer. He said there are a couple of things he would like to address. He said at

the last meeting they were given a list of disbursements that were planned. Some of the disbursements are under DHEC mandate, so you've got to take care of those. Mr. Stanley said other disbursements - I'm looking at what would be the best bang for the buck. He said when you have a disbursement here like for Nez Perce, Wyandot, and Iroquois Street that's $1.5 million and I think that the rate of recoupment on that would be 30 years. I don't think that would be a good fit right now in this situation because we have the East Broad Street and South Main Street sewer line. He said everything in the infrastructure of the city needs to be addressed because they've been talking about this for 20 years. We've been having a flooding problem, and everybody's been saying we're gonna fix it and nothings been done. Mr. Stanley said another situation is that I got a bill from my favorite company, Duke Energy, and on that bill they had a franchise fee. I asked the people and said, well I don't have a contract with you for a franchise and seems like you're only thinking about your investors and not about the people who are paying their bills and the people who are paying your investors. They somehow get everybody to pay for their flaws they inherited this power plant and now they want everybody else to pay for it. I know that this is usually business in a way businesses do to recoup their money, but for your bad business investments and for them to be doing certain things with cities that we aren't aware of. I was informed that the franchise fee was to the city, but for what? Why would a power company or utility company pay a city a franchise fee? He said we pay the bills, not the city and they are constantly going higher and higher and higher. Mr. Stanley said we've got people on the public service commission, and I don't know what they do. I think they've got a rubber stamp and they just go ahead and do it. We need to have some type of understanding of exactly what is going on in the city; what is going on with the people because we are suffering right now. He said Darlington is one of the poorest areas in the Pee Dee and we have basically taxation without representation. I think we should be more open and maybe the city would help address the plight of the people or the counties help address the plight of the people to these utilities that they are running up. Mayor Boyd told him if he had time after the meeting he would be glad to talk with him.

Gregg Blair said I was here at the last meeting, and I presented some streets to the city of some damages on some streets that needed to be taken care of. Mr. Blair said I want to thank you for being transparent tonight because this is something that was needed so we'll understand what's going on in the city. He said, "I want to thank Mr. Payne. He did respond to me with an email, but I must not have made my communication well in the last meeting, so I sent him back a new email. Mr. Blair said in the new email it's just stating that he was not presenting all of these streets as resurfaced streets. He said a lot of the streets have serious sewage and stormwater issues. He said the email he got back from Mr. Payne I gave a copy to all of you all and I gave you all a copy of the new email I sent back to him of a breakdown of what we are trying to get done here. Mr. Blair said, "I'm not sitting here trying to accuse anybody on council of anything that happened in previous administrations:. He said my biggest concern is this Farm Street sewage problem. This has been a 40-year problem, and nobody seems to care about this. It's becoming a health issue for these residents and adjacent neighborhoods. He said sewage bubbling out of the street, do you think that it's safe for anybody to be dealing with? I don't think it is. Mr. Blair said other streets, if we look at the last page of the email I have a breakdown like I said I might have miscommunicated myself here at

the last meeting, but we have streets here that have stormwater issues. Where water is holding up on the streets. So many cars have gone up and down Jessamine Street, Chestnut Street and they are hydroplaning on all of this water that's sitting in these streets. He said we have collapsed sewage lines, and this is nothing new to council neither. Mr. Blair said I'm not here to put the blame on anybody, but we have to address these issues. It's been too long now. It's been years and years and years. Mr. Blair said like this Farm Street issue I lived on Farm Street back in the 80s as a kid and the sewage was bubbling out of the ground then and it's still bubbling out of the ground now every single time it rains. Mr. Blair requested that some Council members when it rains ride through there and see what's going on. Mr. Blair said it is disgusting is what it is and sometimes you have these small children playing in the sewage because they don't know any better. He said this is a health issue. Streets like Jessamine, Chestnut - these are streets that have been holding water for years on top of years. Mr. Blair said he was on Ross Street the other day at a friend's house, and you could barely get through the street because it was flooded with water, and it takes weeks sometimes for that water to subside. He said we all know about Broad Street and Main Street in front of Hardee's. It holds water every time it rains, and it floods the city. I am hoping that we are going to address this. He said we have streets on the west side of town to Tallulah Street has been in need of resurfacing for years. It's just decaying and it's like nothing is being done. Streets like Pine Street, Edwards Avenue - all of these streets need something done to them. He said now that you all are trying to get something done on Joe Louis Boulevard that's a great thing so a lot of these streets should be covered under that. Mr. Blair said my next question is, I was given an email back from Mr. Payne about streets that were owned by the City of Darlington and there was nothing we could really do about it. He said it took a while to get my email back to him because I wanted to do my research. He said I see that the City of Darlington spent almost $384,000 paving streets that are not owned by the city. How do we make that make sense to the citizens of Darlington? If we're being told we can't pave these streets on the south side of Darlington or fix these streets on the southside with city money, why is this happening on the north side of town? Mr. Blair said this is something the citizens need to know. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Blair to elaborate on that. Councilman Gardner asked, "What city streets did we pave that the city doesn't own"? Councilman Gardner asked, "Country Club Drive"? Mr. Blair said, "Yes". Councilman Gardner said, "That's owned by the city". Mr. Blair said, "Not from my research it showed. He said a lot of these streets are not even owned by the city". Councilman Gardner said, "Just for a little clarity, my father put these roads that are the issue nowadays, unfortunately he put them under DOT ownership 37 years ago. He lived on Country Club Road. When he was on the Highway Commission he couldn't put those streets under DOT coverage, so it's owned by the city". Mr. Blair said, "All this other stuff that's not being owned by the city on the south side of town, what do we do to get them fixed"? Councilman Gardner said, "That's the thing. It is not a southside or a northside or eastside or westside…..Councilman Gardner said, it's a Darlington issue". Mayor Boyd told Councilman Gardner to hold up and he will talk to Mr. Blair after the meeting. Councilman Gardner said, "I just want to say one last statement. We as Darlingtonians will not be able to move forward if we can't get over the east, west, north, south. Broad Street is a huge deal for the whole City; Hampton Street Park that's for the whole city. We're not doing anything for one community over the other. We're trying to grow this whole community and we have to work together to do that". Mr. Blair said, "The mayor said

