

Darlington Beautification Committee

Minutes for Wednesday, June 15, 2022

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mrs. Bailey. Attending were Board members, Mrs. Ishman, Mrs. Sprott, Ms. Burns, and Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. Ishman provided the opening prayer.

Minutes of the May 18, 2022, Meeting: Mrs. Ishman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022, meeting as presented. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Mrs. Bailey presented the Board with the expenses paid for this fiscal year to date, and that leaves the Board \$3,497.68. The donation fund has just over \$15,000 in it, \$5,000 from a Duke Energy Foundation grant, and the other \$10,000 the Board had previously decided to use for a brick entrance sign on SC151 when the Sports Complex nears completion.

City Administrator's Report: Mr. Payne was not in attendance. Mrs. Bailey said the current iteration of next year's budget has the Board at \$7,000 again.

Garden Club Update: Ms. Burns said the club held its last meeting in May and will not meet again until the end of summer. Mrs. Anna Dewitt will be the new president.

Pride of Darlington Awards & Certificates: Mrs. Bailey said that the Pride Award presentation for Lindbergh's Southern Cooking will be at 9 a.m. Friday, June 24. Due to equipment back orders, Mrs. Stanley has not been able to open the restaurant full time yet.

Unfinished Business: Mrs. Ishman and Mrs. Sprott said they met with Jim Godwin of C&S Landscaping to detail reworking all the beds around the Public Square. The plan will remove the old bushes, replace the dirt, prune trees, and add low maintenance plants such as grasses, drift roses, and encore azaleas suited for each islands' conditions. At least one tree will be replaced, as it is dying. All beds will have color and be low maintenance. The estimate exceeds the amount the Board has available to spend at \$6,450. Mrs. Ishman said Mr. Payne was receptive to the City paying the remaining amount to have the project completed. The prep work will begin in August with planting in October and November. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to spend \$3,475 toward this project. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Burns resigned her seat, as the fiscal year closes. She said she has been a part of the Board since 2014 and has seen a lot of positive changes. She said she loves Darlington and is glad to see it improving and can't wait to see what the next eight years brings. Mrs. Bailey thanked Ms. Burns for her hard work and dedication to beautifying Darlington.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5 p.m. July 20, 2022.