tonight being transparent with things I understand where we are headed, but I still need it to bring these issues up". Mr. Blair said we'll discuss it after the meeting like the mayor said.

Jannie Lathan said, initially I didn't plan to speak this evening, but it was very disturbing for me to come into the City Council meeting. She said I've been a resident of the city for well over 15 years and this is the first time in over 15 years where I come to a City Council meeting and citizens could not come in and participate in our city council meeting. So, I'm going to ask our City Manager why is that? Because when I asked the mayor he said he didn't know. At the beginning of the pandemic when we had no vaccines we held our City Council meetings in the gym with a huge space so that all the citizens who wanted to attend the City Council meetings, could attend. Ms. Lathan said here we are, going into the third year of the pandemic, vaccines are in place, and we are holding our public City Council meetings that we want to be inclusive for all of our residents in a space where you will only allow 23 residents to attend. Why is that? And you've probably got 42 residents that's outside in the hallway who can't participate. Civic participation is the bedrock of our democracy. She said we talk about transparency; we talk about having everybody involved; help me understand why we would create at this point in time the City Council meeting which restricts attendance to our citizens to 23 people in this room. Mr. Payne said this is public comment. Ms. Lathan said the public comment says speakers may not ask questions of council members. You are not a council member you are our city manager. Ms. Lathan said, "At some point in time we will deal with this because we all have a constitutional right to free speech in this country. This is not a dictatorship, this is still the United States of America, so would you please answer my question because we need to understand why is it that a decision was made to hold our city council meetings beginning now in a space that only allows 23 Darlington citizens to attend. Mayor Boyd told Ms. Lathan this is for discussion; we'll talk with you after. We'll be glad to discuss anything with you about it. Ms. Lathan said I've got 1 minute and 40 some seconds remaining. Within that time, I am going to ask this mayor and this council not to hold any more of our city council meetings in a space where only 23 citizens in Darlington…we've got over 6,000 people in this community where only 23 people can attend. And we talk about citizen participation; we talk about being transparent. This council have a public meeting and literally refuse to have the public to give comments. You can't say we're going to be transparent; you can't say we want citizen participation and then restrict people to actually speak. And now you're restricting citizens to even come to the city Council meeting. This is America. This is not a dictatorship so please do not have another city Council meeting where only 23 of us can come and participate. We asked that you take our comments including lowering our water bills back to the pre-pandemic levels with some of the funds from the American Rescue. And I want to know how you guys are going to incorporate the public comments into the decisions moving forward.

David DuBose said he is a citizen of the City of Darlington, and he is here tonight because on the agenda is new business number 8D considering the historic district expansion ordinance. Mr. DuBose said, I am the court appointed personal representative for my late Aunt Irene Carrigan whose residence is within the proposed district. And so, because I have a fiduciary duty to the individuals and then protect the beneficiaries of that I am interested in what this city may or may not do. Mr. DuBose said he did want to note that he did go online to look for the

minutes of the last meeting of the City Council. He went to November 9th, and for whatever reason that link did not work. The other minutes did, so I don't have the background for what you discussed on November 9th. Mr. DuBose said he would also be interested at some point whether this council does use the Planning Commission or not for recommendations or just does that at different times. He said the commission itself has not met since July 20th. The last three meetings were not held because of a lack of a quorum. I don't know if that was because they didn't have any business before or whether it was truly because they couldn't get members to attend. Mr. DuBose said he would like the city to consider the issue of takings with regards to zoning. He said his first review of the case law is that local government of the government itself is heavily favored in those matters, but I would know that personal property that I represent has a different zoning than the others and that if you are simply living in a residential area that is zoned for low density residential the application of a historic district on top of that is not that owner's. You may have to get approval for a different paint color whether it's this type of color, whether it's accurate, but it's a matter of aesthetics and not of use. Mr. DuBose said he is the personal representative for the estate property and that is high density. So, then it becomes a question of whether the city will be taking away a use as opposed to just the aesthetics. He said he would encourage the council to look at the state code whether or not the state code would even permit the action that the city is considering taking. At least with regard to the Carrigan property. Mr. DuBose thanked council for the opportunity to speak and introduce himself and let them know he doesn't have a position necessarily on it. He said he's learning about what it may mean for the value of such for that property.

Nathaniel Fox said he was hoping the council would take into consideration what was said last time about not closing Cross Street from the railroad track to the other way. He said just in case of a fire it would take the firetruck so much longer to go all the way around the By-Pass and come back just to put out a fire and it could cost somebody's life. He said time means a lot in an emergency. Mr. Fox said, "I thank you mayor for what you said about all of the good things that's happening in Darlington and how you love Darlington". He said we all love Darlington. Mr. Fox said to take into consideration not closing the end of Cross Street but send just a little bit of that money over there and fix those holes in that street. He said I'm not asking for much just fix some of the holes and that way the cars can come through.

NEW BUSINESS

a)Kendra Vandross, CPA - Present City Financial Audit for FY Ending June 30, 2021

Ms. Vandross told council she had a brief presentation that she will go through, and she will take any questions afterwards. She said this information is being presented to council as an executive overview of the results of the audit for June 30, 2021, year-end financial statements of the City of Darlington. The city received an unmodified or a clean opinion which is the highest level of reporting assurance an organization can receive from independent auditors. It is also an unlimited scope opinion which means they had full and complete access to the books and records of the city. Overall, the city ended the year with a total net position of $6.1 million. The 2020 net position was $5.9 million. The city's overall net position increased by $187,000 during the year. General revenues totaled $6 million, the majority of which includes property taxes, business license fees and hospitality taxes. The city's water and sewer and stormwater funds

end of the year with a total net position of $6.8 million, which was a $612,000 increase from the 2020 net position of $6.2 million. The city also received an unmodified opinion on the independent auditor's report on internal control on compliance and other matters. No material weaknesses or deficiencies were noted during our audit. Their firm thanked the entire staff of the city for their cooperation and assistance during this year's audit.

b)FIRST READING CLOSING CROSS STREET RAILROAD CROSSING ORDINANCE - Lisa Bailey, Planning Director

Lisa said the railroad made a request that we close the section of cross street that goes over the railroad tracks. Mr. Gregg Bryson with Genesee and Wyoming Railroad said they have a project in conjunction with South Carolina DOT to upgrade the Crossing at Chestnut Street so while inspecting that site they noticed the Cross Street crossing, he said it is not signalized and according to his understanding it's not a crossing that's very busy in comparison to Chestnut Street and Pineville. He said those two are signalized crossings from a railroad perspective which makes it a safer crossing. He said as close proximity as those two crossings are what they call a redundant crossing and that close proximity the FRA really like to close those type of crossings especially when they're not signalized. Mr. Bryson said that's their proposal, to close Cross Street. He said they would do that as a railroad, they would not require the city to pay at all. Councilwoman Reed asked, "What is the benefit to the residents"? Mr. Bryson said when we have signalized crossings those are safer crossings. It's crossings that, from a railroad perspective, it's less of a risk. For the citizens, they have a safer crossing. He said when he was there he looked at the crossing and you can't really see down to the southeast because of trees and branches, so it makes it a crossing that's not really….In my opinion it's something that doesn't give you a good line of sight when you're trying to cross it. Councilwoman Reed said, "But those who live there as long as they have and there's never been an incident, so they don't see that". Councilwoman Reed said, "The other thing I wanted to ask because of the way you were explaining why you want to do it so I'm looking at you're saying between Chestnut and Pineville, is the same distance. She said the very next street is Chalmers. It's closer than Cross Street, what is that about? Councilwoman Reed said, "I just don't see the benefit for us to close off and make it such an inconvenience to our taxpayers simply because you don't want to put a signal there. Mr. Bryson said, "It's not that I don't want to put a signal there; there's not a signal there. Councilwoman Reed said, "Exactly, so why close it if there hasn't been any problem"? She said there hasn't been anything that we know of at all, but it's inconveniencing everyone. Councilwoman Reed said, "And then the point that he's bringing about the fire department, the ambulance, the medical vehicles trying to get there; the only access would be that bypass. She said we're looking at more than what you see, those little houses in that. She said it's about 50 people and if that's part of your upgrade it doesn't seem like an upgrade to us. She said I can't see in any kind of good conscience, see the value in that to the residents that that would affect". Mr. Bryson said, "I understand what you're saying, but according to what I'm being told that the fire department and the sheriff's department didn't really have an issue with closing Cross Street. Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Bryson if he talked to Molly Odom who's over the emergency services here in Darlington? Mr. Bryson said, "No, I didn't talk with Molly". Councilwoman Reed said, but these are the folk that I'm saying…I'm just telling you it's just common sense that it would be more of a problem coming from the By-Pass than the way that

they do it now. She said, “Just that, just that alone”. Closing that off and the only access to that area or that little piece is through the By-Pass regardless of where they’re coming from”. Mr. Bryson asked, “So, closing Cross Street crossing would make it more of a hassle”? Councilwoman Reed said, “Oh, it’s no question”. Mayor Boyd asked, “Is there not a way that…. I mean is it just because there’s not a signal light or because the visibility is not as good because of the trees you were talking about….Could that area not be cleaned off to where it’s more visible”? Mayor Boyd said, “The other two intersections are close, you probably can throw a baseball, but you can’t throw a car there. He said the residents that are living there can’t get to the other side of that street. Mayor Boyd said those two crossings has nothing to do with this neighborhood. He said their concern is that when they are there, they can’t get back-and-forth without going through the intersection or the By-Pass. Mayor Boyd told Mr. Bryson he sees his point 100% and he sees their point 100%. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Bryson will there be a potential chance of opening that area up to where it would be more visible? Councilwoman Baccus asked, “How often do you all use that track”? Mr. Bryson said we use it every day. Councilwoman Baccus said, “And these citizens use that road three or four times a day so you may come through once a day, but they are using that road constantly every day, all day so how much sense it makes to close off a road where they live at that they have to use several times a day”?. Mr. Bryson said, “When I looked at the map there are alternate routes available and that’s what I looked at. He said the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in conjunction with the railroad tried to close what they call redundant crossings. He said the railroad have the rules and regulations that they follow, but we’re also bound by federal regulations so there’s things that the federal require us to do and take a look at that are really out of our hands. He said when they have a chance they look at redundant crossings as well as the FRA inspectors that go around the nation. So that part is the rationale that I’m using for proposing to close this crossing. Councilwoman Reed said, “You use the word redundant and that is the closeness”. Mr. Bryson said, “Yes”. Councilwoman Reed said, “That’s why I’m bringing this up because with me growing up and living in this area all my life I don’t see why you picked Cross Street because from Pineville to Cross to Chestnut… but then there’s Chalmers that is closer than any of that”. She said if you go on up you’ve got Edwards Avenue and all those in the same distance so, following this policy you are outlining, you will have to close all of them. Mr. Bryson said, “We’re not going to propose to close a busy signalized crossing. That’s not what the railroad is trying to do. But if you look at Cross Street it’s not signalized and it’s not as busy as these other roads. I understand people want to use it at different times, but when we look at it, that’s a redundant crossing. It’s not signalized, it’s not heavily traversed like the others are. Councilwoman Reed said, “And you think that you see less traffic at Cross Street than you do at Pineville coming under that By-Pass”? Councilwoman Reed said, “I'm just using what you have presented as the reasoning, and it just doesn’t jive”. Mr. Bryson said, “When I look at Cross Street, Cross Street is not as busy as Chestnut, it's not as busy as Chalmers and it’s not as busy as those other roads. They signalize their main thoroughfares and that’s why we wouldn’t propose closing anything like that. He said that crossing is not signalized. Why? Probably because it’s not used as often. It is a way to cut across and I get that, but if there’s other alternate routes that’s why the railroad wants to propose closing that crossing. Councilwoman Reed said, “But there are none besides the By-Pass”. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “So, do you have factual information as to how much traffic travels Cross Street or are you just

assuming"? Mr. Bryson said I have information that was provided to me. Councilwoman Baccus said everybody in that area cut through that area to get to the bypass. Mr. Payne said, "I have that information. He said in January he asked the DOT to put strips across the road to check the number that's going down Cross Street and it averaged 205 a day". Mr. Payne said what I will do next is ask DOT to do the same for the other two streets so we will have an average daily count for the three streets. Mayor Boyd said, "What I would like to ask again, is there a way we can compromise to make it work because I'm like Elaine, the word redundant that you're using, to me if I was to turn onto Cross Street by the Ford place if I had a redundant way to get out, then I could turn to one of the other streets and go out and go across those but I can't. When I get there I have to turn around and go back to the other busy intersection which sends our residents back out onto the busy highway. Mayor Boyd said, "I do understand the railroad. There is no crossing and it's a danger and a possible liability for you all. Mayor Boyd said, but at the same time, is there a way we could clear that out to where it is more visible and still can be used is what I would suggest. Mayor Boyd said, "I don't have a motion in it but that is what I would suggest and see if you could possibly ask them if there is something we could compromise to make it to where both sides are benefiting from it." Councilman Gardner asked, "If it had the signs, the signals then it wouldn't be an issue, is that fair"? Mr. Bryson said, "It would still be a redundant crossing, but it would be safer from a railroad perspective. Councilman Gardner asked, "Can we ask the railroad the cost of adding signals there and what that cost is"? Mr. Bryson said when you go to put signals in a location you're looking at (and this is ballpark), you're looking at approximately $400,000. He said that's gates, signals, and all of that stuff. Mayor Boyd asked, "And there right now is just a stop sign? Mr. Bryson said, "Yes". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I don't understand why you would need a gate. There's not a gate on Chestnut Street. Mr. Bryson said it's going through a total upgrade. We are putting all the signals, gates, and everything there. Councilwoman Reed asked, "And you were going to do that at Chestnut and Chalmers"? Mr. Bryson said Chalmers already has signals and gates. Councilwoman Baccus and Mayor Boyd said there's no gate on Chalmers Street. Mayor Boyd said the only place that has gates is on Pearl Street, I think. Councilwoman Reed said, "Along that line from Pineville, Cross, Chestnut, Chalmers, Edwards Avenue and then Pine,….Councilwoman Reed asked if they're planning to put the gates and lights on each one of those? Mr. Bryson said, "Again, those aren't railroad crossings…we don't own them. Those are public crossings, so we don't put flashing lights and gates. He said DOT, the city or the municipality pays to have that put in. Mr. Bryson said we can install them, but we don't fund that. Councilwoman Reed asked, "So what's this all about"? She asked, '"What are you planning to do at Chestnut? Mr. Bryson said the DOT is funding that. They are paying to upgrade the whole process. Councilwoman Reed asked, "Based on your recommendations"? Mr. Bryson said, "It was the DOT's recommendation to upgrade". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "So, then it was the DOT's idea to close Cross Street or the railroad's idea"? Mr. Bryson said, "It was the railroad's idea". Councilman Nettles said, "So is it safe to assume we have homework to do, can you bring back more information and make sure we're all on the same page because I don't think at this point I'm not comfortable voting on something that I don't feel like we're positively impacting the citizens there. I think it's a negative at this point. **Councilwoman Reed said, "I would like for this to go away, but in view of you coming I would like to make a motion that we table this and move on**. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Bryson

if he could check with the railroad and see if there's a way we can get it cleared out or possibly put lights there. Mr. Bryson said clearing it out always helps from a line-of-sight perspective. As far as flashing lights and gates go, that's something that would have to be funded from the city or DOT. **Councilman Nettles seconded the motion to table at this time. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

C)FIRST READING ON RICHMOND AND SPRING STREET ANNEXATION ORDINANCE – RS. LISA BAILEY, PLANNING DIRECTOR

Lisa said there's a property at the corner of Spring and Richmond Street it's a little over 2 acres. She said the property owner would like to annex into the city and it is bordered on multiple sides by city property. The property owner Mr. Thomas was present at the meeting he said he's looking to put five or six houses there. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve first Reading of Richmond and Spring Street annexation. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

D)FIRST READING CASHUA AND SPRING STREETS HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION ORDINANCE-LISA BAILEY, PLANNING DIRECTOR

Mrs. Bailey said the property owners who live on North and Oak Street approached the Historic Commission back in 2018 to ask that the historic district be expanded it to include their homes so that they have access to the federal and state tax credits and grants that may come available. Mrs. Bailey said for whatever reason it's been put off, but they still want to do it. She said some of those people have since passed away. She said certainly it would still be an addition to our town. Councilman Milling asked, "Did we have the property owner sign something"? Lisa said they did sign something. Councilwoman Milling said, "Since that was in 2018, do we have something"? Lisa said, "We haven't gone back out to knock on doors, but we certainly can if that is necessary". Councilman Milling said, "I would feel that because Mr. DuBose has not had a chance to either sign or reject signing something indicating that that property should come in as a part of the overlay". Councilman Milling said, "I don't think Mrs. Carrigan did either". Lisa said, "She did". She said Ms. Brasington personally spoke with Mrs. Carrigan at length and she was very much in favor of it, and she did sign the document. Councilman Milling said, "Well that's good information for him, but I think again I'd like for the people who three years ago to be sure that they are still in favor of doing what they thought about to start with". Lisa said they got all of the notifications about this meeting and the meeting in January. She said the only folks who have called have actually been a couple of folks that live behind those houses who are already in the district. **Councilman Segars made a motion to approve First Reading on Cashua and Spring Street Historic District. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Reed, Baccus, and Mayor Boyd voted for the motion. Councilman Milling voted against the motion.** Mrs. Bailey said we will have to have a public hearing in 30 days about that expansion. She said a certified notification will go to each of those 14 individual property owners.

E)CITY VEHICLE ADVERTISING PRICING – LISA BAILEY, PLANNING DIRECTOR

Mrs. Bailey said the City Manager asked her to present a rate schedule you all approved in November and to have perhaps have like a discount. She said she presented the rate schedule at 50% currently as the rate schedule is assuming we sold everything at the approved rate schedule. It doesn't even cover half of the street and sanitation fuel expense. She said if you cut that rate schedule in half again you're not even 100% gonna pay for the actual installation of the signage. Mrs. Bailey said, and we will only be getting if you sold every space less than $18,000. Mayor Boyd said, "Let me clarify this because I asked for this to be brought back up. The mayor said it was originally his idea that we got the trucks riding around town, what can we do to bring additional revenue into town without raising water bills and taxes and everything of that nature. So, we still have these trucks running around town and they don't have any advertisement on them. He said that we are not really in the advertising business, but we got to learn how to make this work. He said that any advertisement if ABC Law Firm puts an advertising on the side of any truck that costs the city nothing because the ABC Law Firm pays for the advertisement to be put on there and then they pay us x amount of dollars to be put on. They only paid us $100 for the whole year then the City of Darlington will make $100. Right now, we are not making anything on it. He said his proposal was let's at least get it rolling. If we dropped it and said, "hey if you can do this for a year, we will give it to you for 6 months or give it to you half price to get it out there and let the people start seeing it works and that works for them. Any revenue coming in will be a benefit to the City of Darlington. The mayor said so there is no loss to the City of Darlington. It's just a matter of having the company come in and put the sign on the side of the truck and then the truck rolls out the next day. He said that was his suggestion. But with the lower price go out there next week to see if we can start pushing it to get some interest from people to be on the sides of the trucks as it rolls through town. The mayor said anything is better than nothing. Can we put a discussion on the table to do it that way? Do it a year to see if we can get it going and the first year get it at half price and then after that we can go back to the regular way. Mayor Boyd asked, "Do we have to make a motion on that. Councilman Milling said he had a question before we do. He said the documents he is looking at is entitled *proposed adjustment* indicates that the insulation cost to the city is $480 for an eight by four-foot size advertisement. Councilman Milling wanted to know if the city is paying a comp cost or is the person who will be advertising is paying that back. Mrs. Bailey said, "If you have the rate schedule as approved for that very first truck, the eight by four, the twelve-month term would be $600 a month that the business would pay the city". The city would pay the installer to install it. We would pay $480 to that installer one time and then everything else would come out of there. Mayor Boyd said that his proposal was that you have the company pay for it and then more of the monthly rate. It would cost more than $480 to put a sign up and then if the monthly rate was $600, you drop to

$300 for the company to pay for it to be put on a truck. Therefore, it's no expense to the City of Darlington at all, it's all profit. Councilman Nettles said, "I think it's semantics. He said it's the same thing either way. Councilman Nettles said, "I mean the advertiser is going to pay for the installation of the advertisement as well as the monthly fee, correct? That's what it boils down to. Mrs. Bailey said, "Council approved a bid to work with the News & Press / Herald Office Systems to do the installation for that price. Mayor Boyd said, "So if a company pays $3,600 and it cost $400 to put it on the advertisement, the City of Darlington will make $3,200". Mrs. Bailey said, "Correct assuming all the bills got paid". Mayor Boyd said we will have to make sure they pay the first part upfront. The objective behind this is it will be at no expense to the city. Mayor Boyd said, "So, typically like when we put an advertisement, Genesis Healthcare, I think it's the same thing, right? If you put a sign on a billboard sign you pay for the sign then every month you pay a monthly fee. We make them pay the installment fee first upfront and then break down the monthly fees after that. Mayor Boyd asked, "Were they good with that and if they were any more questions"? Councilman Nettles said, I'm trying to figure out how to word it. Mayor Boyd said, "Can we get a motion to approve the rate change to where the advertiser or business would pay for the installment and then pay the monthly fees after that"? Councilman Nettles said, "Someone in the audience keeps repeating *"liability*". He said when we first did this, I think we asked Attorney Etheridge about liability and our insurance coverage for that, did we not? Mayor Boyd said, "Yes". **Councilman Gardner made a motion that we approve the city vehicle advertising pricing as listed. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Reed, Segars, and Mayor Boyd all approved the motion**. Councilman Nettles said, "Lisa, I would encourage you to make sure that they follow through with the liability insurance and have the waiver signed. That's what we do with PDRTA, and you can reach out to Don". Mayor Boyd said, "Your name is all over the buses"

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F)BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Lisa Bailey, Planning Director

Mrs. Bailey said we do as I note in every monthly report are several openings on various boards and commissions. Mr. Stephen Smith, who lives on Spring Street. He is a registered architect specifically focusing on historic properties and he would like to serve on the historical landmark commission. His specific skills and knowledge of architecture and that whole process, I think would be very valuable to the commission. Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Stephen Smith to the commission. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor all approved the motion. Councilman Gardner said I would like to get a head nod from council what we had talked about previously when we have board appointments that they get put into our packets but not put on the agenda until we can seek it before Mayor Boyd puts it on the agenda just for the future if you can give us

those people who want to serve and then we will choose to put it on the agenda. He said we just don't want to embarrass anyone. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So what you're saying is you want to get it early so you can decide who can and cannot go on a board. Councilwoman Baccus said I don't think that's a good idea. Councilman Gardner said, "So you think we should just vote them down in public"? councilwoman Baccus said, "I don't think we should reject anybody". Councilman Gardner said, "So are you saying that anybody that wants to serve should just serve on the board"?. Councilwoman Baccus said, "And we've got so many boards that don't have people on them. She said I don't think we should just throw everybody under the bus.

G)DELINEATION OF LAND AT SPORTS COMPLEX - LEE ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews said last month he brought a proposal from Brigman Company, and we needed three quotes. He received two more bids, but Brigman Company had the low bid of $6,205 for the delineation of the property. He said that is something that we have to have done if we are going to move forward. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve the low bid from Brigman Company in the amount of $6,205 for the delineation of land at the sports complex. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Milling, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** Mayor Boyd asked Lee to explain what delineation means. Lee said he's going in and he's checking to see where wetlands are. If there are wetlands there, what kind of wetlands are there, and can it be something that we can go in and challenge and it not be wetlands anymore. Lee said I don't think we will foresee any big-time problems there. He said that's something that has to be done so he'll know where to put ballfields or playground or whatever else

H)HAMPTON STREET, BOWEN MANOR AND CARRAWAY PARK IMPROVEMENTS - LEE ANDREWS, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Andrews said the Hampton Street and Bowen Manor cost are all together and they both total $31,115.13. He said that's for a three-bay swing for Hampton Street with seats and then we have two different playground features and a toddler playground feature for Bowens Manor. Lee said this is a buy board type deal so it's under state contract so that's the only quote we needed. Mr. Payne said, "Mr. Mayor I just want to reiterate that we will put this under ARP funding. This will not come out of the general budget. Mr. Payne said there's a provision in ARP for open spaces and this would be considered an open space". Mayor Boyd asked, "The part that we will put at Bowen Manor would be for smaller children"? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes Sir". The part that we have there now is for ages 12 and up. Lee said this would be for toddlers basically, 3–5-year-old. Councilman Segars asked, "Didn't we talk about Bowen Manor participating in some of the cost of putting this playground equipment in"? Councilman Gardner said, "Thank you for the information. From my perspective I want a little more than three bays on the swing side of Hampton Street. I guess we could revisit it at a future point". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Well, I'm fine with putting the playground equipment in. I don't see any reason not to put it in. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I don't have any problem with putting the playground equipment in because I think we need to add something to those smaller parks. At Bowen Manor they don't have any toys or any playground equipment for the smaller kids and

they need something for the smaller kids. If we're going to spend any more money on Hampton Street and they want a swing set, that is fine. And I think we're going to put the stage at Bowen Manor then I don't see a problem with it. Councilwoman Reed corrected Baccus and said the stage will be at Carraway Park. Mr. Andrews said this has relatively been a new development as far as playgrounds go. At the Orange Street playground, we had to remove a slide from there about two weeks ago because there was a hole in it. He said we maintain it as best we could, but that stuff is just old there. The swing set there is old and the playground equipment itself is old. He said we are going to have to visit that at some point too if it's going to continue being a playground. Lee said it's getting to the point of being a hazard. He said we've taken down what is wrong there but essentially what we're doing is taking a slide down that's no longer there. Lee said the Orange Street Park is used a lot. Mayor Boyd asked Lee if he was able to find out if we were to do anything there and perhaps bundle it all together. Lee said there is no bundle per se, so what we would end up spending there if we were to replace everything is the same thing we have on this quote right here. So, you're looking at spending $31,000 there. Mr. Andrews said at the same time we're spending the ARP money we're really not spending budget money. Mayor Boyd said the issue that people have to realize is that, yes we are spending money and we have to spend money and if you don't spend money which is a vision of what you see over there. You're going to spend money because somebody's going to get hurt and you're going to spend $1 million because that child got hurt and it really doesn't matter about how much money you spent because a child got hurt. Mayor Boyd said I would really like to see something happen over there because that is in the middle of town, and it looks bad. He said Bowen Manor looks great and all of the other parks look great, and they all need more and I'm fine with putting more in all of them. Mayor Boyd said he would like to suggest that we go ahead and work toward trying to get the other one done and put something in all of them. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the expenditures of the requested funds for Hampton Street, Bowen Manor at a cost of $31,115.13 for the playground equipment and the 14'x30' stage at Carraway Park in the amount of $15,000. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Gardner, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** Mr. Payne said between now and the next meeting he will get together some quotes for Orange Street. Councilwoman Reed told Lee she wants him to consider upgrading their vehicle. He said they actually donated it to the maintenance department. Mr. Payne asked if the vote also include the Caraway Park expenditure.

I)CAMERA TRACTOR FOR PIPELINE REPAIRS - ALEX GAINEY

Alex said at the special meeting on January 19th you all were talking about the different stormwater projects that we would like to address and possibly doing some upgrades. He said one of the issues that he brought up was right now we have a camera system we brought back in 2018 and we paid approximately $110,000 for this camera system which we've used a few times, but we haven't used it a whole lot for the simple fact that we do not have a tractor or a crawler that will work for our application. The tractor/crawler that we have is more for smaller diameter pipes and a lot of the stormwater stuff is the larger diameter pipes. Mr. Gainey said we talked about using the ARP money to purchase a crawler tractor. I brought one quote to you, but you all wanted us to try to get three. He said I was unable to get three quotes for

proprietary reasons. He said he was able to get a second quote from Rapid View which is the national distributor. He said they provide all of the equipment for Jet-Vac which is who we've dealt with in the past. The quote from Rapid View was $46,680; and the quote from Jet-Vac was $37,922.66. Alex said the quote was actually given to us back in September of last year, but they told him they had a couple of price increases, but they would honor the price since we have dealt with them on several other pieces of equipment. Mayor Boyd said the second part of that quote "You've got a bulldog nozzle, is that a part of this also or is that separate"? Mr. Payne said it's two different quotes. Mayor Boyd asked, "Do we have to have that for this"?. Mr. Gainey said, "Technically, it's under $5,000 so the city manager can approve the purchase for that". Mayor Boyd said, "My question is, is that combined or is that a separate part"? Councilman Milling asked, "What does the bulldog nozzle do"? Alex said the nozzle goes on the vac truck. He said that's what we use to jet the stormwater lines. He said one council decided to buy the camera; they brought a root cutter at the same time. The root cutter they bought is a chain root cutter and it's very aggressive. Alex said it will tear our pipes up, so it's never been used. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the expenditure of $37,922.66 from Jet-Vac plus applicable freight if necessary for the purchase of the tractor. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** Mr. Payne said we also have the nozzle. He said he has authority to sign, but he would prefer, since we are using ARP Funding, he would rather have council approval. Mr. Gainey said, "Again, for proprietary purposes he was only able to get two quotes: one was from Jet - Vac in the amount of $4,597.58 and the other from Enz USA in the amount of $5,211.10. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to purchase the bulldog nozzle from Jet-Vac in the amount of $4,597.58 Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Milling, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

J)TRASH AND RECYCLING CARTS - ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said we are currently out of green trash cans. He said he typically try not to get that low, but with trying to get everything worked out to get them purchased and get the quotes in, they ran out. He said they have a few of the blue recycle bins. Mr. Gainey said typically they order trash cans once or twice a year and they typically order around 200 at the time. He said they order either 150 greens and 50 blues or 175 greens and 25 blues. He said since we are out of the greens and we do have some blue cans, he proposes that we buy 175 greens and 25 of the blues. Mr. Gainey said he has a list of about 35 residents that are in need of trash cans. He said they still have about 850 of the old two bar trash cans in circulation. He said the ones that they are going to now are the injection molded carts and they last a lot longer. He said once they get all of the old two bar carts replaced we should be able to cut back on our purchasing of roll carts. Mr. Gainey told council that he came asking for their approval to buy 200 carts. He received three quotes: one is from Amick Equipment Company for $14,922.91 one quote was from Cade Engineering for $14,972 and a bid from Schaefer Systems International for $16,845. Mr. Gainey asked that we go with Amick Equipment Company.. **Councilman Gardner made a motion that we approve Amick Equipment Company for 200 carts for $14,922.91. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Milling, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

REMINDER

Tuesday March 1, 2022 - monthly meeting Darlington City Council 6:30 PM

ADJOURN

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of motion.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer