CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – JANUARY 8, 2019

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Ms. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Rosena James, Mr. Steve Abbott, Ms. Gladys Jules, Mr. Robert Thomas, Mr. Corey Milling, Mr. Donald Gilliard, Mr. Perry Simon, his wife Mrs. Fannie Simon and their daughters, Mr. James Cooper and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman John Segars did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2018. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for January 8, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner. All approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the DDRA has selected its leadership team for 2019. Mr. Bobby Kilgo will serve as President, Mr. Pete Dennis as Vice-President and

Mr. David Vaughan as Treasurer. Mrs. Rock said they had a successful Shop Darlington Contest during the holidays with more than $11,000 being spent in connection with the contest. Mrs. Rock said the three winners have been contacted and will be appearing in the News & Press and on their website www.buildupdarlington.org. she said they are working to expand their membership. Mrs. Rock said the cost is minimal and the benefits to your group or business are not. She said members can share their news on their site and distribute through their News Alert System via text message and email to people interested in Darlington as well as TV stations, radio stations and newspapers. Mrs. Rock said they can come and take a photo, or you can share what you already have. She said this allows you to share employee recognitions, new products, sales, special hours, events and more. Mrs. Rock said interested parties should give them a call or send them an email at info@buildupdarlington.org and they will feature your news or add your events to our calendar. She said memberships for most businesses are $150 for the calendar year, $100 for civic groups, churches and nonprofits, and $50 for individuals. Mrs. Rock said another benefit of the DDRA comes each month with an invitation to breakfast for businesses to network and learn more about the DDRA programs and give feedback for future projects. These are monthly members' Breakfast at 8:00 AM on the last Wednesday of the month at Takis Diner. Breakfast is provided for member businesses at no charge. Nonmembers who would like to attend the meeting are welcome for a nominal donation of $5 towards the meal. Mrs. Rock said these meeting continue monthly through October. Mrs. Rock said they are getting ready to plan for their Spring concerts "Bringing Downtown Alive" and told Council if they know of anyone who wants to be involved with the concert series they will have a concert committee planning meeting at 6:00 PM Thursday, January 17th at Mamma Mia's Italian Kitchen on Ward Street. Mrs. Rock said they are planning on reconfiguring the events to have the band moved onto the street since they are closing that first block of Pearl Street and they are working with Duke Energy right now to get the cost finalized. Mrs. Rock told Council if they know any vendors or businesses who want to be involved, etc., let them know about this meeting and give them her contact information. She told Council included in their packets is the dates for all the Membership Meetings and other upcoming events for the year that are already on the calendar.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –
Mrs. Harriett Hobbs was not present.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Mr. Donald Gilliard said, "At your November 13, 2018 Council Meeting a citizen took issue with an op ad that he published in the newspaper and proceeded to misrepresent to you what was printed as well as making disparaging remarks about my character. I understand she also presented you a copy of her remarks; likewise, tonight I have a copy of my remarks for you. This copy however in my assessment outlines the facts. Because an error of with the President of U.S. has been fact checked for making over 6,000 false misleading statements since taking office, some people think that they can just lie, say things that are not true and impugn another's character without being held accountable. Well, the reality is, that is just not true, so tonight I'm here to state the truth, set the record straight. So here are the facts: I'm a political strategist and I have managed and worked on numerous political campaigns. Most recently Senator Ronnie Sapp's campaign, congressional Candidate Mal Hyman, The City of Georgetown Mayor Brendon Barber. And yes, I supported our distinguished Mayor Hines as well as Ms. Bruce in her campaign as we worked to turn out voters to support both of them-Ms. Hines and Ms. Bruce. However, as I said, I'll continue to say and believe that she sold out the citizens of Darlington as well as the other three Councilmembers that supported what I believe to be both along racial lines. Lathan Consulting Corp. a Black owned female local business had come before City Council and present her credentials to be approved as a grant writer for the City of Darlington. The Mayor and City Council approved Lathan Consulting as a grant writer at their July 2011 Council meeting. Since then, Lathan Consulting has successfully written and managed two major grants for the City of Darlington totaling approximately $1,000.000. Davis & Brown, a white male owned company, not a local business, keep that in mind, not a local Darlington business had come before the City Council and Davis & Brown did not have to do the same. Why? I think we all know the answer. Instead, they were just given the contract to not only write the grant, do the engineering design, do the construction management, but to manage all the funds and contract related to the publicly funded grant. Who does that? I think it only can happen in Darlington, SC and it has to stop. What is the current status of submission of the RIA Grant Application by Davis & Brown? I think we all know the answer to that question as well. They did not submit the grant application, and nothing has changed. Sewage is still backing up because of this malicious vote that some of you all took. This is affecting the minority community. And the action that you took is that Black communities have to

have raw sewage because of the actions that you took. Whatever reason it is, nothing has changed. I say shame on you for allowing the situation that pose a significant health risk to the citizens of Darlington to continue to exist. From what I see, Lathan Consulting has been under constant contact with some of you sitting on the council now and from the other white racist simply, simply because she is Black. You sought out and published what this Black owned company earned for many years with the City of Darlington, but you did not seek out and publish the millions of dollars, and I mean millions, Davis & Brown got from the City of Darlington. Racism is alive in Darlington and it's time for more people in Darlington to speak out on this cancerous nature. Please, rest assured, I will, by the way you do not have to be a resident of Darlington to speak out against racism and injustice or to have an op-ed published in the local News & Press. So, you can stop trying to bully the local press. We will continue to monitor, we'll continue to look, and we simply ask for fairness and to erase racism. Thank you".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2019-01 MASC SETOFF DEBT ORDINANCE

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-01 – MASC Setoff Debt Ordinance. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

B) CAMERA, ROOT CUTTER FOR VACTOR TRUCK

Mayor Hines said last month Council discussed about the vactor truck we have here in Darlington and it's done an awesome job with helping with water in the ditches and catch basins, but the workers expressed the need for a camera and a root cutter. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he had an update for them tonight. Mr. Kinsaul said he was supposed to get a demo and the camera company will be here at 9:00 in the morning at the Street Department to demonstrate the small camera. He said the $47,000 camera quote from last month is now $77,000. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he just found out this. Mr. Kinsaul said he just got the information. Mr. Kinsaul said he just called the guy late yesterday afternoon and he said he was coming into town. Mayor Hines said she won't be able to make it but told those who can to try and be there. Mayor Hines told Mr. Kinsaul to try and video it for them so the ones that can't make it can look at it. Councilwoman Baccus said if somebody is coming to present something to us we need a longer notice than less than 10 hours. Mr. Kinsaul said the guy is coming through the area and he might be able to get him back at a later

date. Mayor Hines said, "I would appreciate it if you can get him back at another time. Councilman Milling said, "If he is willing to come by Ms. Reed said she's available, you'll have a better feel after it's done; why don't we have him come by and then for the rest of us, ask him if he will give us some dates where we might have a week or ten days' notice. Mr. Kinsaul said this is the actual factory rep and he doesn't know how often he is here. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Kinsaul to see what he can find out about helping line up something. Mr. Kinsaul said whether the company from Sumter can come and bring one and demo it without the factory rep, he doesn't know. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul to get the information and let them know in time so they can see it too. Mr. Kinsaul said the other ones were sold. Mr. Kinsaul said they brought a couple of the ones that were on sale, but they sold out before the end of the year and they said there were no more available.

NEW BUSINESS

A) RECOGNITION FOR MR. PERRY SIMON: COMMUNITY SHOE SHOP

Mayor Hines presented Mr. Perry Simon and his wife Mrs. Fannie Simon with a "Key to The City of Darlington" for his sixty plus years' service in the community. Mr. Perry Simon said he took the shoe shop over from a WWI Veteran, Mr. Curly Ervin. He said the time he took over the shop veterans didn't have much to do. Mr. Simon said when they were being discharged from WWII, the government opened up a way for soldiers to make a living and that's why he went into shoe repair. He said he was called to come down to Claflin College for something, but he didn't know what, but he knew it wasn't for an education because he hadn't graduated high school. Mr. Simon said once he got to Claflin College he found out that the government had set up a rehabilitation center there. He said the rehabilitation center was set up to find something for WWII veterans to do. He said while he was there Ms. Fannie McPherson was one of the workers in the office at Claflin and another gentleman was there, but he didn't know his name. Mr. Simon said the gentleman asked him if he knew anybody in Darlington that might would be running a shoe shop. He said, "Yes, I knew a gentleman in Darlington". Mr. Simon said the gentleman said, "Well, when you go back to Darlington ask him if he would take you in and train you to do shoe repair". Mr. Simon said he caught the bus back to Darlington and went to Mr. Curly Ervin at his shoe shop located at 105 S. Main Street and asked him would he take him in and let him learn how to repair shoes.

He said Mr. Ervin said, "Well, I could use some help". Mr. Simon said, "Ok then, will you give me a try". Mr. Ervin said, "Yeah, I believe I will". Mr. Simon said that was in 1950, so that's when he got started into shoe repair. Mr. Simon said things were tough for soldiers coming out of WWII. He said wasn't so easy then like it is now. It wasn't so easy for young men to take on work or jobs. He said the government did not forget them because they set up training sessions for young men to take training to learn trades and to learn how to do different types of things. Mr. Simon said his brother went into brick masonry and a lot more fellows went into brick mason, but some fellows seem to go into things just to get the money. Mr. Simon said, "My brother took up brick mason that's why the shop is sitting where it's sitting now because he learned how to lay bricks and finish cement". "I had two brothers, one was a carpenter and one was a brick mason and that's how I got that little shop built down there on Dargan Street- 407 Dargan Street". "My two brothers built the building and it's still sitting where it's sitting now, it hasn't changed any since they built it and I haven't changed a whole lot". He said some people are asking now, "Why are you going out of business, but they don't realize that even steel wears out". He said the machines that he uses, wears out. Mr. Simon said, "I was able to figure another way how to work with shoes, repair shoes and put on soles, heels and whatnot other than using a machine". He said, "Sometimes you find you can't do a job you learn how to do it differently from the way you usually do it, so that's why now time has come for me to say I've done enough". Mr. Simon said, "But, I'm not completely worn out". Mr. Simon said he has four wonderful children (three females with him tonight). Mr. Simon said he has one son and it would be wonderful if he was living in Darlington, so he could take over the shoe shop, but he lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Simon said he's just thankful to be here. Pictures were taken of Mr. Perry, Mrs. Fannie and their three daughters.

B) UPDATE PLAYGROUNDS CONSTRUCTION – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews thanked Mr. Perry Simon for everything he has done. Mr. Andrews said it's fitting to follow the Community Shoe Shop with the two community playgrounds that we're getting ready to build. Mr. Andrews said everything to build the playgrounds has been delivered. He said Mr. Chris Webb who the contractor is out of Mullins, SC and he will be in Columbia today and tomorrow and then he will be on a 10-day deal in Myrtle Beach where he's building a park there. Mr. Andrews said he will then come here and the first park that he builds will be the Officer Terrance Carraway Park

over on Magnolia Street. He will then start work on the soon to be named park. The ticket booth at Virgil Wells is almost finished. Mr. Andrews said he's getting a quote on the air conditioning to give to the Mayor because Mayo Alumni is interested in donating money toward finishing this off because that was not in the quote. Mr. Andrews said once we get the build guy here we are going to lay out where the playground can be where it will be most utilized and where it will fit. He said he has preliminary drawings of how they will set up each place, parking areas and fencing off some areas, picnic areas, etc. He said the exciting thing is the equipment is here and it's just a matter of hitting the ground. Mr. Andrews said both playgrounds will be done by Spring time this year. Mayor Hines said she was told the ticket booth was sort of high. Mr. Andrews said the contractor has cut the window down and if it's a little bit too high, they will cut it down some more. Mayor Hines asked, "What about the water out there, what can we do about that"? Mr. Andrews said he met with the engineers and the problem seems to be on the railroad property that is behind Virgil Wells Stadium. He said there is a ditch on railroad property that we can't go on to clear out because it's not on our property. He said he thinks we've tried to fix that before, and he talked with Mr. Garland about it, but to get on that property and fix it will cost us a $6,000 permit to dig that out. Mr. Andrews said what we need is some sunshine and some wind right now to get that ditch moving and then we can go on our property and clear out what we have to get that stuff out the ballfields. Mayor Hines said, "I was going down S. Main Street and saw this company and they were working on the railroad, so she got out and talked with them and they told her (she was looking on the pole) not to get that number go to wherever the railroad is, there's a different number on that pole". She said they told her they have different numbers on each pole so when you call that number they have a number on the bottom that you can tell them about. She asked, "Do you think if we go down there and look at the number….Mr. Andrews said, "We can go look and try, it's worth a try". Mayor Hines said, "Look and try and call them because they say if you got an emergency, that is an emergency". Mr. Andrews said I think what he was saying is that there's a drainage ditch on that piece of property that's not cleaned out and they won't let us on their property to work because if somebody gets hurt then they feel like they are liable. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Andrews if he thinks we can call them, and he said, "Yes". Mr. Garland asked if it was CSX or Wyoming & Genesee? Mr. Andrews said he thinks it's CSX. Someone asked where is it? Mr. Andrews said draining at the footballs field; water is standing on the footballs field. Councilwoman Reed said, "I mean I've seen that but what…Mr. Andrews said he was told by the

engineer at Davis & Brown that it's caused by a drainage ditch on the railroad property that's behind the stadium. He said he told them that we own the property directly behind the stadium and if we wanted to we could clear it out up to the railroad property and clean out everything back there.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Milling said we've talked about what a good job Mr. Simon did in connection with the shoes and he would like to echo that he's been the beneficiary many times of the excellent work. Councilman Milling said he would like to point out for those who don't know Mr. & Mrs. Simon what a wonderful visit it is just to go in there. He said you almost wish that your shoes would wear out so that you can go and have a visit with them. He thanked them for the courtesies they've always shown.

Mayor Gloria Hines said they have always had manners. She said Mrs. Fannie Simon is always sitting on her stool welcoming everybody with a great smile. Mayor Hines said she's never gone in and there was any kind of frown, they always had a smile. She thanked them for the smiles and the faith they have in God.

Mayor Hines said she wanted to thank the City workers for all they do. She said with all this water everybody all over the City is having problems. She said the City is trying to do everything they can to help out that's why she is hoping we get the camera and the cutter for the vac truck because a lot of people are experiencing roots in the sewer lines and that is stopping the water flow.

Mayor Hines said we need to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel Police Department matter. Darlington City Council may or may not vote after closed executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman John Milling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:15 PM to discuss a personnel Police Department issue which was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. The Darlington City Council may or may not vote after closed executive session.

REMINDERS

Monday January 21, 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday- City Offices Closed;

5 Minute Break Before Executive Session

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman John Milling, Executive Session ended at 7:42 PM.

Councilman John Milling made a motion that Chief Washington be involved in the reorganization of the Police & Fire Department and he be titled as the "Public Safety Director" and as such he would be responsible and in charge of all of the officers and volunteers with the City of Darlington Police Department and with those who are employed with and volunteers with the City of Darlington Fire Department effective immediately, Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 12, 2019

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, and Elaine Reed. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Ms. Rosena James, Ms. Gladys Jules, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. Robert Thomas, Mr. George and Mrs. Andrea Knapp, Mr. Frank Willis, Mr. Coleman Cannon, Mr. Chuck McNeil and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, Seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2019. All approved the motion.

Mr. Garland asked Mayor Hines to strike item 8-B and ask that it be moved to February 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for February 12, 2019 with the changes made to 8-B. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. All approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said in lieu of her DDRA report she wanted to take time to honor Retired Fire Chief James C. Stone, Jr. Mrs. Rock said she need to take a moment to remember someone who forever changed the landscape of downtown with one gesture, one donation that he and his wife didn't have to make; Retired Fire Chief James Casper Stone, Jr. who passed away last week. He helped turn the tragedy and destruction of a downtown blaze that destroyed multiple businesses into the beauty that is the Darlington Veterans Memorial-a place downtown that people enjoy every single day and a place that recognizes the dedication and sacrifices of so many to our nation. Jim Stone served this City for more than five decades in the fire service. He served our State in the National Guard and our nation in the Air Force Reserve. He served Darlington on County Council as a councilmember and as Chair and worked to establish the 911 communication system we use today for our first responders. He was a father figure to many more than his biological children. He was a coach, mentor, leader, Kiwanian, member of the DDRA and lifelong member of First Baptist Church and so much more. Mrs. Rock said Jim Stone changed the face of downtown and the hearts of many whose lives he's touched. She said she's sure he did more for this town than what she said in this brief time. Mrs. Rock asked that everyone take a moment of silence in his honor.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MRS. HARRIETT HOBBS

Mrs. Harriett Hobbs said the Chamber's Annual Banquet will be held February 28, 2019 at the Darlington Country Club. She said they put out the call for nominations for their annual awards and she was thrilled because they received quite a few nominations. Ms. Hobbs said the social hour will begin at 6:30 with dinner immediately following. Mr. Bryan Gandy with the Historical Commission will give a brief talk during the banquet. She said Bryan and the Chamber will be doing some things together this year. Ms. Hobbs said awards will be presented in the following categories: Community Pride, Business Leader of the Year/Business of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award. During the social hour they will have a silent auction. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber or at the door for $35.00. Ms. Hobbs said they are in the process of getting ready for Bowties and Pearls on April 26, 2019 which they started last year at South of Pearl in the backyard. It's a bar-b-que buffet and they will have a band. She said tickets are $25.00 and it's all inclusive-food,

drinks, etc. Ms. Hobbs said in May they are going to have a Business Expo and she just talked to Frank Willis about that. She said they want to showcase our businesses. She said Darlington is more than our racetrack. Ms. Hobbs said they are thinking about using Edwards Street to have the event. She said we've got Covered in Cotton, Nucor, The Raceway, Carolina Rice, etc. Ms. Hobbs said when she says Darlington, she doesn't just mean the City she means the County. She said if Hartsville businesses would love to come in, she would love to have them. Ms. Hobbs said if you're a manufacturer, a farmer or if your product is made or produced in Darlington, come join us. Ms. Hobbs said they will have the racetrack there, the dragstrip will be there, and Georgia Pacific will be there. Ms. Hobbs said Georgia Pacific rejoined the Chamber after eight years. She said she got a call from the Vice-President of Georgia pacific and he's meeting with her next week. She said he wants to do more in the community. She said they want to showcase all of that and they want to upload it on YouTube so when you search Darlington, SC you're going to get a nice-looking YouTube video from DCIT. Ms. Hobbs said anybody that want to assist, comment, or volunteer to be on the committee to assist please call her at the Chamber (843) 398-2641 or call her cellphone number (803) 606-5188.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Pee Dee Vikings – Football Season Coach Woodberry, along with Jay Charles, Head Coach, Mr. Brantley Jett, Office Coordinator and a couple other Captains appeared before Council to thank them and the City of Darlington for supporting them these last two years. Mr. Woodberry said he feels that they have brought a successful program to the City of Darlington which is something that hasn't been done in a long time. He said they traveled to Fort Lauderdale this year to compete for a National rank and finished ninety-three in the league. Mr. Woodberry said they went to Charlotte and was able to compete for the CCFL Championship. He said they hold their players to a very high standard. Mr. Woodberry said they not only police their behavior on the field, but off the field as well. He said that is one of the biggest things that makes their organization so special. They are trying to help guys that have the dream of going to the next level but could not afford to go to college and play at that level and possibly make it to the NFL. Mr. Woodberry said they are one step under the NFL and a lot of this could not be done if they didn't believe in God. He said God heads them and they pray for the safety of the fans and for the safety of the players. Mr. Woodberry said they were not able to bring the National Championship

Trophy with them tonight because it is getting polished, but he asks that they take the time to stop by the Recreation Department because that is where it will be housed. Mr. Woodberry said a lot of organizations like theirs weren't blessed the way Darlington blessed them this year allowing them to have the band, the police department, first responders like EMS and giving them their all. He said they have never had an altercation at their games and not only do they demand their players not to do this, the fans that come out to support the players, he asked his players to be responsible for them too. Mr. Woodberry said bringing back the 2A National Championship is something that has never been done in the State of South Carolina by a Semi-Pro team. He said they didn't win it for them, they won it for Darlington. Mr. Woodberry said now Darlington is on the map. He said they are now ranked 25th in the nation and next year they plan to be 10, hopefully #1.

Pink Thumb Ladies Garden Club – Rosalind Boakye Hudson, but she goes by the name of Na Na. The Pink Thumb Ladies Garden Club has been designed with a desire to provide information and experiences that will enhance the development of future leaders by providing opportunities with national sponsored and local sponsored contests and awards in the field of youth gardening programs. Ms. Hudson said this garden park is a gift from her to the community. It is being offered so that the children will have a place to create, explore, learn and discover the world of sustainable eco living as well as into a world of kidpreneurs. She said this is a space designed by and for the children. Ms. Hudson said this will provide opportunities for the young ladies to learn about nature and how all of nature fits into the maker of life, from seed to supper. She said with sustainable living an important part of living in this part of living in this region of the country the mission of this venture is to teach how to grow your own healthy food, how to protect and love the wild life, recognition of plants, trees, shrubs, flowers and creatures that help your garden grow. Other areas covered will be banking, branding, marketing, how to prepare and cook organic foods and how to maintain the earth in a strictly organic manner. Their vision is to instill dignity, integrity, pride and knowledge of the local agricultural environment. Ms. Hudson said the vision of organization is to open the doors to the opportunities that will assist in the growth, both cognitive and physical of these young girls in the world of natural horticulture. Ms. Hudson said their goal is to ensure that the abilities to function in a responsible manner in society is achieved while providing a safe environment for self-expression and cognitive development of social

skills. Ms. Hudson said in two years they visualize two small landscape garden ventures created for business purposes by the young ladies which they believe will lead to future business leaders and career in the future for the young girls. The girls are ages 9-12 and they come to the garden on Guess Street. Ms. Hudson asked for Council's support and she said up to this point she has done all of this on her own. She said they had a lot of people that offered to help them; some have given tires, and the ladies at the farmers market gave them straw. Ms. Hudson said she started this in 2014, but then the hurricanes came, and the floods came, and it turned into a little swamp and trees fell over everything. She said some members of the community brought thins and Clemson University came and helped them with their water to learn how to do water without using someone's spigot. She said then the community thought they were creating mosquitoes and she tried to explain to them that there were things in the water to keep the mosquitoes from growing, but at that point it was so much rain they had to stop and slow down for a while. Ms. Hudson said she asked around about dirt because they needed to it to build up the land because it was flooded out. She said she was told the City had dirt but could never get a direct answer from anyone about it. She said they need dirt, rocks and a lawn mower. Mayor Hines asked Council their thoughts about this. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "I love what you're doing. Are you a non-profit"? Ms. Hudson said, "No we don't have non-profit status because student loans sat on her head and stopped her". Councilman Gardner said, "I know we usually have an issue with giving out funds unless it's a non-profit". He said, "I'm sure we could look out into the community and maybe find other routes to help you". Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked Mr. Garland if we have access to dirt that we could give to Ms. Hudson or some rocks? Mr. Garland said, "I'm not sure about the rocks, but the dirt we have. Councilman Baccus told Ms. Hudson to get with Mr. Garland so he can get her some dirt. Ms. Hudson thanked everyone. She also said the kids are also registered with the S.C, Youth Garden Association.

Mr. Curtis Boyd – Tyner Building - Mr. Boyd said, "we've had an eyesore for four years or more that was left by Mr. Tyner to Jamie Tyner. He said they have invested into a Darlington Investors Club that has come on board. He said they've come to the conclusion of purchasing that building with the understanding of taking it down. Mr. Boyd said he just wanted to give an update and let them know that as of tomorrow they are supposed to be on site to start doing some minor work to it and then Thursday the excavator will be there. They are supposed to come to the City to get the permit

tomorrow. They have already gotten the asbestos permit and applied for the State permit. Mr. Boyd said, "So hopefully by within the next two to three weeks that building will be clean down and become the landscape and hopefully make something better for the City of Darlington on that whole block that we have there at that point". Mr. Boyd said, "I just wanted to give an update to let you know it was in your interest to make sure it was taken down and I wanted to let you know that we've come together to have that cleared off and the progress on that should be starting Thursday of this week". Mayor Hines said, "Well thank you for that because I've been talking about that for over four years". She said, "That was a pet peeve of mine and every time I talked about it, they said they couldn't do it because something happened". Mayor Hines said she's glad it goes down. Mr. Boyd said, "All things are possible through Christ who strengthens us; anything is possible, it can be built up or it can be torn down". Mr. Boyd said, "that one is coming down, so Lord willing, nobody won't have no problems with it". He said it did have asbestos in it which caused a delay, but all of that has been taken care of and all of the permits have been pulled.

Mayor Hines said Mr. Garland asked if it's Ok to move Ms. Bernadette Reed up next. Everyone agreed that it was ok.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – MS. BERNADETTE REED

Mayor Hines said on January 22nd she got a call from Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Bruce asking if she had seen the news about a lady from Darlington that was noted as a hero for saving a bus load of kids, but at that time she had not seen the news. Mayor Hines said when she looked at the news she realized Darlington was on national news. She said a bus driver 45 days on the job with 40 children. Mayor Hines said one little child said they smelled smoke and the bus driver took heed and reacted and was able to get all 40 children off the bus and to safety. Mayor Hines said the headline said, "Just a Mother that got 40 kids off the bus after a fiery crash-Driver hailed as a hero. Mayo Hines presented Ms. Reed with a "Key to City of Darlington" for the heroic act that she did in getting the 4o children off the bus and to safety.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) CAMERA, ROOT CUTTER FOR VACTOR TRUCK

Mr. Kinsaul said Mr. Garland asked him to check on prices for a camera. He said the quote of 110,826.97 is for a complete camera outfit that comes with everything we'll need and it's in a trailer with the generator and

everything. Mr. Kinsaul said he couldn't see putting $100,000 in a camera and riding it around on the back of a pickup. He said we can have this one mounted in the trailer. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul how much is in the capital fund and he said a little over $700,000. Mr. Garland said there's $98,000 in the Street Department Capital Fund. Mayor Hines asked if the payment would be $55,000 out of each fund? Mr. Kinsaul and Mr. Garland both said the $110,826.97 was not for the root cutter. Mr. Kinsaul said you're looking at approximately $120,000 if we buy the root cutter also. Mr. Garland said the root cutter adds another $10,00-$12,000 to the cost. Mr. Kinsaul said the cost will be somewhere in the neighborhood of $120,000 and he said they may be a little wiggle room in the price. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "So, we're looking at $200,000?" Mr. Kinsaul said, "No, $120,000 for everything". He said the root cutter is approximately $10,000. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked, "How far does this camera go"? Mr. Kinsaul said it has 600 feet of cord. He said this one pulls itself along, but the one Councilwoman Reed looked at you had to push it. Mr. Kinsaul said, "This camera will do good up to a 30-inch pipe. He said most of our pipes are 18", 24" and there may be some 30" pipes and a few 36" pipes. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul, "Since your department has the most money, could we take a little bit more out yours"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "I'll only use it very little". He said, "I won't use it half so really sanitation should put about 80%-90% in it". Mr. Garland said, "Why don't we do 60%/40%. Mr. Kinsaul said, "I'm not going to argue one way or the other; personally, I don't need it". He said it City money (the citizens). Mayor Hines said, "Well, I'm quite sure the citizens, as much as they have been talking and some of them have been talking about the water and they have a problem with the roots in the sewer line, it needs to be cut in order to free it up". Mr. Kinsaul said, "When we talked before, we can't do root cutting without a camera". He said the root cutter attaches to the vac truck. They take the spray nozzle off the vac truck and attach the root cutter. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "So when you say you don't need it, what do you mean"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "I have very little use for it in sewer, not stormwater". Councilwoman Reed said, "I do understand, but you are water and sewer though, right?" Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes, but we would use it very little in sewer". Councilwoman Reed said, "You're responsible for the water lines up in there". "I mean, it was you that came to us about the vac truck, period. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "No, we came to him". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I was asked to look at this". Mr. Kinsaul asked Council if any of them has seen the vac truck since they've done the decorations on it? He told them if they haven't seen the truck yet, they should make a point of

looking at it. Councilwoman Bruce said, “So this new camera at $100,000 can do what we need it to do when it goes down in that hole those guys can see what they’re cutting”. Mr. Kinsaul said, “Well, you go down and video it or look and see what’s in there; you have to take it out and put the root cutter in. You can go through the pipe and see whether the pipe is broken, or whether there’s a rock in it or a gas line or a root”. Mr. Kinsaul said, “Our concern is Wells Street right behind us. We videoed it one day and we got about 15-20 feet up in it and we got this pretty nice yellow plastic pipe’s in the storm drain (a 4” high pressure gas line)”. He said had you run that root cutter up in that pipe Darlington wouldn’t be here. Mr. Kinsaul said they drill those pipes blindly under the ground and we find them in sewer lines and storm drains, so you want to know it’s a root and not a chunk of concrete or a gas line or a power line. Councilwoman Reed said it was quite eye opening to her when she saw the demonstration. She said she knows it’s costly, but it’s needed because of the kinds of problems the City is encountering almost on a daily basis and you see what the value of the vac truck has done, but it’s limited, and we could do so much more if we had all of this. Mr. Kinsaul said the equipment is measuring as the cable runs off, so they know how many feet they will have to go. Councilman John Segars said, “From a financial standpoint, can we afford this”? He said we still got the vac truck and we’ve got expenses on that mid-year. Mr. Garland said the only way we’re able to afford this and afford the match on the EDA grant that’s coming up soon is we have to take the payment that we have for the two above ground tanks ($388,040), the company that did that work has agreed to let us take that lease payments which is the same company for the cell tower (on top of N. Main Street tank) and we just sign that check over to them, for ten plus years (10+ years) and that way we keep our reserve for the water and sewer fund; we just lose the revenue for the cell tower on N. Main Street. Councilman Segars said, “We’ve got some equipment expenses coming up we’re going to have to pay for and we’ve delayed those payments until this budget year and we also got (once that Joe Louis Blvd. Lift Station comes in we’re going to have some grant match on that). Mr. Garland said, “That’s what I was talking about the match on that”. He said, “By taking the revenue away from us (the $38,000 a year we get) and signing it back over to the company that did the utility painting that saves us $388,040 right now that stays in our W&S Reserve Fund. Councilman Gardner said, “That’s comes out to about $38,000 a year and Mr. Garland said, “Correct”. Councilman Gardner asked if after 10 years we get those funds back and Mr. Garland said, ‘Yes”. Councilman Segars asked, “Can we afford this”? Mr. Garland said, “with the money we have in the bank right now, Yes, we can.

Can I answer what's going to happen in the future, "No". But right now, at this point, it's something we can afford as to what happens two months from now, I can't tell you. Mayor Hines said we have this expensive vactor truck and it's not doing everything that it can do because it lacks the camera and the cutter. Mayor Hines said if we don't get it, we are still going to get a lot of calls from people about the water backing up and we can't do anything about it if we don't have a cutter to help it, that's a chance you have to take. Councilman Gardner said with the storm water fund and the project we did over there at Subway, we've exhausted our funds for the next twenty years (20 years) with that fund, so that vac truck is our future as far as our storm water maintenance program and being able to keep that, so he's in favor of it and it's smart for our future. Councilwoman Bruce said, "Even from a safety standpoint, we don't want our guys going out digging and don't know what we're digging or hitting". Councilwoman Bruce said, "The problem we're having because we have so many roots or whatever else might be down there blocking the flow. Councilwoman Bruce said, "They can continue doing what they're doing with the vac truck but it's not serving the purpose if we don't have all of the attachments that we need". Councilman Segars said, "There are companies that we can hire that can come in and do this until we get to a better financial situation". Mr. Kinsaul said that's what we've done in the past. He said all the work he has done, he's hired a contractor to come in for a day or two. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "At what cost"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "They will come in for two days for $3,000-$4,000". He said he's used them twice. Councilwoman Bruce said with all of the flooding and water problems we're having twice a year doesn't seem like that's sufficient to take care of our problems. Mr. Kinsaul said speaking from the sewer side and as far as sewer, he has used it twice. Councilwoman Reed asked, "did you try to use them for Broad Street there where you know there's such a terrible blockage right there. Mr. Kinsaul said we haven't brought anybody in because we've been talking about cameras. Mr. Kinsaul said, "You can make a list of a street or block and you can hire a contractor to come in for a couple of days and go to the different spots and do it. He said it's not owning your own, but it gets you by. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So as bad as this City has gotten, why haven't we done that in prior years because everything is falling apart all over the City and now we're saying we should have done, we could have done". Mr. Kinsaul said, "done what, Videoed"? Councilwoman Baccus said call in whoever you just said and got it done". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I've videoed sewers where I've had to, but up to the last year there's really no major storm water work done and that's when the vac truck was brought". Mayor Hines told them to go ahead

and call a vote. She said they can vote it up or vote it down, but we need to move on. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion that we purchase the camera and the root cutter with 60% coming from the water & Sewer fund and 40% from the Street & Sanitation. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman John Segars who voted against the motion.**

Mr. Chuck McNeil – PDRTA said he spoke recently with Mr. Garland and he suggested that he come and give an update on Saturday bus service. He said they have been operating it now for three months. Mr. McNeil said the DART service in general in for the entire week has been growing tremendously. He said when you compare this year to the previous year ridership has increased by 25%. This time last year they had over 4100 trips and this year it's over 5100 trips. Mr. McNeil said most of the folks are getting on at Washington Square Apartments and a popular stop for people on to start their trip is at Walmart. Other common destinations include IGA, Roses, Bi-Lo. Mr. McNeil said they started the Saturday bus route on November 3, 2018 for four hours and the numbers have not been too bad. He said they started with 27 people the first week and it went up and down since then. But overall for the 14 Saturdays they had a total of 267 trips which averages about 19 trips a day for Saturday. Mr. McNeil said the high number was back on November 10th when they had 36 trips for the 4 hours on Saturday. He said clearly people are using it and taking advantage of the investment for Saturday bus service and hopefully this is good news. Mr. McNeil told Council he will keep them posted and be back later in the Spring to give them another update, and they can consider whether they want to continue Saturday bus service.

NEW BUSINESS

C) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2019-02 ANNEXATION (164-05-02-046) TALLULAH WILLIAMS: 504 YOUNG STREET

Mayor Hines said this is right off N. Main Street. Mr. Garland said she needs sewer service that's why she wants to annex into the City.

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion that we approve First Reading on ordinance 2019-02 annexation (164-05-02-046) Tallulah Williams, 504 Young Street. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-03 CITIZENS APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Hines said she has noticed over the past year that some of the comments made by citizens and others have become personal and very offensive. As Mayor of Darlington I have a responsibility to all citizens of Darlington and not to a select few. These comments have gotten out of hand and must cease at once if we are to move Darlington forward. We as a community must lay aside our personal differences and do what is in the best interest of our beloved community. Like many of you, I am a lifelong resident of Darlington and I love this community and its people dearly. I am asking each of you to let's please come together as a united front with one sole purpose in mind and that is to make the City of Darlington all that we know that it can be. Mayor Hines said, "I would like to recommend to my fellow members of council that we change our current policy on citizen's comments". **Mayor Hines made a motion that anyone wishing to come before Council to make a comment should meet with the City Manager at least six (6) days before Council meeting to state your concerns. If approved, you will be allowed two (2) minutes to address council pertaining to the subject that you gave to the City Manager. During these comments there will be no personal attacks or offensive remarks made about the Mayor, any member of City Council, any employee of the City or any citizen of the City of Darlington. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion.** Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "I think we previously had added in here 'citizen of Darlington", that's not in here. I don't know if we're going to continue to do that, but I don't care to weigh in on that side of it". Councilman Gardner said, "When it comes to this, I'm fine with us changing the citizen comments, but I would ask that we give the citizens the ability to see the agenda before the meeting so if there's something on the agenda…He said there's some things we vote twice on, but there's other things like this attachment for the vac truck where we just voted once and it's done". Councilman Gardner said he would love to give the citizens the opportunity to be able to address Council on the subjects that are going to be on the agenda for the month. He said if we do the meeting with the City Manager six (6) days before a regular scheduled meeting, that our agenda be put out seven (7) days before the regular scheduled meeting. He said, "I don't care what the days are, I just like the citizens to be able to see what's on the agenda and then have the opportunity to sign up to speak on that subject". Councilman Gardner said, "Another thing I'd like to add is two (2) minutes is a little short; 4 or 5 minutes, I'd appreciate; meet in the middle somewhere if we need to". Mayor Hines said, "The City of Hartsville don't do it at all. Citizens are not allowed to speak at all. The County, they have to call and ask to be put on the agenda". Mr. Garland and

Mayor Hines said they get two (2) minutes with the County. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce said, “Maybe we need to stick with the two (2) minutes because most people go over two (2) minutes anyway”. Mayor Hines said, “Most people go over five (5), but I give them leeway”. Councilman Gardner said, “I’m fine with it not being five (5) minutes, but maybe we meet in the middle around three (3) minutes because two (2) minutes is a little short”. Councilwoman Bruce said, “this says citizens of Darlington, but I think I read in the Municipal Code and it said, “Citizens in the City of Darlington”. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, “That’s fine, I feel like they should have access to the agenda”. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland his thoughts on having so many days before? Mr. Garland said, “The ordinance says I can participate in full discussion without a vote, so I’ll just go ahead and put in my opinion”. He said, we’ve amended the agenda a dozen times in the last two (2) years, so if we put the agenda out seven (7) says before and it’s a six (6) day limit, if it’s amended you’re still going to run into the same problem with citizens not knowing it’s amended or having a change to comment on the amended agenda”. Councilman Gardner said, “I guess in that matter we would have to give the citizens the opportunity to speak on the amended subjects”. Councilman Gardner said to not give citizens an opportunity to speak on a subject that we’re speaking on that month all because of the possibility of an amended agenda, though I understand it’s a good point, we want to make sure we’re being transparent”. He said, “We’re not Hartsville, we’re Darlington. We can do it our way a little bit and kind of morph what they’re doing and take what’s good and adjust it a little bit”. Councilwoman Reed said usually the citizens that want to comment have their own personal business and it’s usually not about what’s on the agenda. Councilwoman Reed said, “When the citizen contacts the City Manager at that point they have the agenda available and they see they want to talk about that, then that’s fine”. Councilwoman Reed said, “Anything may get amended; anything can happen, and it shouldn’t be based on the amended thing”. Councilman Gardner said, “that’s fair and just allow them the opportunity to see the agenda and three (3) minutes”. Mayor Hines asked Councilman Gardner if he’s fine if she change it to three (3) minutes and he said it’s appropriate and he would appreciate that. Councilman Gardner said, “And we’re also going to give them the ability to see the agenda before the meeting and several councilmembers said, “Yes”. **All approved the motion**.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST – PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR KELVIN WASHINGTON

Police Chief Washington said if it's ok, he's going to let Fire Chief Cavanaugh make this presentation and if he needs any assistance with it, he will assist. Fire Chief Cavanaugh said he's asking Council's blessing to come up with something called the Fire Department Cost Recovery Fund which will help them alleviate him coming to them asking for money. Chief Cavanaugh said years ago they brought a company in here to talk about this, but after discussion they felt like they were worse off because they didn't understand what they were asking to do. Chief Cavanaugh said they are asking to set up a separate fund that's a revolving fund that every year they can recoup some cost and put it in this fund. He said cost recovery is a way for them to recover cost for repairs caused by accidents. He said there's a way out there now that they can get people to go on the insurance of the person that does the actual "at fault" and we can try to recoup some of this money back. Chief Cavanaugh said it's been in business for seventeen (17) years and there are over forty (40) states in the country that's doing cost recovery. He said South Carolina is one of the better states as far as cost recovery for these companies to get something back for the Fire Department. Chief Cavanaugh said how this works is they'll go to a run and if something gets damaged or used, they submit this bill to the "at fault" person's insurance. He said this does not affect the local agent, this goes into the national headquarters. He said what will happen is stuff gets filed and the insurance company will either say, "Yes we're going to pay you or "No". Chief Cavanaugh said Darlington County has had an ordinance in place for years. The City of Hartsville has an ordinance in place; West Florence Fire Department does it; Surfside Beach & Garden City does it. He said it's nothing new, it's just something they have been trying to figure out how to do it without burdening the citizens. He said they have researched this the last couple of years and it finally hit hard in the past couple of weeks that we can do this. Chief Cavanaugh said in 2002 or 2003 the fire department had a large fire at the Hartsville Oil Mill and they stayed there ten (10) days and when they got finished they have twenty-five (25) to twenty-six (26) sets of turnout gear that was damaged and they had no way to recoup this. He said with the help of Mr. Garland and others, they got a FEMA grant for $175,000 to help recoup all this back. Chief Cavanaugh asked Council to allow him to move forward and hopefully next month submit to City Attorney Kevin Etheridge for them to look at an ordinance that they can put in place so when this happens again, we can go after the "at fault" people to help alleviate some of the cost. Councilman Gardner asked if we need a

motion to approve or do we just tell them to go forward? Mr. Garland said since it's something that we will actually be collecting, it's just for informational purposes tonight. Mr. Garland said we will need to have first and second readings on it because it involves a fine even though it's not something we're charging the citizens, we're charging it to the insurance companies. Mr. Garland said we will have first reading will be in March and second reading will be in April. Councilman Segars said when we talked about this a couple of years ago there was a situation about when you respond to auto accidents and wanted to know if we can get repaid for visits to auto accidents. Chief Cavanaugh said depending on what happens. There has to be some physical work done. He said such as leaking fluids, they have to obey the hazard. He said the biggest things right now are auto accidents with extrication, hazardous material incidents and commercial fires. Chief Cavanaugh said there are some things in small structure fires for folks built in their policy, but their biggest concern right now is those big incidents because if somethings happens we'll have a leg to stand on.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said she went to Chief Stone's service the other day and he will be greatly missed. She said when she and Chief Stone ran against one another whenever they ran into each other they were still smiling. She said when they saw each other they joked, and they smiled. Mayor Hines thanked the City workers for what they're doing in the City of Darlington because they work really hard. She said Councilmembers went to Legislative Action Day in Columbia and they received a lot of great information.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked if there's any update on our grant for the lift station on Joe Louis Blvd. Mr. Garland said the shutdown was 35 days and we don't have any type of word from them other than we're waiting. Mr. Garland said EDA was shut down for over a month. Mayor Hines asked if they moved the deadline up from March? Mr. Garland said, "We've gotten no official guidance from anybody on that". He said we made a phone call and had a request and they asked for clarification on letters for job commitments. Mayor Hines said the deadline was March 10th or March 15th, and Mr. Garland asked for EDA? Mayor Hines said for the RIA Grant. Mr. Garland said Councilwoman Reed was asking about the update on the EDA Grant. Mr. Garland said, "Ya'll are mixing grants up now". Mr. Garland said the RIA grant is something completely different, that's March 15th. Mayor Hines asked, "We can't do the EDA grant"? Mr.

Garland said we have the EDA application that's out and we haven't heard back in that yet.

REMINDERS

Tuesday March 5, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

Mayor Hines said we need to go into Executive Session to discuss Project Peach: Economic Development Possible Sale of Property (The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed executive session.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go into executive session at 7:45 PM to discuss Project Peach: Economic Development Possible Sale of Property (The Darlington City Council may or may not vote after closed executive session). **Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion.**

5 Minute Break Before Executive Session

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Executive Session ended at 8:19 PM.

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-00-020-10) 13 acres between Old Florence Road & Friendship Street for $127,626.00. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-04-01-005) 4 acres on D Avenue & Sixth Street for $39,774.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. All approved the motion.

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-00-02-011) 5 acres at 323 Old Florence Road (Baseball Field) for $20,000. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman John Segars, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:00 PM
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2019

PRESENT AT MEETING:
Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, and Bryant Gardner Also, present: City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mrs. Lisa Rock, Ms. Ellen Adkins, Auditor.

Mayor Hines said the purpose of the Special Meeting is to present the 2017 audit from Webster Rogers and have an executive session: Economic Development Presentation.

INVOCATION
Mayor Hines did the invocation.

2016-2017 AUDIT PRESENTATION – MS. ELLEN ADKINS WEBSTER ROGERS
Ms. Ellen Adkins said she's going to be brief because this is really old news. She said if you look back at that year, she categorized it as the City investing in itself. Ms. Adkins said the City did a lot of things with our sewer, the storm water and there was a lot of initiatives going on to build our infrastructure. We did the LED Lighting project and a number of things that we did that was an investment in the City and the longevity of the City. Ms. Adkins said there was also the police cars and a pumper truck. In total there's about $2.5 million in completed projects that year. At the end of the year we had $450,000 in projects started which included the Carnegie Library and another drainage project. Ms. Ellen said we have almost $1.3 million in federal funds plus there were some state grants as well. In addition to that, the City also borrowed some money. In total, the borrowing was about $6.5 million, and the City paid off $1,350,000 that included two revenue bonds which means we have already identified the revenue streams to repay those. We have the stormwater project for $1.3 million and the hospitality tax bond of $1.9 million for recreation. The City also did a $1 million general obligation bond to do work on city buildings and we've also borrowed for capital leases. Ms. Adkins said there was a lot of borrowing

that went on that year, but the good thing about that is some of that was already tagged as to how it was going to be funded. Ms. Adkins said as far as the financial statements goes, if you exclude the debt, it's very consistent with the year before. She said the City engage them to do an audit where they look at transactions and they look to see if it's been handled properly as far as what was intended and then express an opinion. Ms. Adkins said the City received a clean opinion and that's the best you can do. She commended the City because she said it takes a lot to maintain the books and the fact that we were able to get a clean opinion is commendable and even though it's late, we still had the records. Ms. Ellen said that's all she wanted to say about the financials. She said the other report she wants to talk about is the single audit package. Ms. Adkins said they come in and they look to see if all of the grant money was handled properly. She said there are certain laws that you're supposed to follow like your budget and procurement practices and things like that. She said if they find where it's a material problem where we are significantly violating what we're supposed to do, they would report it to them in that section. Ms. Ellen said page 9 in the single audit is the current year's issues and pages 10 & 11 are year 2016 issues. She said we did have a material weakness and it goes back to these internal policies. They felt like we did not follow all of the policies the way that we have set them up and we need to tighten up on that. She said some of it is in the way we're processing payroll for paid time off, are the proper people approving things. She said sometimes things are getting through with the wrong level of approval and then some things dollar amounts weren't even on there, so they don't know if it was the proper approval. Ms. Adkins said the other item is Part III and that is dealing with grants. She said we are required every year within nine months after year end to submit to the federal government a status report of our grants. She said it has to be done within 30 days of issuance of our audit report or nine months after year end, whichever is earliest. Ms. Adkins said they didn't finish the 2016 audit until we were into November 2017 and there was no way we could have met that requirement. She said there's a finding that we did not submit on time and it will happen again this year. She said that's not unusual either, but it's not ideal. Ms. Adkins said the last two pages are the status of the prior year findings and the response as to what was done about them. She said on Page 6 the single audit shows the various federal grants we have received. Ms. Adkins said there's a letter that's attached from the auditor to the Board and it tells you what the audit was like, it's sort of a communication of letting them know what they think is important that happened in the audit. She told Council if they would like for her to come back and work with them in a

workshop or anything they would like to understand more about the financial statements or about the letter, she would be happy to do that. She said a copy of journal entries that they did is attached as well as the representation letter that management signs. Ms. Adkins said that is all she really had to say about the audits. Councilman Bryant said, "The federal filing deadlines that you said that we aren't going to be able to meet this year, is there anything we can do to kind of catch ourselves up, so we can get ahead of it eventually". Ms. Adkins said you've got to get the audit back on track. Ms. Adkins said, "As an example, we issued the June 2016 audit in November 2017 so automatically there's no way you're going to make it". She said you've got the audit done preferably the first six months of the subsequent year. She said if you're going to bring in a consultant to help clean this up because it's a lot of volume and staff it keeping things going from day to day. Ms. Adkins said for the last two years we have engaged an accounting consultant who has come in and helped to get things ready for the audit, but again it's subject to their availability. Ms. Adkins said, "I know the consultant that you used for 2017 is extremely busy and there are some out there that aren't as busy. Ms. Adkins said, "Personally I think, and this is not written in here anywhere, but she thinks it would benefit the City if we had someone that would come in on a monthly or quarterly basis and look through the financials and get things cleaned up during the year so it's not a big to do at the end of the year. She said it's just going to take a lot of effort to the point where we are back on track. Mayor Hines said, "I think we were held up by the previous auditors and we got behind with that and kind of delayed things because with the day to day operations these young ladies have a lot to do and they can't keep up with all of that during the week". Ms. Adkins said, "Yes, because she's been on both sides, she's been the auditor and the auditee and it's rough for the auditors to be site. Ms. Adkins said they've got their day jobs too, so she understands what it's like to be on that side of it, it's an interruption. Mayor Hines said each department needs to know what they need to do to get their part, so they can give it to Ms. Pridgen. Ms. Adkins said if we had a consultant that came in and help us set up a structure and a process so every month there's checklist. She said there's ways that we can do it even with a small city, but it takes an investment and time and investment in people. Ms. Adkins said she appreciates all the cooperation from staff and they were very helpful and patient with them. She said had a number of other clients and when they came in and realized things were not ready they had to move on to other clients that who were already ready. Ms. Adkins said they contributed to the delay and when they could come back it was not always convenient for us

and vice versa. She said she would like to see the City get back on track with having regular audits. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve the 2016-2017 presentation by Webster Rogers, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce**. **All approved the motion.**

Mayor Hines said Council needs to go into executive session for economic development presentation. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go into executive session for economic development presentation at 6:24 PM. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after executive sessions ends. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman John Segars, executive session ended at 7:04 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – MARCH 5, 2019

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Ms. Rosena James, Ms. Gladys Jules, Mr. George and Mrs. Andrea Knapp, Mr. Calvin King, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Mrs. Linda Brunson, Mr. Linwood Epps, Pastor Leroy Lowery, Mr. Bill Hancock, Fireman James Jett and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Elaine Reed did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2019. All approved the motion. Councilman Milling said with respect to meeting on February 21, 2019 it's entitled "Regular City Council Meeting" and asked that it be changed to "Special City Council Meeting". **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2019 Special Meeting with the amended change. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Mayor Hines made a motion to table Item 7C until further discussion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus. All approved the motion.

Mayor Hines said she was asked to move Item 8D (Beautification Awards) up to 8A. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he wanted to move the other item up as well. He said we might move them both up before "Unfinished Business" since they are handing out awards and honoring someone. Mr. Garland said to move 8A & 8D after Item #6 and before Item #7.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for March 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce. All approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said The Annual Taste of Darlington will be held Thursday April 11, 2019 at the Race Track from 7 to 9 PM. The DDRA's Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday April 3, 2019 at Darlington Country Club sponsored by Carolina Bank, Darlington Raceway, Fitness World Gyms, and Nationwide Insurance. The four-man captain's choice tournament include mulligans, a lunch buffet, and prizes. Teams are $240 with a limited number of spots. The next "Bringing Downtown Alive" Concert Committee meeting will be this Thursday, March 7, 2019, 6:00 PM at Mamma Mia's Italian Kitchen. Anyone interested in helping with these events is encouraged to attend. Mrs. Rock said businesses, individuals, civic groups, and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. She said they recently welcomed the Free Medical Clinic and their new Executive Director, Mr. Stephen Edward to their group this month. Mrs. Rock said members can give them a call or send them an email and they will feature their news, employee recognitions, sales, new products, special hours and other events with people interested in Darlington as well as TV & Radio stations, and newspapers through their text and email news alert. She said you can sign up for this on their website www.buildupdarlington.org. She said membership is $150 for most businesses; $100 for civic groups, churches and nonprofits and $50 for individuals. The application can be downloaded at the Buildup Darlington website. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about the DDRA programs and give feedback for future projects at their monthly Members' Breakfast at 8:00 AM, Wednesday March 27, 2019 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge. Nonmembers who would like to attend are welcome for a nominal donation of $5.00 per person to go toward the

meal. She said those meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of every month at 8 AM through October.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MRS. HARRIETT HOBBS
(Not present – Nothing to report)

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR
Mr. Linwood Epps said Rhonda Brown was awarded Citizen of the Year and he wanted everybody to know she is also a member of the Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Walter Beck said he and his wife own Beck Rental Property, LLC, Beck Family Farm here in Darlington and he said "thank you" to those that serve as Mayor & Council because they are in a unique position of authority and they have been called to do the job before them. He said it is truly a calling to do what they do and put themselves at the desk in front of the citizens of Darlington and for that he thanked them for what they have to go through and have to deal with. Mr. Beck said he pray that they go forward in such a way to move Darlington forward for Darlington to become what it can be. Mr. Beck said not to dwell in the past nor dwell in things that may be hurtful or harmful, but he prays for wisdom upon them to move this town forward because this is his home town and he loves Darlington and they must love it too to come up there and do what they do.

NAMING OF OLD DARLINGTON FIRE STATION
Councilman John Segars said Jim Stone dedicated 50 years of his life to the City of Darlington Fire Department including 28 years as Fire Chief. Jim Stone was instrumental in the saving and restoration of the City of Darlington's first fire engine, "Our Pat" which now sits on display at the old fire department building on Cashua Street. Councilman Segars said Jim Stone and the Stone Family gave the property at the corner of Public Square and Orange Street for the Darlington Veteran's Memorial and Chief Stone also led the fundraising drive for the Veteran's Memorial. Jim Stone was a member of the Darlington County Council for nine years and served six years as Darlington County Council Chairman. Jim Stone was an active member of the Darlington community as lifelong member of the Kiwanis Club, Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association and First Baptist

Church where he served many leadership roles. **Councilman John Segars said he therefore feel it is appropriate to make a motion to name the old City of Darlington Fire Department for Chief Jimmy Stone. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.** Councilman John Segars further asked the City Council and City staff work with the Stone family to officially dedicate the building in Chief Stone's honor. Councilman Segars said, we're not renaming "Our Pat", we are just going to name the building. Mayor Hines asked, "Do we need to decide tonight when we're going to have it"? Mr. Garland said, "No ma'am, that's up to the family when it's convenient for them".

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Mayor Hines said the Beautification Board wanted to do something extra other than what she did for Christmas in thanking everybody for all the help they did for Darlington. Mayor Hines said she thinks about all of the boards helped with the Christmas tree. She said the Beautification Board is under the umbrella of the City of Darlington and would like to express extreme gratitude for all those involved for making Christmas in Darlington a little more magical this year. They thanked everyone that participated in the discussions, gave ideas, contributed funds, and decorated so many corners of the City for Christmas. The Beautification Board wanted to recognize some of the major contributors: DSL Metals delivered the Christmas tree to the Square from North Carolina; Fitness World/Curtis Boyd along with the Light Up Darlington Christmas Committee got lights strung up to the tree surrounding the courthouse; State Farm Insurance/Mr. Bill Moore built the drum base for the Christmas tree; Signs Plus Systems donated their staff and trucks to set up and take down the tree; Darlington Fire Department is always doing something for the City of Darlington and we didn't have to ask them, they always volunteer. Mayor Hines said the Darlington Fire Department together with Signs Plus, they got the tree put up and taken down safely. The Garden Club collectively purchased the new tree which was the star of the show. Mayor Hines presented awards on behalf of the Beautification Board to the major contributors that were present. Also, a picture was taken with the contributors being presented with the awards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-02 ANNEXATION (164-05-02-046) TALLULAH WILLIAMS, 504 YOUNG STREET

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-02

Annexation (164-05-02-046) Tallulah Williams, 504 Young Street, which unanimously carried.

Public Hearing – Mayor Hines said we have 30 minutes for the Public Hearing to discuss Ordinance 2019-03 – citizens Appearance Before Council. (6:55 PM.)

Mr. Linwood Epps said he is glad Council voted to carry over that second reading and he hopes they keep carrying on out the City because he don't like it. Mr. Epps said he thinks they should be able to sign up like they did tonight and maybe not speak 5 minutes, maybe 3 minutes. He said they should not have to go to Howard six days ahead of time to make an appearance before Council. He told Council to please think about it. Mr. Epps said it's going to be hard for all of them to get in touch with Howard six days ahead of this meeting. He said there are things that come up that sixth day until the day/night of the meeting and sometimes someone is going to want to say something about what's going on. Mr. Epps said he thinks we need to leave it like it is. He said professionalism could be better at times and they might can drop it down from five (5) to three (3) minutes. He told Council they are their representatives and they should be able to talk to them.

Pastor Leroy Lowery said his comments will be similar to what Mr. Epps just said with a little difference here and there. (Pastor Lowery passed out copies of his letter to Council earlier in the meeting). Pastor Lowery said after reading in the news paper about this particular matter, he felt like he needed to come and express his feelings on it. He said he is a retired Minister from Southside Freewill Baptist Church and a citizen of the City of Darlington. Pastor Lowery said he is a strong believer in the Constitution & Bill of Rights of our country. He further stated that enshrined in that Constitution and First 10 Amendments are the rights and obligations of the citizens of our nation. Pastor Lowery said the First Amendment guarantees Americans the Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Peaceful Assembly and the right to petition our government for a redress of grievances. It also grants to the citizens the right and responsibility to hold our government accountable. Pastor Lower said he came tonight to speak in opposition to the new ordinance concerning the public's access to the City Council in its present form. Pastor Lowery offered the following changes to the proposed ordinance: The matter of requiring the citizens to meet with the City Manager six days before the coming session. He hopes there will be some

changes to that part of the proposal because there are some people that have to work during the hours that the City Manager works and therefore they do not have the ability to meet with him personally. Pastor Lowery asked that a phone call or other means of communication with the City Manager or his secretary be sufficient in this matter. Second, the six-day requirement may cause some difficulty. If the speaker wants to address an item on the current agenda for that meeting is held and the agenda does not become public until 3 days before the meeting, then the citizen would be unable to address his or her concerns. Pastor Lowery asked that Council find a way to allow a citizen to address an agenda item without the six-day requirement. Thirdly, Pastor Lowery said the three minute is probably enough time for the average citizen to express his or her concerns. However, in unusual situations or issues, Pastor Lowery asked that, at the pleasure of Council, this time be made flexible and would be on a case by case basis. Pastor Lowery said it has been reported that some of our citizens have been involved in personal attacks upon the Mayor or members of the Council and this is not right and should be avoided by all. Pastor Lowery told Mayor and Council if they have any questions or if he has not been clear, he will be glad to answer their inquiries at this time.

Mr. Dan McManus said he is speaking tonight on behalf of his wife Anna Dewitt, his daughter and himself. Mr. McManus said although they are not disagreeing that the ordinance needs refreshing, they are disagreeing with the process that was taking place at the last meeting. He said the ordinance was read by Mayor Hines, motion by Mayor Hines and seconded by Councilwoman Baccus, then Councilman Gardner began the discussion of amending the ordinance. Mr. McManus said after the discussion was completed and amended and agreed upon, there were no new motions to accept the amended version nor was the amended version read in full. He said it seems that when the vote was taken it was the original ordinance and not the amended version that Council discussed. He said a new ordinance may be needed, but your consistency is needed more. Mr. McManus said the process that we have needs to be done and taken very seriously. He said he knows they are trying, but it needs to be followed and that is what is hurting them currently. Mr. McManus said it should be noted the way the ordinance is currently written, it does not allow for business owners to voice an opinion about city matters. He said if a person owns a business or own property they pay city taxes and this new ordinance is saying perspective city business owners we would want you to invest in town, however we would not want you to have a right a speak. Mayor Hines asked Mr.

McManus to repeat that again. Mr. McManus said the ordinance does not give a city owner a right to speak if they are not a resident. He said in his opinion that is "taxation with representation".

Andrew Kiel said he works for a Consulting Firm called 605 Holdings and they are interested in purchasing some property here in the Darlington area. Mr. Kiel said through a couple of different avenues this idea came to his attention and wanted to address it with Council. He said basically he thinks it's a foolish and insulting idea that they have put before the Council. He said it's a red flag for outsiders like him that are considering this area for future business opportunities. Mr. Kiel said there's a good chance that the idea they have concocted is in violation of the First Amendment, but it's also in violation in some areas of the State's open records law that are designed to let the public see what is going on behind government's closed doors. Mr. Kiel said, "I don't know why this particular issue came about, I imagine there's a back story that involved personal attacks or whatever is going on here, that's irrelevant". "The issue is, this is not right and it's not the way to do things here". Mr. Kiel said limiting the public's comment, even if it's just going to the City Manager, seems like the exact opposite thing you want to do to make an open and transparent government. He said, "you guys are elected leaders and you're expected to endure some criticism on the spot, that's why you guys get paid the big bucks. He said if someone tosses a personal attack around in the public meeting, he expects them as leaders to have the fortitude to respond to them privately and discuss it in a private situation and not hide behind their status as elected officials. Mr. Kiel told Council he applauds their effort tonight to postpone and table this particular motion because he thinks it needs to be readdressed further. He said there were some great concepts that came from those that spoke before him and he thinks there are some good things they can do with this, but as the ordinance stands now is not the right way to go away it and people like him are going to be scared off.

Mr. Walter Beck said he's going to begin with a quote: All we say to America is to be true to what you said on paper. If I lived in China or even Russia or any totalitarian country, maybe I could understand some of these illegal injunctions; maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic First Amendment privileges because they haven't committed themselves to that over there, but somewhere I read of Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Press and I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. Mr. Beck said those are not his words, but they are

very powerful and spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the evening of April 3, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee and the next day he gave his life for the Civil Rights Movement; for the movement to protect the rights of all people. Mr. Beck said, "I know two minutes may not seem like a lot and I know signing up six days before may not seem like a big deal, but obviously it is". He said obviously people are upset by this, so he applauds Council for tabling this. Mr. Beck said this ordinance as presented where is states "Meeting in person with the City Manager" is an unnecessary step to inhibit people's First Amendment Rights. Mr. Beck said, "I agree there should be no personal attacks from anybody at this podium on any elected official up here. There should be no personal attacks at all amongst ya'll as a body". Mr. Beck said we need to move forward to make Darlington better and cutting each other down from this way or that way, doesn't help. He said I can disagree with you, but I can still respect you as a person. Mr. Beck said disagreeing does not need to divulge into personal attacks. Mr. Beck said, "And Madam Mayor, you have the right to remove people that are disorderly from this meeting the way the law is written". He said the Freedom of Information Act does not protect people to come up here and attack this Council personally or yourselves, so you already have the means to handle that. Mr. Beck said, "I think this ordinance is unnecessary and I hope that ya'll have also heard from your constituents and heard this isn't a good idea; this is a bad idea that seeks to silence people and I know that's not what ya'll want". He said, "Ya'll want to cut out the personal attacks". I've watched it online, I've watched the recordings, it's ugly, it's bad". Mr. Beck said we don't want any fighting here, we need to make Darlington better. We need to attract businesses, growth and jobs. Mr. Beck said, "Axe this ordinance and work together; make Darlington better; make it what it can be".

Mr. George Knapp said, "Because this is a hearing, I was just curious of a show of hands if you don't mind who got my email regarding this ordinance"? He said he sent it to everybody who was on the list and he's sorry if somehow the email didn't get through. Mr. Knapp said he agree with most of what's been said, but he doesn't know for sure if it's a constitutional issue so much. Mr. Knapp said, "I think that the length of notice, I think Howard being the single point of contact, no offense to Howard, but he's a busy person and I'm a busy person. He said he offered him by email some alternatives. Mr. Knapp said he looks forward to this part of the meeting and he enjoys hearing what the citizens have to say even when they don't agree with him or he don't agree with them. He said he also worry about things like if there's going to be an acceptance criterion or

are all comers going to be allowed to speak or is there going to be filtering. Mr. Knapp said if there is, he thinks it's necessary that the filtering is transparent. He told Council they cannot get themselves in a situation where they think something is going on funny behind closed doors and why am I not allowed to speak, but she is, or he is. Mr. Knapp said he's been living in this town for 9 ½ years and coming to the meetings on and off for about 8 years and one of his consistent things regardless of who's been sitting on Council or who has been the Mayor has always been trying to do a better job of thinking things through. Mr. Knapp said concerning the time length-they were timing everybody's discussions and the average time was about five minutes. Mr. Knapp said, "Has it really bogged down the business of Council or you guys feel put out, I don't think so". He said three minutes was kind of a compromise. Bryant and I spoke before the last meeting; three is better than two by at least one minute, but five would be good as well. Mr. Knapp said easier access, transparency if there's any filtering and made to give us as much time as you think is appropriate". He said as far as the personal attacks, I personally don't believe I've been involved in any; if I have or if you believe I have, please seek me out and I am more than willing to have that discussion. He said disagreement and a personal attack are two different things. He said we can agree to disagree, or we can debate issues, but we can do it in a professional way.

Ms. Jannie Lathan said she supports the ordinance for citizen appearance before Council. She said she thinks it's necessary that our city government should have such an ordinance as other municipalities have throughout this country. Ms. Lathan said her recommendation would be to model our ordinance around the same form and format that Darlington County is using for their ordinance.

Mr. Curtis Boyd said, "I am not a citizen of Darlington. I'm not a citizen that lives in town yet, but I'm going to move into town". "I have purchased a house so that I can run for Mayor, but I have been in business and I have lived here for fifty-four years". Mr. Boyd said, "I'll buy pieces of property, I pay taxes, big taxes, a lot of taxes in the City of Darlington for property that's inside the City Limits". He said, "As this other gentleman spoke a moment ago, it will run business off if they think that they cannot come up here and speak then they've got to go over and talk to Howard to see if he can line things up. Mr. Boyd said he agree that there should be no attacks on any one. He said as it was stated, all of you have the right that if somebody starts attacking you for whatever reason, ask them to leave. Mr. Boyd said

as a business owner that pays taxes and has lived here, to me as I talk to a lot of people they say I would vote for you, but I live in the County, so I ought to run for County Council because I'll probably get more County Council votes. Mr. Boyd said there's a lot of people that live in the County that should be able to come in here and speak. He said you should want to know what it is that we can do to make our town better. Mr. Boyd said, "That is our ultimate goal so that all of us have a nice place to live, and that you're proud to say that you're City Councils, you're proud to say that you live in the City of Darlington and hopefully one day be able to say that you're proud to be a Christian, which is what I am most of all. I'm proud to be a Christian". Mr. Boyd said, I'm very proud to be living in this town and I would love for anybody to come up and talk to me. Call me any time 24/7 and I'm not afraid to talk to anybody. Mr. Boyd said, "Do I please everybody, "No". Jesus Christ did not please everybody; people still cuss Him and curse Him today and He died for your sins. He said, as a citizen that will be moving into town and I have businesses, please let me speak.

Mrs. Andrea Knapp said, "She knows that they are supposed to contact Howard, but like George said he emailed everybody on council and the email addresses that he was given, I think Howard gave him, it took Howard two days to contact him back and a bunch of ya'll didn't even email him back". Mrs. Knapp said not necessarily having to agree with anything that you said but just a "we got your email". She said not everybody gets a lunch break. She said people might not work in Darlington, they might work in Florence and it could take twenty minutes to get here to go meet Howard and then drive back to work, that's your lunch hour wasted. Mrs. Knapp said not everybody can make phone calls from work, so you can't call him. If you email him and you don't get a response how are you supposed to know if your email is being accepted and your name is on the list. She said I complained about the building that Curtis Boyd and a bunch of people bought for four days and she was coming to Council meetings being told it's being taken care of. Mrs. Knapp asked, "How would somebody if they had to complain about something and they call Howard to get their name on the list and then they're told….say for example, if I called and said I want to come back to Council, I want to talk about this building again and then I'm told, "No', you're not allowed to speak". She said that's what people are going to think unless it's going to be a good reason why they are not allowed to speak. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Knapp, "so you're saying that in reference to the ordinance, I mean because that's what we're talking about the ordinance". Mrs. Knapp said, "Yeah, Yeah, the building is bought". She

said people might get the idea that there's a reason why their speech is being quashed. Mrs. Knapp said, "If you all don't want to hear our voices if we were told we could not speak in State Council the general consensus from people that I've spoken to is that you all just don't want complaints to be heard. She said the thing is, not many people come to city council meetings; maybe at the most three or four people unless there's a huge thing like the ballfield and three or four people get up to speak. That is 15 minutes or 20 minutes per month and if you all can't accept from people, I don't know what that says. Mrs. Knapp said, "If y'all don't want to hear what we have to say, again not many people come to the Council meetings, a lot of city people read the newspaper, a lot of city people are on Facebook. If the voices are not heard here where we know ya'll are going to take into consideration what we're saying, everybody's going to go to Facebook, everybody's going to go the newspaper and you won't be able to respond. Mrs. Knapp said three minutes is good but prefer five; the whole six days is pointless. She said like everybody has said, if you don't like what somebody is saying, or somebody is getting aggressive, kick them out. She said the general consensus from people (her friends) is you're trying to silence the voices and it's the wrong impression that people are getting. Mrs. Knapp said, three minutes, no six days and no personal attacks, absolutely, but she thinks it's something they all came up with in a rush judgement and you haven't really thought about what you want to do and she's glad they reassessed it.

Mr. Bill Moore said he's a twenty-year resident of Darlington, business owner and he said he's against this ordinance. He said he came here to be able to sign up and address Council. Mr. Moore said if you limit the ordinance to six days prior to city council meeting who knows how you can contact Howard or any City Manager because it's just not all that easy. He said the three minutes-Usually if you can say something in five minutes (5) you can probably say it better or more efficiently in three (3) minutes. No personal matters – He agrees with that, but he also agrees they have the power to reject anybody they need to that's getting ugly and personal. Mr. Moore said he read an article where someone said they are just getting in line with the rest of the municipalities. He said, "I don't think that's a good reason to do it, I think that's a good reason to tell the other municipalities "hey maybe you need to look at us". We honor, cherish and love our citizens enough to sit here and let them have this type of freedom and be able to address us. If they come up the day before the meeting and decide they need to address council, they can do so. They don't have to get prior

permission, they don't have to be screened, but they just have to be polite, professional and appreciate everything we do. Mr. Moore said he is against this new ordinance because it put an undue burden on people that may have an important need and may need to address council.

Mayor Hines said the perception of it was wrong. She said her thoughts were never to silence anybody because she's a person that believe in giving a person a fair shot. Mayor Hines said it was all about the attacks. Mayor Hines said, "We had talks about several ways of changing it and we all brought some stuff tonight but we're not going to do it". Mayor Hines said she appreciates people coming to council to speak, but it was taken out of context. Mayor Hines said, "We're going to talk about it, we're going to study it, and like you said we don't have to copy anybody else, but some of the members said why not do it like the County". She said people are saying a whole lot of things and then they're changing it back and forth but just remember one thing, I am not trying to stop anybody from talking. She said the perception out there in the street was not me, it was somebody else.

PUBLIC HEARING ENDS

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman Segars, to end the Public Hearing at 7:30 PM.

5 MINUTE BREAK
Meeting reconvened at 7:39 PM

D) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-04 SALE OF REAL ESTATE (165-00-02-010) 13 ACRES BETWEEN OLD FLORENCE ROAD AND FRIENDSHIP STREET FOR $127,626.00

Councilman John Milling made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-00-020-10) 13 acres between Old Florence Road & Friendship Street for $127,626.00. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

E) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-05 SALE OF REAL ESTATE (165-04-01-005) 4 ACRES BETWEEEN D AVENUE AND SIXTH STREET FOR $39,774.00

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-04-01-005) 4 acres on D Avenue & Sixth Street for $39,774.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. All approved the motion.

SECOND READING ON ORDINACNE 2019-06 SALE OF REAL ESTATE (165-00-02-011) 5 ACRES AT 323 OLD FLORENCE ROAD FOR $20,000.00

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-00-02-011) 5 acres at 323 Old Florence Road (Baseball Field) for $20,000. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

B) BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Lisa Rock said they have several openings on the boards and commissions. She said there's one seat and one alternate seat available on the Historic Landmarks Commission; there's one seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals and one seat on the Beautification Board. Mrs. Rock said Ms. Karen Sprott has asked to be placed on the Beautification Board. She's a member of the Garden Club and participates regularly in clean-up days and other Garden Club beautification efforts. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion that we accept Ms. Karen Sprott's nomination to the Beautification Board. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

C) RESOLUTION: ADOPTION OF 2015 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

Mr. Garland said the International Building Codes Council in the State of South Carolina adopt their National Building Code every two years to update ordinances as they relate to plumbing and electrical work and other facets of building codes, so all we're doing is endorsing what's already been done and approved by the International Building Code Council of the State of South Carolina. **Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to accept the Resolution Adoption of 2015 International Building Codes. Councilwoman Elaine Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines thanked everyone for all their remarks tonight.

Mayor Hines said we need to go into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Audit. She said we will not be voting when we come out. This is for information only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman John Segars to go into Executive Session at 7:48 PM to discuss Contractual Audit (Information Only). All approved the motion.

REMINDERS

Tuesday April 2, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED

Councilman John Milling made a motion to end Executive Session at 8:09 PM, which was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 2, 2019

The Regular Meeting of Darlington City Council was held April 2, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall at 400 Pearl Street.

Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, Councilpersons John Segars, Shelia Baccus, Carolyn Bruce, John Milling, Bryant Gardner and Elaine Reed. Also present was City Manager, Howard Garland, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge and a room full of citizens.

Copies of the agenda were faxed to The News & Press, The Morning News and the Hartsville Messenger with place, date and time of meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Hines.

PRAYER

Mayor Hines gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Milling made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019 council meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reed. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Bruce made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner. All in favor.

DDRA UPDATE – MS. LISA ROCK

Ms. Lisa Rock stated that tomorrow, April 3, 2019 the DDRA would hold their annual Golf Tournament at the Darlington County Club sponsored by Carolina Bank, Darlington Raceway, Fitness World Gyms, and

Nationwide Insurance. The Taste of Darlington will be held on April 11, 2019 at the Darlington Race Track from 7 to 9 p.m. in the infield garage area. She also informed council that businesses, individuals, civic groups, and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. Ms. Rock also stated the Chamber would be holding a Clean Up Darlington Day on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 9 am-noon and that the first 100 volunteers would receive a free t-shirt. She said that the Bringing Downtown Alive! Concert committee would be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 18, 2019 at Mamma Mia's. Also, Monthly Members' Breakfast at 8 a.m., Wednesday, April 24, at Taki's Diner, free for members and $5 for others.

CHAMBER UPDATE – MS. HARRIET

Ms. Harriett Hobbs stated that the chamber is sponsoring a lunch and learn with guest speaker Doug Grady at the South of Pearl at noon on April 18, 2019. She also said that Freedom Fest will be June 29, 2019 at Darlington Race way from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. George Chase was present to talk to council about the Historic District that surrounds his resident 379 West Broad Street. He explained the slow decline of the surrounding area, condemned houses that haven't been torn down and rentals dumps. He said that if the City is going to have a Historic District that they should at least take pride in it. He would like to see the City to encourage the people in the district to keep up their properties better.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proclamation-Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault

A representative from the Darlington Pee Dee Coalition, located at 105 Orange Street was present to let council know that the month of April was Domestic and Sexual Assault awareness month. She stated the on April 24, 2019 would be Denim Day to bring awareness to Domestic and Sexual Assault. The Proclamation was read aloud by Mayor Hines.

B. CDBG Fair Housing Resolution adopted by Mayor

CDBG Fair Housing Resolution adopted by Mayor on April 2, 2019. Motioned by Mr. Milling to adopt the CDBG Fair Housing Resolution, Seconded by Ms. Reed. All in Favor.

C. West End Heritage Corporation – Funding Request

Ms. Peggy Sheffield with the West End Heritage Corporation asked Council to help in funding the Darlington Manufacturing Memorial located at the corner of Cleveland Street and Pearl Street. She stated that they are trying to raise the money to finish the memorial and they need about 30-40 thousand more. Motioned by Mr. Gardner to approve a $5,000 donation. Seconded by Ms. Reed. All in favor.

D. Darlington County First Steps Proclamation

Mayor Hines read the Darlington County First Steps Proclamation aloud to council and citizens at the meeting.

E. First Reading Ordinance 2019-07 Zoning of 504 Young Street R-10

Motion by Mr. Gardner on the First Reading Ordinance 2019-07 to rezone 504 Young Street to R-10. Seconded by Ms. Reed. All in favor.

F. First Reading Ordinance 2019-08 Rezoning of Second Block Pearl Street

Motion by Mr. Milling on the First Reading Ordinance 2019-08 to rezone the Second Block of Pearl Street. Seconded by Ms. Bruce. All in favor.

G. Bid Approval Repair/Replace Carnegie Library Roof

Motion by Mr. Milling to replace the Carnegie Library Roof for $35,356 by Gardner Roofing and recognizing that it could run an additional amount for any decking or wood work that may be required. Seconded by Ms. Baccus. All in favor.

Council Comments

Mayor Hines said she had visited the Purple Fish and it is a nice place to visit.

Mr. Milling said he would like for Mr. Garland to assign someone to look at our current ordinance pertaining to the Historical District and check with the surrounding areas to see how they are dealing with to help make it enforceable and help a historic district look like what it was intended to.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Gardner, seconded by Ms. Reed, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – MAY 7, 2019

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also, present: City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mrs. Rosena James, Ms. Gladys Jules, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mr. Lamias Muldrow, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mrs. Eva Mae Evans, Allison Carraway, Winifred & Brenda Harrington, Isaac Fullard and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Bryant Gardner did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to approve the Minutes of April 2, 2019. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for May 7, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce. All approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said as Executive Director of the DDRA she serves as the Chair of the City's Beautification Board. Mrs. Rock said last month on April 27,

2019 they had more than sixty people gather downtown to show their love for Darlington and take pride in our community to make it a better place. She said they collected close to forty bags of litter, planted more than 700 flowers & bushes, trimmed trees, and painted rusty sign posts and railings. Mrs. Rock thanked everyone who shared their time on Saturday morning and a special thanks to the Darlington Garden Club who began this effort that they continue every Spring and Fall. The DDRA's "Bringing Downtown Alive" Concert series will kick-off Thursday, May 23, 2019, from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM with the Bout Time Band performing. Mrs. Rock said the evening is sponsored by Pepsi, Wilson Senior Care and Cumulus Broadcasting Radio Station. She said they still have spots available for vendors and sponsors who make these events possible. Mrs. Rock said businesses, individuals, civic groups and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. They recently welcomed Darlington Presbyterian Church and Sheriff Tony Chavis to their group this month. Mrs. Rock said members can give them a call or send them an email info at buildupdarlington.org and they will feature their news, employee recognitions, sales, new products, special hours and other events with people interested in Darlington as well as TV stations & Radio stations, and newspapers through their text and email news alert. She said membership is $150 for most businesses; $100 for civic groups, churches and nonprofits and $50 for individuals. The application can be downloaded at buildupdarlington.org or just send her an email and she will get it to them or give her a call. Mrs. Rock said the monthly Breakfast is at 8:00 AM, Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at Takis Diner. She said the breakfast is free for members and $5.00 for others to go toward the meal. Mrs. Rock told Council that they have a list of all upcoming events that's included in their packets.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MRS. HARRIETT HOBBS

Mrs. Harriett Hobbs said Freedom Fest will be June 29, 2019 from 5:00 - 10:00 PM at the Darlington Raceway. She said they have food vendors coming from Virginia this year. She said they will have people selling different types of food this year such as goat, curry, etc. She said they will have their usual funnel cakes, cotton candy, candied apples, bar-b-que, ice cream and different types of merchandise vendors. There will be amusement rides and bouncy houses for the young kids. Ms. Hobbs said they have different sponsors than they've had in the past. They have someone sponsoring the Hospitality Suite this year. Ms. Hobbs said she

would love for everybody from City Council to come out. They will be using the same company that they used last year to do the fireworks. Ms. Hobbs said they don't charge a fee to get in at Freedom Fest; however, they will charge a $1.00 per car to park because their expenses have gone up. She said the insurance is out of sight this year because she's having bouncy houses for the babies. Also, the expense for the track went up-they are having to pay the track $4,000. Ms. Hobbs said she is here again to ask the City to help them with Freedom Fest. She said the City gave a nice amount last year and she would love for us to possibly match that again this year. Councilman Milling asked Ms. Hobbs if she's checks with any of the organizations to see about adding food trucks as a part of the event. Ms. Hobbs said we do have food trucks at our event. She said last year we had ten food trucks. Ms. Hobbs said the problem is when you have so many food vendors they tend to do the same foods and then nobody makes money, so this year she made a promise that she would only have one to two of the same food. Ms. Hobbs said she wants vendors to come to Darlington and have a nice time and make money. Ms. Hobbs said she made a conscience decision to have only one funnel cake person, one hot dog person, and she will have two bar-b-que people. Ms. Hobbs said she has one other event that's coming up on Thursday June 27, 2019 (Carolina Brotherhood). They have firefighters, EMS, Police officers that will be riding and all first responders will do a 600-mile bike ride. They will start in North Carolina, come down through South Carolina and they will be riding through Darlington right past our raceway. Ms. Hobbs said she talked with Kerry Tharpe because Charlotte Motor Speedway hosted them two years ago and if Charlotte Motor Speedway can host them, so can we. Ms. Hobbs said they need a place where they can eat lunch and have a respite because they are pedaling for the fallen and two canines that were killed in the line of duty. She said she will be asking The Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club and business people to see if we can get donations of food, so they can grill hotdogs and hamburgers, supply them water, Gatorade, etc. She said she's talked with Chief Washington and Chief Cavanaugh because most towns have their firemen and police officers welcome them into the City and as they are getting ready to leave Darlington, they wish them Godspeed. Ms. Hobbs said she would love to have people there welcoming them into Darlington.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Betty Jackson – Park at D Avenue & S. Main Street. Mrs. Betty Jackson said they all want to honor and praise Officer Terrance Carraway

for his sacrifice in keeping all safe, but with the population under 7,000 people in the Town of Darlington, we have no need of three parks. She said the City has already spent over $200,000 and will spend more on a park dedicated to Officer Carraway. Mrs. Jackson said to put another park on the busiest intersection in this City seems excessive and unnecessary. She said the inclusion of a basketball court and picnic tables in a senior citizen neighborhood will be noisy and destructive. She said the young people will be drawn to the basketball court and the picnic tables. Mrs. Jackson said tractor trailers are turning the corner of D Avenue & S. Main Street all day and all night, seven days a week and on holidays. She said the idea of a basketball court and young people in such a congested area is very concerning and lacks a curfew. She said where there is silence implies consent. Mrs. Jackson said she hopes and knows she speaks for her neighbors that cannot and will not speak for themselves as they feel they have no voice in the City of Darlington. Mrs. Jackson said she already has a petition signed by her neighbors with over 200 names, which she presented at the meeting. (Mayor Hines said we will take this for information)

Mr. Michael McKibben who lives at 119 Spring Street said he's lived there for about five years now and he's seen numerous people trip and fall and condition of the sidewalks are deplorable. Mr. McKibben asked Council what the plans or steps need to be taken to resolve those sidewalk issues because somebody is going to get seriously hurt. Mayor Hines said we are getting ready for our budget meeting and we will take this into consideration and talk about it in our budget meeting. Mr. McKibben said his other concern is with people speeding up and down Spring Street. He said Spring Street has become a drag way and he doesn't know what he can do to change that, so he would ask Council's help in getting the word to correct people and perhaps do something to improve the enforcement of the speed limits through this area. Mayor Hines said they will talk to the Chief about this. Councilman Milling asked Mr. McKibben if the sidewalks are a problem on both sides and he said, "Yes, both sides".

Mr. Ernest Boston lives at 121 Allen Street– (Drainage Problems) Mr. Boston said during Hurricane Florence last year, water stayed in his yard for about a month. Mr. Boston said he spoke to the City about it and the drainage problem about fifty yards from his house is stopped up. He said he found out that the elevation of the ditch and he spoke to the Department of Transportation about the elevation at 119 Allen Street that was not allowing the water to drain down the street. Mr. Boston said nothing has been done

yet. Mr. Boston said he drives cab and he's driven around the City and to look at the City and to look at the ditches and the drainage problem, we have a problem. Mr. Boston told Council they may not be aware but if you look at the news the storm is building in the West and it's going to be coming East and there's going to be a ton of water that's going to be dropped in the City of Darlington that has no place to run to. Mr. Boston told Council he thanks them for the crews they have out cleaning the streets, but those people could be better used if they take two crews and start trying to clean out some of the ditches. He said he understands that those ditches are State property, but the City can do something to relieve the problem for the residents, if they want to do it. Mr. Boston said if you start attacking the problem with the drainage every year, Darlington wouldn't have some of the problems they are having with water runoff. He said from November up until now he's seen water in the ditches and in people's yards. Mr. Boston said, "It seems like as Darlingtonians and elected leaders, we should be concerned about cleaning up". Mr. Boston said, "We need to attack the problem and I believe that you have the resources already on hand to do that". He said, "And if somebody says you don't have the resources, then you need to go back and check. Mr. Boston said, "And I think you have the personnel and the equipment to start taking care of this problem; if we take care of the problem over the next three to five years Darlington will not experience the problems they have with the drainage, but if we don't do anything it's going to continue to back up. He said they need to get the word out the only way the water is going to drain properly is that we be proactive.

Mr. Curtis Boyd & Allison Carraway (Memorial Park) Mr. Boyd passed out pictures of the proposed memorial park he wants to put at D Avenue & S. Main Street. Mrs. Allison Carraway said she wanted to speak on behalf of her husband fallen Officer Terrance Carraway and her family. Mrs. Carraway said on October 3, 2018, Sgt. Terrance Carraway paid the ultimate sacrifice. He died to protect those that could not protect themselves. She said her family has been honored with the construction of a memorial park listing all 384 S.C. officers who have died in the line of duty. Mrs. Allision said, "I never thought I would be standing here defending the validity or the intentions of this project, much less its purpose, yet I am". She said Terrance Carraway knew the strength and the power of faith and family because she saw him demonstrate this in interactions with herself and others for over 30 years. She said it is her duty to continue his life's purpose. Mrs. Carraway said she has established the "Terrance F. Carraway Foundation" and is awaiting her completed 501 (c) (3) approval. She said this project is

just the beginning of what's in store and each project will benefit the community in many ways. She said when Terrance was killed Curtis immediately came over to the house to see if they were ok and needed anything. She said once he knew they were ok, Curtis immediately went into "work mode. Mrs. Carraway said, "You see, Curtis, Terrance and I have been friends for over twenty-five years. We started in karate". She said, "We had dinner together, we've worshipped together, and we worked on several projects". Mrs. Carraway said Terrance was also aided by Curtis in helping him establish his business which was "The Spot". She said Curtis was the man who put bows on mailboxes in the community to pay homage to her husband. He was the one who set up a spotlight in the courthouse and with the posters, so people could sign their condolences. Mrs. Carraway said Curtis raised money for the Florence Seven at the Sweet Potato Festival and he came straight to the house with the money and they separated it and he asked that she give equal amounts to the individuals, which she did. Mrs. Carraway said, "The Terrance Carraway Fallen Officers Memorial Park, and I emphasize Memorial, not recreational will not only bring revenue and visitors to our town, it educates and possibly motivates others to selflessly serve". She said, "The fenced in quarter basketball court will be available for multiple uses to serve the community". The intention and purpose will be the acknowledgement of sacrifices made, education through the history presented and bringing our community together for the common good. Mrs. Carraway said April 16th was the official announcement of the Memorial Park and she was elated and proud to see a vast array of support. She said there were Councilmembers that offered support as well as friends and relatives and she was very thankful, and she left knowing that Terrance was pleased. Mrs. Carraway said, "I need for you to know that I do what I do for Terrance only and my sole purpose is to uplift him through his life and his legacy. Mrs. Carraway said the message she took from last Sunday's sermon was let a man examine himself. She said we spend more time examining others than ourselves and asked Council that they examine their attitudes, your appreciation and your dedication.

Mr. Daniel Blathers, brother of Terrance Carraway said he's a native of Darlington and he knows there's a concern that there's too many parks in Darlington, but he's here to say, there's not enough parks in Darlington. Mr. Blathers said when kids have nothing to do they will resort to other things such as violent crimes. Mr. Bathers said he works here, he serves this County and he mentors children. He said he works with kids who were in jail or didn't have a father or anyone to look up to, much less anywhere to go. Mr. Blathers said, "So right now, if we are limiting their options, look

what you're also creating a problem for this community". He said it's not only a park to honor to his brother but it's an inspiration to our kids. He said we all came together back in October and ever since then, so we should come together now and think about what's best for our community and what's best for our kids.

Mr. Curtis Boyd said, "Never would I have thought there would be controversy over putting a park out there, a memorial park". He said the only qualifications when he donated the park to Mrs. Carraway's Foundation was that he wanted a water fountain out there. Mr. Boyd said Terrance like working with the Boys and Girls Club and that's where they came up with the idea of the ballpark-have a 50' x 25' caged in area. He said there will be a 16-foot basketball court where they can play kickball or basketball. Mr. Boyd said they are looking to put 385 names on the park. Mr. Boyd said he is asking for their support. He said one of the Councilmembers asked them to come and ask for support. Councilman Milling asked, "This is something that is being put together by a private foundation. This is not the City of Darlington and so the City of Darlington has not been asked to create anything"? Mr. Boyd said, "Correct". Councilman Milling said, "We are being asked if we would like to make some donation"? Councilman Milling said, "In reality I'm assuming that if the City, on the interest of whether or not they want to make a donation, it will be as to whether or not what you are proposing fits our ordinances and approved by Planning and such things as that". Mr. Boyd said they have already cleared all of that with the ordinances, zoning and everything else has been approved. Councilman Milling said, "I had one person call me today that had no problems with the idea of the memorial park but had some concerns about the basketball court simply because they felt like it could change somewhat the nature of that being, like Mrs. Jackson said, a senior neighborhood and people hanging around". Councilman Milling said another concern was whether there was adequate parking. Mr. Boyd said the days he was out there cleaning people were coming by telling him thank you and how much they loved it. He said Mrs. Jackson did come over with her concern and Mrs. Green next door came over also thrilled to death that her grandchildren can come over and play. Mr. Boyd said it's just a small area in the back-left corner away from the road and for safety it will have a brick wall around it. Councilman Milling said it seems like it's clear with everything else as far as city ordinances is concerned; So, the City cannot do anything to prohibit it from taking place. Mr. Boyd said, "We're not asking for approval, we're asking for a donation from the hospitality funds because it will bring people into the

City". Councilwoman Reed said, "In view of what's been voiced about the basketball court and we also have planned the City part of the City park that we have that has the name of Terrence Carraway will include the basketball court, would you consider because of the concerns that's been voiced from the people in the neighborhood, not have the basketball court"? Mrs. Allison Carraway said, "If you'll' notice on the diagram it is a quarter of a court; it's not a full court, it's not a half court and it will be interactive. It will have a multi-use purpose for children and adults. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Boyd if the park would be locked after dark and he said, "Yes". Councilwoman Reed said one of the main reasons for the park on Southern Pine Street was to address the same problem, giving the children something to do, but it's in area where there are multiple children. She said it is an area to provide the kinds of recreational equipment for all ages. Councilman Milling said Curtis indicated about hospitality funds. Do we have sort of a time when we tell people who are interested in trying to get hospitality funds to come and fill out an application"? Mr. Garland said, "No Sir, we do not have that process". Councilman Gardner said, "Whenever you get your 501 (c) (3) done, if you'd like to come back, I'm sure we'll be able to help". Several councilmembers were talking…and Mr. Garland said, "I don't mind talking about this in a budget work session". Councilwoman Bruce said, "I think we need to take this as information tonight and then we can make a decision afterwards". Mayor Hines agreed to take this as information. Mrs. Carraway said she appreciates Council's consideration and for listening to their information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2019-07 ZONING OF 504 YOUNG STREET – R-10

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-07 Zoning of 504 Young Street as R-10. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-08 REZONING SECOND BLOCK OF PEARL STREET

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-08 Rezoning Second Block of Pearl Street. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

MAYOR'S AWARDS – MAYOR GLORIA C. HINES

Mayor Hines said she wanted to recognize Mr. Isaac Fullard and Mr. Steve Abbott. She said Mr. Fullard works around the Square and he keeps it clean. Mayor Hines said one person that didn't get recognized prior was Mr. Steve Abbott. She said during Christmas time Steve was the one that went out and connected the music and made sure it was turned on in the evening and turned off at the designated time. Mayor Hines said Mr. Abbott also takes care of all of the microphones for us. She said she wanted to recognize these two young men to let them know we care about them and appreciate them. Mayor Hines presented both Mr. Fullard and Mr. Abbott with a plaque. Pictures were taken with each separately, then a picture with all of them together.

MISS DARLINGTON – MS. TESSA ARQUETTE

(Not Present)

FATHERHOOD – MAN-TO MAN – MR. DERRICK DEAS

Mr. Daniel Blathers spoke on behalf of Mr. Derrick Deas because he was unable to attend. Mr. Blathers said the Man-to-Man Fatherhood Initiative has been around since 2000. He said they serve five counties, Florence, Darlington, Marlboro, Chesterfield and Dillon. He said they provide fathers with services from employment, child support visitation, economic stability, record expungement and numerous other services. Mr. Blathers said children need their fathers. He said children have better success in school, athletics and life when their fathers are involved. He said Man-to-Man is what's considered as an ATI Program-An Alternative to Incarceration. He said a lot of times when you see someone at Family Court, before a Judge will put them in jail, they will send them to us to provide services to get them back on track. Mr. Blathers said in the Pee Dee Region since 2002 over 2,322 fathers have been served by Man-to-Man. In 2018 they have served 424 participants; 921 children in which 23% of the fathers had improved relationships with their children and over 90% participated in child and father activities. He said over $72,256 was paid in child support in 2018 and they saved taxpayers over $1.2 million dollars through jobs and not jail. He said in Darlington they served over 400 participants since 2017 and has saved taxpayers in Darlington County $105,000. Mr. Blathers said his Director wants to schedule another meeting in which they will request funds for their program, and they wanted to make sure Council knew the impact that Man-to-Man had here. Mr. Blathers said they are looking for an office that they can use here. He said with their program participants are

provided with a meal at their meetings and they also provide transportation for them. Mr. Blathers said through a strong fatherhood program they can make fathers a part of their children's lives. He said no matter what background the fathers come from or where they come from they need to make sure they can be fathers to their children. He said they are here to work with the citizens of Darlington, City Council and anyone that wishes to volunteer to work with their program. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Blathers how many they represent in the City of Darlington and he said, "forty". Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. Blathers when do they meet in Darlington? Mr. Blathers said every Wednesday at 4:00 PM at the Florence-Darlington TEC in Hartsville. Mr. Blathers said they pick the participants up and take them to Hartsville.

PEE DEE RTA – MR. DON STRICKLAND

Mr. Strickland, Interim Executive Director for PDRTA, said he wanted to give Council an update on the bus ridership. He said the service itself is doing great. Mr. Strickland said the operators are doing a wonderful job promoting the service because they will stop when they see someone walking, they will stop, open the door and ask if they know about the bus service. Mr. Strickland said residents have become more aware and they know it's a safe, dependable ride. Mr. Strickland thanked the City for previous contributions to help them sustain the service. He said 75% of their funding comes from the Federal Government; they get approximately 15% from the State and they need approximately 15% on the local level. Mr. Strickland said through the State they have been able to secure some new technology. He said anybody with a smartphone will be able to track where the bus is. He said they will be able to share this with the hospital, Pee Dee Healthcare and all the different locations. Mr. Strickland said the Darlington-Florence commuter bus is not doing as well as the DART bus. He said the Saturday service is still doing well. Mr. Strickland thanked Council for their continued support.

HOSPITALITY TAX FUDNING REQUESTS (FREEDOM FEST & VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. Garland said Freedom Fest is asking for $15,000 which is the same amount we have given them the last five years, so he recommends $15,000 to come out if the hospitality tax account. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve $15,000 for Freedom Fest. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.** Mr. Garland said the Veterans Memorial is expanding. We gave them $75,000

in 2013 & 2014 when they were putting it together. They are now requesting $10,000 to add three more walls which room for another 900 plus bricks will be. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion that Council approve $10,000 for the Veteran's Memorial. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

TRASH CONTAINER ORDINANCE DISCUSSION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said she was asked by some members of Council and some residents to look at our ordinance as far as the roll carts themselves being placed on the street and when they are taken in. (Mrs. Rock provided Council with a proposed ordinance) Mrs. Rock said based on research from eight other municipalities (Camden, Florence, Hartsville, Lake City & Sumter), most of them do have a specific time that your trash can is supposed to be put out and a specific time that it needs to be taken back in. She said some of the towns don't list the specific time such as our ordinance; Dillon doesn't list a time and Florence just lists "out of sight until time of collection". Mrs. Rock said the proposed ordinance addresses the pickup point of the roll carton the pickup day set by Council; Roll carts shall not be placed further than 3' from the edge of the curb, on street or roadway, in front of or adjacent to a mailbox, placed in or left in the driveway or roadway as to inhibit ingress or egress or otherwise block traffic or cause a traffic hazard; on sidewalks, entrances, walkways, driveways, streets or on the property of another, etc. She said this would put specific language that the Codes Enforcement or Police Officers could address with an individual. She said the proposal includes adding the notions that injurious items are prohibited. Mrs. Rock said the injurious materials is more of a safety of the employees emptying the cans such as hazardous materials or needles. Mayor Hines asked if we've had any problems with this? Mr. Garland said we've had a few needles that weren't covered and if somebody gets stuck by one they must go to the hospital and get checked out and tested. Mr. Garland said we have also had instances over the years where people will put radioactive waste in the trash and it reads on the Geiger counter such as somebody that's getting chemotherapy and they aren't aware of it. Councilman Milling said what about diabetics that need to use needles. Mrs. Rock said you would want to make sure that they are put in some sort of container, so it won't easily stick someone. She said container liners are permitted; containers shall be moved by producers to curbside no earlier than 5 p.m. on the day preceding collection & returned to side or rear yard of property no later than 8 p.m. on the day of collection; a householder who

fails to remove a container from the curbside within 24 hours after the designated collection day shall be in violation of this article; Backyard garbage service to disabled persons with physical handicaps may, at the direction of the public services director, be provided when there is not one in the residence, or employed by the household, physically capable of moving the roll cart from the backyard to the curbside. A doctor's statement of disability must be furnished to substantiate existence of disability. Mayor Hines said, "The Senior Citizens that fill out the form, as it stands now, they go pick up their trash and put it back"? Mrs. Rock said, "Yes". The proposed ordinance further states roll carts and the surrounding area shall be kept in a sanitary condition by the householder or tenant. Repair or replacement of roll-out carts under normal wear and tear or because of negligence of city collection forces shall be the responsibility of the city. Any repairs or replacement due to negligence of the property owner or tenant shall be the responsibility of such party which our current ordinance doesn't say anything about that. Councilwoman said she wanted to go back to #7. She asked, "with this statement in there, our city worker can go and get the cart"? Mrs. Rock said this just codifies that. Councilwoman Reed said. "Right now, the workers say they can't do all of that. Like the seniors in my neighborhood, we go pull them out". Mrs. Rock said household garbage shall be placed in roll-a-waste containers so that contents shall not extend above the rim of the container which shall always be closed except when filling and emptying. Mrs. Rock said for the purposes of enforcing Sec. 70-1(e) notice of violation shall be issued by police officers, codes enforcement officers or any other person authorized to enforce municipal ordinances. Mayor Hines asked what happens around Christmastime when people have a lot of trash. Mrs. Rock said, I think that's probably an exception. Mrs. Rock said any such person found guilty of violating this article shall be fined no less than $25.00 or no more than $100.00 plus authorized costs and assessments. In lieu of the monetary fine, the court may impose litter gathering labor or other such public services. Mrs. Rock said the City of Hartsville and the City of Lake City their penalties are $100-$500 plus costs or 5-30 days in jail. Councilman Milling said, "Can we put something in there where Codes enforcement or somebody does have the ability to exercise some discretion as the Mayor said"? Mrs. Rock said we can certainly add or take out anything you want. Councilwoman Bruce asked, "You said there were a lot of complaints from citizens". Mrs. Rock said, "We had several citizens that complained over the years for various locations". Councilman Gardner asked, "When they have these issues, who do they usually call"? Mrs. Rock said, "Howard". Mr. Garland said

sometimes the calls go to Ms. Carroll and sometimes to Alex. Councilwoman Bruce said concerning Item #7, are they asking people to give their personal information as it pertains to their disability"? Mrs. Rock said it could simply be a letter from the doctor saying this person is exempt from taking their roll cart out and not necessarily specifying a reason. Mr. Garland said if you recall during Hurricane Florence they got the list from the Street Department of the folks that have backyard pickup and they used that list to go check on them. Council agreed to have more discussion on this. (Received as information)

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-09 DUKE ENERGY QUARTERLY FRANCHISE FEE

Mayor Hines said usually Duke Energy has paid us annually, but we have asked them to pay us quarterly. Mr. Garland said we usually get our franchise fee from Duke Energy in June, but from a cash flow standpoint we are cash poor in December and January, so we can get some of that money quarterly. He said Duke Energy has agreed to do this, we must amend the agreement that we have with them to show that. Mr. Garland said he checked with Clerk/Treasurer Ms. Pridgen and she agreed it would be nice to have some of that money in December. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to accept First Reading on Ordinance 2019-09 Duke Energy Quarterly Franchise Fee. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Mayor Hines said we will have executive session and we may or may not vote.

REMINDERS

Tuesday June 4, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to go into Executive Session at 7:45 PM to discuss Recreation possible property purchase, Economic Development Possible property purchase, Possible Property Sale) The City of Darlington May or May not vote after Executive Session. All approved the motion.

(5 MINUTE BREAK)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 8:26 PM, which was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus.

Mayor Hines said in Executive Session we talked about recreational possible property purchase. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion that we make an option to purchase the property $2,500 down payment for a 120-day option.** Mr. Garland asked that somebody read the parcel numbers. Councilwoman Elaine Reed we will pay $2,500 to obtain the portion of 166-00-02-001 fronting on US Highway 52. **Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion.** Mayor Hines said option as tax parcel 166-00-02-054 as a portion of 166-00-02-001 (all except the frontage) for a sum of $2,500 as a deposit. **All approved the motion.**

Mayor Hines said the next piece of property discussed was 101 Exchange Street. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion that we approve the release of 101 Exchange Street to Victor Webster (Webstar Properties, LLC) on the condition that City Attorney Kevin Etheridge gets all of the appropriate paperwork. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Mr. Garland said Budget Work Session will be Thursday night at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
BUDGET WORK SESSION
THURSDAY MAY 9, 2019 AT 6:00 PM

The City of Darlington held a Budget Work Session in the Old Council Chambers on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland; Council Members: John Segars, Elaine Reed, and Sheila Baccus. Others in attendance included: City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mrs. Anna DeWitt and Mr. Bobby from the News & Press.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order and chief Kelvin Washington did the invocation.

MR GARLAND – OVERVIEW OF 2019-2020 BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Garland said we have a surplus for the 2018-2019 budget year due to all the hurricane money we received. He said revenues are down this year in some areas. He said we still don't know what we can do as far as a millage increase because we don't have the numbers yet on the census data. Mr. Garland said the local government fund has gone up about $7,000 but it's still only funded about 79% of what we should receive. Mr. Garland said building permits are extremely high, but Mr. Gainey will address that when he gives his budget overview. Mr. Garland said Ms. Karen Carroll has worked understaff most of the year but has done an outstanding job despite that. He said he wanted to compliment Ms. Pridgen and her staff for working with Webster Rogers to help get them out of here, so we can start working with next year's audit. He said the Brittingham Group out of Columbia, SC has been engaged to be our next audit firm and they have been working to get information together for our 2017-2018 audit. Councilman Segars asked, "If hurricane money has come in is there any chance it could go into the reserve fund rather than the general fund"? Councilman Segars asked, "Didn't most of it come out of the reserve fund"? Mr. Garland said, "It did, but there's only been very few years where the reserve fund has been static". He said the reserve fund is our "operating fund" and we take from it and most of the year there's not much in it except maybe in June. He said that's one of the things they talked about with the cash flow issue that we have in December and January and that's why we wanted the money from Duke Energy on a quarterly basis to help with our

cash flow problem. Mr. Garland said he's not been able to address the reserve fund properly in a way that he feels good about. He said based on the plan submitted in 2002, we're supposed to set aside $100,000 for the general fund and $50,000 for the water & sewer fund, but we haven't done that this year. Councilwoman Reed said, "So, the reserve fund is truly supposed to be a reserve fund"? Mr. Garland said, "Yes, that's correct". Councilman Segars said it was designed so that we wouldn't have to borrow money to finish up the budget year and we could borrow from ourselves and pay ourselves back.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET OVERVIEW – FIRE CHIEF PAT CAVANAUGH

Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh said the biggest thing this year is to purchase an additional pickup. Chief Cavanaugh said they talked about trying to get two vehicles, but he, Mr. Garland and Chief Washington looked at the numbers and it's not possible to do it right now, so they'll put an additional one on and as soon as the new budget comes, they will work on getting a third one. Chief Cavanaugh said line item 217 (auto operating expense) is the fund used for fuel or when vehicles break down. He said they had a rough year because they had some vehicles to break down. Chief Cavanaugh said they had a trailer parked out back and for the first time in 10-12 years they had an outside company come and go over those things head to toe. And they also received a federal inspection to make sure those things were up to par. He said that gives them a list of problems that we may have and that we can start working in as budgetary concerns and handle all the big things first. Chief Cavanaugh said it costs a little more on the budget, but it covers them in case something does happen. He said on line item 226 (maintenance and service contracts), they usually budget about $4,500 but they are on the Palmetto 800 system with Motorola and they have a VHS system that they must maintain. To be in the federal system and state mutual aid, we must be in the Palmetto 800 system. Chief Cavanaugh said everything else is close to what it was last year, and he usually tries to keep it that way. Councilwoman Reed asked Chief Cavanaugh what line item shows the truck purchase and he said line item 293. He said they will continue paying for the one and add the second one on. Councilman Segars asked Chief Cavanaugh if he was purchasing a new truck and he said, "Yes, they are purchasing". Chief Cavanaugh said they've got a 4% interest rate and the first truck will be theirs in roughly three more years. He said they are buying the truck turn key and will get the radios and get it striped locally which saves them money. He said instead of ordering the truck and if it

costs $30,00 and will cost $15,000-$20,000 to get it outfitted, you will be paying interest on $50,000 instead of on $30,000. Chief Cavanaugh said they got Raceway Chevrolet to come in and they have agreed to work with them. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, technically now, you only got two vehicles that's old"? Chief Cavanaugh said, "Yes". Mr. Garland told Council when they look at revenues in a few weeks, they will see that the fire district revenues are up a good bit. Councilwoman Baccus asked Chief Cavanaugh about the Cost Recovery Program he mentioned last year. Chief Cavanaugh said he, Police Chief Washington and Mr. Garland have been working with the City Attorney on this. He said they have given the City Attorney (Kevin) some ordinances to look at and choose the one that best fits the City. Chief Washington said that's the biggest thing now, getting the ordinance written up so they can present it to Council and have something that will past the test the first time as opposed to submitting it and then having to go back and rewrite it and bring it back again. Chief Washington said he wanted to add a couple more things to the Fire budget. He said one of the things he recognized early on in January when he started working with the Fire Department was that there was a couple of areas in their budget where there were deficiencies as it relates to operating procedures. Chief Washington said he, Chief Cavanaugh and Mr. Garland sat down and looked at it and there have been increases in operations. He said he told the firemen at their meeting that Mr. Garland found some money and there were some increases put in place.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET – CHIEF KELVIN WASHINGTON

Chief Washington said, for the most part, his budget is pretty much the same. He said there's a 25% increase in travel and training because at some point and time, all his staff will receive training including the administrative staff. He said training helps with morale. Chief Washington said line item 279 (other operating expense) was increased a little. He said his goal was to keep what he had and help Chief Cavanaugh with the Fire Department as best he could. Mr. Garland asked Chief Washington to give Council an overview of the lease program and how it's going. Chief said the lease program with the narcotics vehicles is going really well. The whole process with Enterprise was an easy process to get involved in, but it hasn't been and easy process to manage. He said their billing is some of the worse billing in a corporate company that he's ever worked with. Chief Washington said we would mail payments to Enterprise long before the due date, but the account would never show a payment being made. Chief Washington said, "The

company would call us saying they haven't received our payment, so I would get Ms. Pridgen to check the bank account to see if the check cleared and sure enough the check would have cleared the bank". He said he would go through this almost every month. Chief Washington said he met with a representative from Enterprise yesterday and expressed his displeasure and our concerns and told him it's doubtful we will continue in this partnership with them because of that. Chief Washington said the narcotics vehicles and how we have that set up is a win-win for the City because we're purchasing the vehicles at such a low price and reselling them at a higher price, so they are paying for themselves. He said at this point tonight he would not recommend to Council for us to continue that partnership. Councilman Segars asked Chief Washington where was the guy that sold us the plan and wanted to know if he is involved in any of the conversations. Chief said he is in Columbia and he has not spoken with him. He said he thinks his boss and the young lady from Hartsville that manages this area sent emails to him and Mr. Garland requesting a meeting. Mr. Garland said what Chief Washington is not telling them is Enterprise would have someone call from the collections department call him and say, "You owe this money, why haven't you paid it yet"? Mr. Garland said they did this for five months in a row. Mayor Hines asked how much longer do we have? Chief said that would be up to Council. He said the question would be, do you want to finish out just these cars that we have, which would be the recommendation that he would make and then we won't do it anymore. Councilwoman Baccus asked Chief Washington to give an update on traffic tickets. Chief Washington said he's been here now about sixteen months, so coming in, the guidance he got from Council was that they wanted the Police Department to be a little bit more involved in the community, which is what they have done. He said because of that, they are not writing as many traffic tickets. He said there's a lot of factors involved in this. Chief said back in 2018 and years prior, his understanding was that this department was heavy, heavy handed writing tickets. Back in 2017 the General Assembly changed how cities could do careless operation. He said prior to July 2017, if a person got a ticket, they could pay a higher fine with no points and the City would keep 100% of the fine and they could do because it was a City ordinance. He said the State changed the law and said any ticket, whether a state traffic ticket or a city ordinance ticket, was going to be subjected to the same assessments, fines and fees as State tickets and our revenues went down and never recovered. Chief Washington said there were a lot of different things that went on that year. In July 2017 was when they had the break-in; there were some issues in the Clerk's office and we got a new Judge around the same

time. Chief Washington said the previous Judge was a little heavier handed than the current Judge. Chief said he and Mr. Garland talked in detail about this. He said the previous administration, the projection they had for a city this size was just too high. He said there were a lot of things that went on in 2017 that were motivating factors. He said when things happen in a department it affects the morale. Councilwoman Reed said, "From what I am hearing you respond, we can conclude that a lot of the revenue…we're probably still writing the same number of tickets, but because of the change in legislation as how the funding is done, would automatically cause a decrease in our revenue". Chief Washington said we're not writing as many tickets and the ability to use careless operation. Mr. Garland said we're able to keep 100% of parking tickets and seatbelt tickets. Chief Washington said it's been a bit of a struggle and the way they're handling it tonight with being open and transparent is the way to go about handling it. Chief Washington said, "I don't think Mr. Garland got the very best advice in the past as it relates to traffic enforcement in this community; it was just not sustainable". Mayor Hines and Councilwomen Reed and Baccus said it's good that training is being offered to the administrative staff. Councilwoman Baccus said she's hearing there's supposed to be a police substation on Avenue D and S. Main Street. She asked Chief Washington if this was so. Chief Washington said, "No ma'am, I've had no formal request about anything of that nature. He said if something like this were to be requested or suggested, he would have to bring it before Council. Mr. Garland said we have had a substation in Bowen Manor and when Chief Washington came on they talked about putting one in another complex. Chief Washington said he and Jamie Steen talked about a substation, but nothing has come of that. Chief thanked Council for giving him an opportunity to serve as Police Chief. Chief said they are trying to partner with the State to update their camera system.

BUILDING & CODES BUDGET– MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said they increased office supply line item because his department has taken on the Zoning Board of Appeals, so his postage line items has increased because of the mailings. He said his training line item has increased because both he and Sheila will be taking more classes. Mayor Hines said line item 271 (specialized departmental supplies) has increased to $5,000 and wanted to know what they purchase from this particular line item. Mr. Garland said suits, codes books, etc. Mr. Gainey said so far, to date they have collected $123,439.23 in permitting fees. He said they were expecting to collect around $140,000 but it will probably be

closer to $150,000. Mr. Gainey said for the 2019-2020 budget they are projecting to bring in $170,000. He increased his demolition budget because he said it costs around $1,900 to take a house down. Mr. Garland said he has news about 375 W. Broad Street (The Lawrence Reese House). Mr. Garland said he called one of his friends from Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation and they preserve old residential structures. Mr. Garland said he is coming to visit next week and see what they can do for that structure. Mr. Gainey said he and Mr. Garland talked about the house the other day. He said if he tried to tackle that house it would cost him $20,000 to tear it down. Mr. Garland said what they do is come in and stabilize a structure and then advertise it nationally for someone to come in and restore it. They act as a holding agent for someone to come in and invest in that property. Councilwoman Baccus said we need to revisit the lots being cleaned up because some of them are not being cleaned well. Councilman Segars asked how does the homeowner get involved in that? Councilwoman Baccus said the owner is not involved. Councilman Segars asked, "Why shouldn't they be"? Mr. Gainey said they send the homeowner a letter telling them the house has been condemned and they have thirty (30) days to either come pull permits or tear the house down. If they don't pull permits or tear the house down, then it's on their list. Mr. Gainey said once we tear the house down, we then send the owner a bill for whatever it costs to tear the house down plus 15% administrative costs. If they don't respond to them or try to make payment arrangements or pay it, then they'll assess it to their taxes and it will show up on their tax notice. (Mr. Gainey used the example of the demolition bill being $2,000 plus the 15% administrative costs) Councilwoman Baccus said, "If we are going to be sending a homeowner a $2,000 bill, then we should be cleaning up the lot. Mr. Garland told Councilwoman Baccus that he and Mr. Gainey has had conversations about this and her standard of clean may not be his standard of clean. Councilwoman Baccus said that's why Council needs to revisit this. She said the way some of those lots are left, it doesn't look good for the City. Councilwoman Baccus said if a contractor was tearing this house down and Alex went out to monitor it, they would be held to a certain standard. Mr. Gainey said, "Yes and no. I've seen houses that contractors have gone in and torn down. Typically, they don't haul dirt in and level a lot off". Mr. Gainey said whenever they start looking at houses that we're tearing down there are two things he takes into consideration- being an eyesore and being a hazard. Mayor Hines said, "With all that being said, but with the house on Chestnut Street that you took down, it is leveled off. You're not doing all of them like that". Mr. Gainey said, "Whenever they took that one down, the

way it was built and the footers and stuff, they had a hole there, so they brought dirt in and leveled it off". He said if they have a house that has a big hole, then they will bring dirt in and level it off. Mayor Hines told Mr. Gainey how he did the one on Chestnut Street is how all of them should be done. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I'm not talking about bringing in a lot of dirt, I'm saying get the tires up, the limbs up, the debris up". She said if we're sending some guy that we paid $7,950 last year to clean up the lots then when they leave there shouldn't be tires left, there shouldn't be sticks and paper left, tons of cans and trash, it doesn't look good. Mr. Gainey said we don't tear a house down and then send the contractor out there to clean the lot up. He only goes out there if a lot looks really bad and I tell him to go out there. Mr. Gainey said Mike has only been doing this a couple of months and before him it was Bleep's Lawn Care. He said they haven't cleaned every one of them, and they can, but you're talking about another $1,000 per lot. Councilwoman Reed said, "What I call cleaning up like on Tallulah Street the house down there is so much debris with tree limbs". She said you really don't have so much trash, but it still looks bad because it's got to be cleaned off. Councilwoman Reed said she understand what its going to cost to clean it, not just picking up the trash. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I'm concerned with the trash". Councilwoman Reed said she is looking at how smooth, even and clear Chestnut Street is, and she is going to try to see if we can't get that done for Tallulah Street or some of the other lots. Mr. Gainey said whenever you're talking about clearing a lot of tires, I don't know what we'll do with the tires because can't take them to the landfill. Mayor Hines said, "Mr. Garland said one time on Council there was something they had once a year where you put your tires out and they would pick them up". She asked, "Is this no longer in place"? Mr. Garland said it was done last month. Mayor Hines asked was it advertised because she didn't hear or know anything about it. Mr. Garland said the County does this now. He said we do the cleanup on the Square instead of that. Mr. Gainey said, "Getting back to Chestnut Street, they hauled in two loads of dirt at the request of the family. He said the family called and asked them to bring the dirt in and level it off since they were tearing the house down. Mr. Gainey said they paid for them to do this. Councilwoman Baccus said she thinks Council needs to revisit the cleaning of the lots and make it clear to Alex what they expect the lots to look like when they are done. Mr. Gainey said, "We can do it, but $70,000 isn't going to do it". Mr. Gainey said if we're going to tear down 10 houses and clean 10 lots, then $70,000 will do it, but if we're going to try and clean the City of Darlington up and tear houses down that are a potential hazard, then we've got to figure out exactly

what they need to do. Councilman Segars said they just have to reduce the number of houses we can tear down and level them off like she's talking about. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I didn't say bring in dirt, I'm not saying none of that; all I'm asking is for you to pick up the trash". Mr. Garland said it's a matter of a difference of opinion over esthetics over how a lot should look. Councilwoman Baccus said, "That's why Council should discuss it and put down the ground rules of how we want it to look once it's done". Mayor Hines said they will discuss this at a later date.

Mr. Garland said he wanted to thank Sheila in the Codes Department for all of the work she's done with FEMA related to Hurricane Florence. Mr. Garland said she was able to streamline everything and get it done during her normal work hours. He said she's an invaluable resource to have there.

Mr. Garland went over the Department 500-Legislative Department, Department 510-Municipal Court, Department 520-Elections, Department 530-Legal, Department 550-Community Promotions & Department 560 - Accommodations Tax. There were no significant changes in these departments.

Mr. Garland said he wants to meet again a week from today (May 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM)

Upon motion of Councilwoman Segars, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY MAY 16, 2019 AT 6:00 PM

The City of Darlington held a Budget Work Session in the Old Council Chambers on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland; Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce, John Segars, Elaine Reed, John Milling, Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner. Others in attendance included: City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Ms. Karen Carroll and Mr. Calvin Holloman.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She said they have things to address for the Special Meeting which is First Reading on Ordinance 2019-10 (101 Exchange Street).

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2019-10 – 101 EXCHANGE STREET

Mayor Hines said we can't do anything about that until we have First Reading, so they can sell the property and we can get our $16,000 and the lady that gave us the property we will give her $8,000. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to accept First Reading on Ordinance 2019-10 – 101 Exchange Street. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion. Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, the Special Meeting ended at 6:06 PM. All approved the motion.**

BUDGET WORK SESSION 6:17 PM

The Budget Work Session opened with prayer by Councilwoman Elaine Reed.

STREET, SANITATION & GARAGE BUDGETS - MRS. KAREN CARROLL

Mrs. Carroll went over her budget line items explaining any increases or decreases. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Carroll if they were doing any better with keeping up with small hand tools and Mrs. Carroll said George is over the grass crew and the small hand tools are managed by him. She said George keeps a log and he hands them out when needed. Mrs. Carroll said there's better security with this now. Mrs. Carroll said she decreased the

radio supply line item because most of the employees rather use their personal cellphones for communication rather than the company radios. Councilman Gardner wanted to know about the employees' rain gear. Mrs. Carroll said they must replace them periodically because they rip and tear when they are climbing. She said at this point she probably could supply them again with rain gear from the boots to the jackets. Mrs. Carroll said in her 630-279-line item is used to pay for the disability workers, the cable for the internet and anything that doesn't fit into the other categories goes here. Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked about the Palmer Pre-Release line item and both Mayor Hines and Mr. Garland said it was a great thing until something bad happened. Mayor Hines said when we had Palmer we had great control over overgrown lots and cutting of the City because they worked and now since we don't have them and don't have enough staff, that's why we can't keep up. Mr. Garland said it's the same thing with the prison farm. He said we had eleven from the prison farm that we use to use when they had a full slot, but we only get one now. Mrs. Carroll said she called about two weeks ago, but they don't have enough people. Councilman Gardner asked, "Why can't we use Palmer Pre-Release again"? Mr. Garland told Councilman Gardner he would tell him after the meeting. Councilman Milling wanted to know what "storm drain extension" was. Mr. Garland said, "It's not so much for an extension, but let's say like the one that's near your house that collapsed a while back, that's near the two convenience stores at the bottom of the hill on Cashua we had to have that rebuilt". Councilwoman Reed asked, "So it's more what, maintenance"? Mr. Garland said it's just there in case we have repairs. If DOT won't do it, we have to do it". Mr. Garland said the overall total of the 630 budget includes a $1.00 increase of the sanitation fee. Mr. Garland told Council if they want to pave some roads they could increase it to $2.00. He said a $1.00 increase would be $35,196; $2.00 would bring in another $35,196. Mrs. Carroll asked if the sanitation fee was for residential and Mr. Garland said residential and commercial. Mr. Carroll told Mr. Garland she was going to suggest that he raise the fee but raise the commercial $1.00 more than the residential. Mr. Garland said you'll only raise about $4,000 on the commercial because you don't have that many customers. Mrs. Carroll asked if we could do both and raise the commercial more than residential. Mr. Garland said if you raise both to $2.00, then that would bring in another $35,196 because he already has $35,196 plugged into the budget. Councilman Gardner asked, "There's no way we can go about this without raising rates"? Mr. Garland said, "If you've got the need it's either that or cut from somewhere else. It's either cut jobs or services from somewhere

else. Mrs. Carroll said raise the residential to $23.00 and raise the commercial to $25.00. She said she don't think that's unreasonable for a business. Councilman Milling asked how does this compare to other communities and what they are doing? Mayor Hines said Mr. Garland will research that, so they will know. Mr. Garland said if you want to pave some of these concerns you're going to have to raise the rate. Councilman Gardner said, "I've got no interest in raising taxes, but you obviously sometimes have to raise taxes to be able to get what we need to get done". Councilman Gardner said, "With that being said I'm always worried about taxes or new taxes and then they get eaten up for twenty years". He said he don't want what happened with the storm water where we raised the rate and then we ate it up for fifteen-twenty-plus years. Councilman Gardner said, if we're to do this he wants us to plan on using this for the street department for repairing the roads for the next couple of years. Mr. Garland said another option would be to go back and redo our general fund bond. He said we probably have about 560,000 that's available out of that from the general obligation bond that we did a couple of years ago. Mr. Garland said our bonding capacity went up when we had the reassessment of properties by the County, but then again once that's done your money is gone and the bond payment would probably be for twenty years. Mr. Garland said the final choice would be to take the reserve fund and spend it on paving. Mr. Garland said we just took 40% out of it to pay for the cutter and the vactor truck, so there's probably about $50,000 left. Mr. Garland said we could charge a $50 road fee on everybody's property taxes every year. Mr. Garland said the money would have to be earmarked for specifically for paving city roads. Councilman Gardner said, "But you could do a onetime fee to any property owner in the city of $50 per year for roads and Mr. Garland said, he thinks so, but he would have to research it. Mayor Hines said, "What about if we do it or however many we do, write them down where everybody can see them and then when we do our budget next year, add on some more". Mr. Garland said, "Remember the list that we give you every year or two that shows you where the listings are, that might be the best way to do it." Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "You want to do $50"? She said, "You went from $1.00 per water bill which is only $12.00 per year to $50.00"? Mr. Garland said I was just giving you options. Councilwoman Baccus said you went from $2.00 and that was only $24.00 and then you went from $24.00 to $50.00. Councilwoman Baccus said that's a lot to hit somebody with. Councilman Gardner said you could do a onetime payment of $25.00. He said there's a variety of ways to do it, we're just discussing options. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I think $25.00 is

reasonable, but $50.00 is just too much". Mr. Garland went over the sanitation and garage departments. Mrs. Carroll said the expenses on residential recycling is an average of $3,500 a year. She said this is when we take recycling to Sonoco. She said this is very minimal in her opinion. Ms. Carroll said she thinks we need to hold onto our residential recycling. She said Pluff Mud does our commercial recycling and we don't get any revenue from them. We pay them $4,830 for a service and we don't get anything back from them. Mr. Garland said we could cut that and save a little bit on money. Ms. Carroll said they have e-waste which is the electronics which they must collect separately. She said they just started with this new service for them to come around and collect once a quarter. Ms. Carroll said if it holds like they think it will, it's going to cost approximately $6,000 to dispose of the e-waste. Councilwoman Reed asked, "With the e-waste, all I've got to do is put the waste by the road"? Ms. Carroll said you put it on the road and we manage a couple times every other week to go around and collect the e-waste. Councilman Gardner said, "I didn't think we could do that. I thought you couldn't put anything on the side of the road except trash cans"? Ms. Carroll said, "e-waste because it has to be picked up separately and dispersed separately". Councilwoman Reed said, "I just want to get this clear because I've got a bunch I need to put out there and different ones come to me". Councilwoman Baccus said, "You mean only tv's, right"? Mr. Garland said you can put computers too. Ms. Carroll said do not put it all out there at one time and don't readily just spread this word out because this is not a dedicated position and people are taking it to the recycling stations themselves. Councilwoman Bruce wanted to know what happens if we do away with commercial recycling. Mr. Garland said the City could have to do it. Ms. Carroll said it's only thirty-five customers. She said now that we've got the trailer and the camera, they need a heavy-duty truck to pull the trailer. Councilwoman Reed asked, "Who has that, and Ms. Carroll said nobody, we need to get one". Mayor Hines said, "I thought they said when they were talking that they had one because we asked that question"? Mr. Garland said maybe the water department might have one. Ms. Carroll said for them to pull the trailer with the camera, they're going to need a truck. Ms. Carroll said one of the other things they would like to do is enclose the work area where Kendrick is and air condition and heat it. Ms. Carroll said they would like to have another zero-turn lawn mower. They will probably have to order more roll carts as well. Ms. Carroll said they have two cherry pickers and two new garbage trucks. Councilwoman Bruce asked about the number of staff they have, the description says nine people. Ms. Carroll said they are slotted for nine, but

they have six people working. Councilman Gardner said, "We've been talking about fining people for not bringing trash cans in and I've got no interest in that, but we also brought up about fining people for leaving trash on the side of the road (mattresses and stuff like that). He asked if that was something they wanted to revisit and come up with a plan on? Ms. Carroll said, "you guys are doing a really good job of helping us get that word out that we do not pick up mattresses, furniture, etc. She said as far as backyard pickup on the trash cans, we don't just arbitrarily pick up a senior citizen's can from the backyard unless it's a disabled person. Councilwoman Reed said, "the right-of-way is grown up from Tallulah Street to Washington Street". Ms. Carroll told her whenever you see that just call her. Councilman Milling asked, "Is a 1% sales tax type thing referendum that got voted down by the County, are we eligible to do something like that"? Mr. Garland said we were eligible for part of that, but the County sold it as just being for the courthouse. Mr. Garland said the capability is there to do that, but the school district controls everything. Councilman Milling asked if we would have to do it under the umbrella of the County and Mr. Garland said correct. Mr. Garland said, "As long as they have that need for the courthouse that kind of sucks all of the air out of the room there". Mayor Hines said, "Think about the holes over there near the school by Gandy pool". Mr. Andrews said that's because of 18-wheelers coming through going to Dixie Cup. Mr. Andrews said we need to have DOT put a sign up to stop trucks from coming through there. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland to call or write a letter to DOT. Mr. Garland said he'll call them because a letter will just make them mad.

PARKS & RECREATION – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews said he didn't have a lot of changes to his budget. Mayor Hines asked about Gandy Pool and wanted to know why no money was in the budget line item (700-220.1). Mr. Garland said because it was taken away. He said the County won't let them touch it. Mr. Andrews said the County Administrator does not want his personnel involved with the pool because of the liability issue. Mayor said, "So that means the pool won't open this summer"? Mr. Garland said, "It will open". Mayor Hines asked, "Under who"? Mr. Garland said, "The same folks that did it last year". Mayor Hines said, "Well, what about the problems we had with them"? Mr. Garland said, "If you want to talk about this in executive session, I'll be glad to do that". Mr. Andrews said that's the only pool place around here that will run a pool. Councilwoman Bruce said, So, explain this to me, you work for the County"? Mr. Andrews said, "I am paid by the County and work in

Lamar, Society Hill, and Hartsville". Mr. Andrews said his whole staff works for the County except for the maintenance workers, they are city employees. Mr. Andrews said his line items stayed pretty much the same. He said there's no prisoners at the prison farm and it is taking a toll on the staff. He said it's hard for his guys because there's only three of them. Mr. Andrews said they have been able to use a lot of part-time help especially at night and he will use some of the same part-time help during the day. Councilwoman Bruce asked about the tennis program line item. Mr. Andrews said it was used to help the high school with tennis, but they use it now if there's a busted waterline or something needs to be painted. Mr. Andrews said he just added a hit backboard and it can be used for pickleball or tennis. He said they may look at making it bigger if there's a need for it. He said they may have $200 in the whole project. Councilman Gardner asked if they could put one at the Terrance Carraway Park at the basketball court. Mr. Andrews said they can look at it and see. Mr. Andrews went over Department 725 (Parks). He said Eddie and Willie are doing a great job working in the park. He said last year they did $11,000 in concessions and they will probably do a little better this year. He said they are going to have to look at getting the fryer fixed or get a new one for the Dug-Out Grill. He said they had two fields going last night and they made $256 in concession for two hours. With the fryer they can turn anywhere from $600-$800 a night when they've got all the fields going. (this is just during ball season) Mr. Andrews said they are always buying equipment which costs a lot and the baseball league itself is at 500 kids now. He said they are going to host three state tournaments in Darlington. Councilwoman Reed wanted to know how much the fryer costs because one of her organizations want to do something for the youth. Mr. Andrews said they just got two fryers in Lamar and they were about $2,500 each. Councilman Milling asked about registration fees. Mr. Andrews said our fees are lower than anybody else's fees (Hartsville, Florence & surrounding areas). He said football registration is $40; basketball is $25; baseball and softball registration is $35. He said the trips that the recreation department sponsor is minimal in cost as well. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Andrews about the registration numbers for Little League. Mr. Andrews said we were at 475-480 last year and we're over 500 this year. He said where people posted negative comments on Facebook last year saying it would never happen and it would fail, it's far from a failure. Councilman Gardner asked if they were getting the organization down this year? Mr. Andrews said, "From last year, absolutely". He said it's run in-house now, and Mr. Brantley Jett is the President. He said they have put a board in place of people that are out there and involved in the baseball

league. Councilman Gardner said, "I know that we subsidize some of our county players who have kids playing in the programs. Is there any way we can adjust the rate so that if you live in the City you pay $50 or $40 for your kids to sign up"? "If they live in the County, you pay $50 or $60". Mr. Andrews said Hartsville does this now. Mr. Andrews said, "It hurts the program because if we have a registration fee of $25 and this one's paying $31, the people that are on the fence will say they're not going to do that". Councilwoman Baccus said, "The way you're doing it now, it's actually growing right"? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes ma'am and they're spending money at the ballfield". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So keep doing what you're doing". Mr. Andrews said Pee Dee Vikings will be coming back again this year. He said they used Virgil Wells for practice before the season started. He said it will be the same deal that they had last year. They will rent the field at $150 and they will provide entertainment to the community. Mr. Andrews said they give back to the program by coaching and they will be doing camps this year. Mr. Andrews said he talked with a tree company about cleaning the area around the ditch that runs through the three acres that the City brought from the school district. Mr. Garland asked if we'll get any money for the timber? Mr. Andrews said he'll talk with him and see. Councilwoman Baccus asked if they put the air conditioning in the building yet"? Mr. Andrews said he doesn't know, but he will find out. Mr. Garland said they will need to have executive session in two weeks about the option on the property. Mr. Garland said he added $1,300 to the contingency fund and if Council wants to change it around, let him know where they want the money to go for the different organizations, but they must stay within the $24,500 budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilman Segars, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, to go into Executive Session at 7:30 PM to discuss Municipal Court Judge. Darlington City Council will not vote after Executive Session.

Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Bruce to end Executive Session at 7:51 PM.

Next Budget Work Session will be Tuesday May 28, 2019, 6:00 PM.

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
BUDGET WORK SESSION
TUESDAY MAY 28, 2019 AT 6:00 PM

The City of Darlington held a Budget Work Session in the Old Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland; Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce, John Segars, Elaine Reed, John Milling, Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner. Others in attendance included: City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

MR GARLAND

Mr. Garland said he got news of an RIA Grant Award for the lift stations. Mr. Garland said this is the RIA Grant and this is the match for the EDA Grant for the four lift stations. Part of the match is $268,130. Mr. Garland said they are waiting on word in the next week or two from EDA. Mayor Hines said, "This is not what Pee Dee COG did, this is what Ms. Lathan did".

WATER & SEWER BUDGET – MR. KINSAUL

Mr. Kinsaul went over his schedule of revenues for the water & sewer department noting any significant changes. He said the biggest change is line item 4615. Mr. Garland added $1,500,000 for the EDA/RIA grants with the assumption we'll get them. Mr. Kinsaul said also in the revenues there will be a $60,000 increase from the 3% rate increase in the budget. He said that's the basic changes for the revenue side. He went over each of his 912 (Water Department) budget line items. Mr. Kinsaul went over 914C budget. He said there's an increase in his sewer line repair line item. Mr. Garland said we had so many sewer line collapses but we're going to get reimbursed from Hurricane Florence for sewer line repair that was done on S. Main Street. He said it should be somewhere around $75,000. Mr. Kinsaul said in capital outlay, they have a vehicle purchase of $30,000. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "What vehicle are they purchasing"? Mr. Kinsaul said his plan is to buy a truck, but they haven't purchased it yet. Mr. Kinsaul said Franklin will probably get the new truck because the one he's driving is a 2010. Councilwoman asked what will happen to Frankie's old truck? Mr. Kinsaul said they will probably pass it down. Mr. Garland said sometimes

they transfer old vehicles to the Street Department or the Recreation Department. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "I don't know what that van was that we rode to Sumter in". Mr. Garland told Council if they want to get a van, he'll get some quotes on one. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if we ever did a drainage study? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Not complete, but they've done part here and part there". Mayor Hines asked if they have the maps on it? Mr. Garland said, "We've done smoke tests on different parts of the line". Councilwoman Reed asked if that is considered drainage with the smoke or whatever we're talking about"? Mr. Garland said, "Are we talking storm or drainage"? Mayor Hines said, "The drains going in pipes and checking them out to see, you know". Mr. Garland said, "We did a storm drainage study in 2011. Councilman Gardner said, "Just so I'm clear on what ya'll asking about; you talking about mapping out our storm water system"? Mayor Hines said, "Yes, it needs to be mapped out because with the storm water project, they hit a whole lot of lines that were not mapped out. They didn't know where they were, so it cost the City an extra amount of money, so where is that showing on here"? Mr. Kinsaul said it shows in expenses in 912-227 (machines & equipment) expense. Mr. Garland said it also shows up in 914-278C. Councilwoman Bruce said, "So the work that they're doing now on the new storm water system in Southwest Darlington, you say they ran into a lot of busted pipes"? Councilwoman Bruce asked, "There's no new map that mapped out this stuff since they did the new project"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "The one line they hit three times, they said there use to be a junk yard down there". Councilwoman Bruce said, "Are there records of that knowing now if we have to go back……Mr. Kinsaul started talking and said, "Everybody's got it, but nobody"….Councilwoman Bruce said in the past, there was nothing mapped out; now that we did this new project, do we have something mapped out going forward"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "All that would be is mapping on that new project is what they're doing". Councilwoman Reed asked, "The City Water Department because the problems we encountered was because we didn't have an outline of where the other lines were. Are we now drawing an outline of all of our lines (Water & Sewer)"? Mr. Kinsaul said, we've got the majority of lines. Councilwoman Reed asked, "Are you identifying those things now, so we won't have to question it if anybody else come with a project we'll know what lines and where they are"? Mr. Garland said Mr. Milling put this question before Council sometime in the past. He asked about a GIS System and we got a quote on this. Mr. Garland said Ms. Lathan handed him copies of a quote for a GIS System with license fee for users. Councilman Gardner said, "We would purchase this and then we would have to get someone to go

out and smoke test our lines to identify where they are"? Mr. Kinsaul said you do a smoke test to see if there's a cross connection or a leak. Councilman Gardner said, "Isn't there some organization we can use from the State that we can hire to come in and help us with the mapping and they'll do it in chunks"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Rural Water Association does some of this and the Ervin Group does some as a contractor". Councilman Gardner said he asked about this previously and he thinks he was told we should go through this in chunks and allocate $15,000 per year and systematically go across the City and map out our infrastructure instead of doing it one time. Mayor Hines asked if we can get somebody from Clemson or some place to come in and do that for us"? Mr. Garland said, "I don't know if Clemson does something like that". Mr. Garland said, "I'm sure we can find someone to do that. It's something you'd have to bid out, but I think what we're looking at here is a software system for that". He said what we would do is take the input that we have from Davis & Brown and Hanna Engineering and then put that in there, then we'd see what we have filled in and then we would put that out to have work to be done. Mr. Gardner asked if this has a yearly fee that goes along with it? Ms. Lathan said the $10,000 includes the licensing. Ms. Lathan said, "At one of the budget meetings last year, Councilman Milling asked her to come up with a cost estimate". Ms. Lathan said, "What would be required would be a computer with software, GIS software license (up to 3 users), a 44" plotter (with power filter). She said the scanner is very critical. She said when the construction company is finished installing any infrastructure, they are required per their contract to provide to the City "as built drawings". The scanner will be able to take the blue prints as built, scan it and digitize it so that the City can start building a digital database of all their underground lines. Ms. Lathan said she thinks Darlington county has this GIS software, but she didn't have time to touch base with them, but she did benchmark Sumter County and what they're using. She said county-wide is costing them about $27,000. Ms. Lathan said they allow different users from different counties to tie in to that and get their license, so it's less expensive. She said she is almost 100% confident that Darlington County has a GIS and we should be able to get with them to see if we can just pick up a license, which will be approximately $3,000 - $4,000. Councilman Gardner asked, "Is it an annual fee of $10,000 or $3,000 that you just said"? Ms. Lathan said it's going to be an annual fee and she put $10,000 which is a good figure to use for budgeting. She said we can then get with Darlington County and see if there's some way we can leverage off of that. Councilman Gardner asked about the scanner and who would run the GIS software. He

said, “Wouldn’t that be another employee”? Ms. Lathan said, “Yes, more than likely”. Councilwoman Reed said we need this system because of the problems we’re encountering now. She said along with this system we’re going to need somebody that knows how to do all of that. Councilwoman Reed said, “With $22,840 for the system, we’ve got to think of personnel”. Mr. Garland said we can add another $40,000 to that for the person that’s going to be doing the job. Councilman Gardner said it’s got to be more than that. Mr. Garland said it could be more. Councilman Segars said, “We would be better served if we contracted that out to somebody like Ervin Engineering who has the software and have the people that’s smart enough to use it, run it, and digitize it”. Mr. Garland said, “Unlike the general fund, we have some cushion in the water & sewer fund, so if they want to do this and do it inhouse, we could do it”. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he could talk to Ervin Engineering. Councilman Gardner said, “I completely agree on this and would love to do it, but I think this is a little like putting the cart before the horse”. He said, “We could take the $22,000 and study our infrastructure and find out where all of our pipes are and use this fund for a couple of years to map everything and once we have a good map of everything, then we can figure out how to utilize it best”. Councilman Gardner said, “But to purchase a system that’s going to cost us ten grand a year potentially, I’m going to say seventy-five grand because there’s going to be retirement and all that stuff, plus the software licensing fees”. He said, “You’re spending $50,000 that we can spend in getting a full comprehensive storm water plan and getting a full understanding of where all of our pipes are”. Mr. Garland told Council he doesn’t mean to be rude, but we have an executive session and other departments to cover. Council agreed they need to revisit this because this needs to be discussed. Councilwoman Reed said, “Even if we contracted somebody else, we would be paying about this amount of money, right”? Councilman Gardner said, “You’re right, but we would have $75,000 a year plus paying somebody to go out and map the system”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “Not if it’s done in house”. Councilman Gardner said, “But we don’t have the person in house that could do the engineering”. Mr. Garland said, “We can rejigger the budget with some work to do that; it’s just that it would have to be done either next year or we could go ahead and have first and second readings on this and then we can amend the budget to include it, but it will have to be amended later on”. Councilman Gardner said, “You’re cutting us off from being able to discuss the issue and then trying to add it to the budget”. Mr. Garland said, “I’m just giving you your choices, that’s all”. Councilwoman Baccus said her question concerning all of the water leaks in the City. She said, “Explain to

me how much money we've lost as far as the water leaks we've had in the City because of the time frame it takes to fix the water leaks"? Councilwoman Baccus said there was a water leak on Jordan Street and she let Mr. Kinsaul know and she told Howard, but in three days the County fixed the water leak. She said they have water leaks on Farm Street and fifty other places and it's two or three months before a water leak gets fixed. Councilwoman Baccus asked how they prioritize fixing these water leaks. Mr. Kinsaul said, "They try to fix the one that's the worst -the larger lines, where it's at and what it's doing. Mr. Kinsaul said it looks like a lot of water, but it's not. He said they had six on Carol Drive at one time. He said it takes a week to get a locate unless you do an emergency, but you can't do them all on "emergency" because 811 is going to scream that you're playing with the system. Mr. Kinsaul said that's probably what the County did that day; they probably did an "emergency" locate. Mr. Kinsaul said the last time he talked to the County they had seventy-five leaks in one day. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Let me understand this. We pay to have this water clean to run through our lines for the citizens, right"? She said we pay to have this water treated to come through our lines, so then we're going to let it run three months on the ground? Mr. Kinsaul said most of them don't go three months. He said, "When they have to work two months on a sewer, a lot of leaks backed up because we had the whole crew working on the sewer". Councilwoman Bruce said, "The bottom line is that there is a problem and it was a problem long before many of them got on Council". Councilwoman Bruce said, I am sure these discussions are the same discussions from twenty years ago. At some point the discussions have got to stop and we've got to make a decision on what we're going to do to fix it". She said, "We can look at this (she told Ms. Lathan she did an excellent job explaining it) the comparison between what would be more feasible because it needs to happen; how it happens is the question". Mr. Kinsaul said, "That don't fix one water leak". Councilwoman Bruce said, "It doesn't fix a water leak, but it gives them something to look at to see where the problems are". Mr. Kinsaul said until you dig it up, you don't know it's there. Councilwoman Reed said, "But I thought this system help identify". Mr. Kinsaul said, "Oh no, you've got to tell that system where that water line is at". Councilman Gardner said, "First off this isn't for water lines, we're talking about doing this for storm water. He said, "But your sewer we can put it all in this system per se". Councilwoman Reed asked about the scanner…. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Didn't Mr. Gardner table this and we went on to something else, now you're going backwards". She said we tabled that conversation for later. Mayor Hines said we have something else

at 7:00 and we need to move on. Mr. Kinsaul said nothing changed in his 914T budget. Councilwoman Baccus asked if 912 (water distribution & maintenance) is where the expenses for where we pay to have the water …Mr. Kinsaul said department 912 pertains to everything related to water. He said 914C is the sewer pipes. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know why the operating expenses go up. She wanted to know why it increased from $482,000 & $536,000. Councilwoman Baccus said she is assuming the $482,000 includes those hundreds of gallons of water we wasted on the ground. Mr. Garland said $482,00 is the current budget year and $536,000 is the estimated expenditures for next year. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know why they raised the amount. Mr. Garland said because they expect the expenses to go up some. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. Garland if that was where they are seeing the expenses for the water leaks. Mr. Kinsaul said that would be anything pertaining to water. Mayor Hines asked, "Mr. Kinsaul is there any way to tell how much it costs extra when all of these things happen, the water leaks, etc."? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Not to calculate how much water, because nothing is measured". Mr. Garland said, "I guess the question would be how much water do we use a day, and then what is used in a house a day multiplied by the number of customers to come up with a number. Councilwoman Baccus said, "At the end of the day, the point is, it shouldn't take two months to fix a water line". Mayor Hines asked, "Are we understaffed the reason why it took so long"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "They had the Lee Street cave-in and the S. Main Street cave-in, and the entire crew worked there for a couple of months". Mr. Kinsaul said, "So, yes, they are understaffed".

MS. LATHAN

Ms. Lathan said some of the residents in the neighborhood that the Joe Louis pump station supports are concerned and wanted to have full assurance that there's maintenance dollars in the City budget that would ensure that J.L. pump station is properly maintained, and any repairs would be made until the new pump station is put in. Mr. Kinsaul said it's been maintained and one of the workers checks it every day. Ms. Lathan said, "So the short answer is yes there's money in the maintenance budget for repairs" and Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes".

MR. GARLAND

Mr. Garland went over the consumer price index figures which is 2.44% so if council wanted to raise millage they could by this amount. Mr. Garland said some councilmembers have been upset that we're not paving streets so

he's going to give them this option – If they want to raise millage this year, they can because we have 2.44% consumer price index increase. He said our current millage is 131.4125; the millage increase is 3.2; a mill in the city of Darlington is worth $17,929 so if you wanted to raise this just for paving the streets, you could raise 3.2 mils and it would bring in about $57,370. The new millage would 134.6125 if council chooses to do the increase. Mr. Garland asked Council if they want to consider doing this or want him to forget it and move on? Mr. Garland said he would also have to update our City street listing because DOT has added another street therefore we have 43 streets now. Mr. Garland said Keith Evans did some work on Columbian Street without getting an encroachment permit, so DOT gave us that street saying he didn't follow proper procedure. Mr. Garland said the first block of Columbian Street between E. Hampton and E. Broad Street, we own now, because of that. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "So, what did he do to it"? Mr. Garland said he put in seven apartments. Councilwoman Baccus said" Didn't he have to get a permit"? Mr. Garland said he got a permit from the City to put in the buildings, but he went ahead and built too close to the road. Councilwoman Baccus asked who the inspector was at that time and Mr. Garland was said he thinks it was Henry Chapman. Mayor Hines said, "Didn't Mr. Chapman come in on the end of that, and it had already started or something"? Mr. Garland said Mr. Chapman was building inspector at that time. Mr. Garland went over the total property tax collection total which includes the property taxes. local option sales tax, homestead exemption, & manufacture's exemption. Mr. Garland said he broke this down because a few years ago councilmembers didn't understand how the property taxes were broken out, you thought that the property tax was the first line in our revenues. Mr. Garland said councilmembers also asked for a sanitation service survey and he called around to several difference towns/cities in our area, so he provided them with his findings. Councilman Gardner asked, "Wasn't that $1.00 for the roads"? Mr. Garland said, "No, the $1.00 is used just for the sanitation". He said we just started getting where we have a reserve fund for the street & sanitation, but we set aside approximately $43,000 of that for the cutter and camera. Mr. Garland said another idea for the future. He said we currently have inhouse garbage collection, but we could farm that out and let somebody do our residential garbage service pickup. He said out of the seven towns/cities that he got sanitation rates on, three of them have companies that do their residential sanitation pickup. Mr. Garland told Council if they are serious about doing this they can bid it out and look at it. He said we can also bid out the commercial garbage pickup which is currently handled by Waste

Management. Mayor Hines said, “We just got that new truck; we don’t need to bid it out just yet, we’ve got to get the use out that new garbage truck we brought”. Mr. Garland said you’d be surprised how quick a truck breaks down. Mr. Garland said the reason he is bringing this up is that the conveyer belt at the County broke down again so the last three weeks we’ve had to drive to Bishopville everyday (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday). On Friday they take recyclables to Sonoco. He said it’s a concern because if the County decides not to do this anymore, we would have to drive to Bishopville every day. Mr. Garland told Council it’s just for consideration. Mr. Garland continued to go over the schedule of revenues, summary of expenses for the General Fund (Personnel) which gives a breakdown per department. Mr. Garland called council’s attention to personnel cost for the police department which is over $2 million. He said that’s the cost of doing business when you have 31 employees in one department. He said the police department is our largest department. Mr. Garland went over the operating expenses for each department; Capital Outlay for each department and the general fund recap. Mayor Hines said, “The loft apartments, the 30-year phase one, the second year-18years how much time d we have on each one and where is it located in the line item”? Mr. Garland said, “For phase 1, you’re not going to have a line item for that until 2037. Phase 2 is line item 4260. Mr. Garland said they haven’t made a payment in three years. Councilman Gardner said, “Hold on, downtown loft apartments haven’t made a payment in three years”? Mr. Garland said, “Let me explain that. They based that on the number of apartments that they rent, and it’s written into the agreement that was signed in 2007 or 2008 that if they rent the apartments full, we’ll get some money back, if they don’t we don’t get anything”. Mayor Hines said, “I didn’t vote for it ya’ll, to let ya’ll know”. Mr. Garland said out of 10 years, they have probably paid us three years. Mayor Hines said, “With all of the mildew and with all of the mold that’s in those buildings when they finish with them, they revert back to us, right”? Mayor Hines said, “We can’t do nothing with them, they’ll be so rotten”. Mr. Garland said, “We held payment from them for two years because they weren’t addressing code issues”. He said we finally paid them within the last 2-3 months approximately $60,000-$62,000 for revenue from the retail rents and money for the water bill ($10,800 a year). Mr. Garland said since they have not been good corporate citizens, they’ve sent them letters saying they are breaking the City’s building code and they’ve been given a certain amount of time to fix the deficiencies in the apartments and the retail spaces. He said if they don’t do that, then we’ll take them to court. Councilman Gardner asked, “What if it’s not done”? Mr. Garland said, “Then we’ll start fining

them". Councilman Gardner asked, "Can we take them over, can we condemn it". Mr. Garland said, "No, we don't want to take them over, then we'll be responsible for fixing them". Councilwoman Bruce asked, "when was the last time we communicated with them on this"? Mr. Garland said within the last six weeks we have sent them letters. Mr. Garland said he has talked with some of the regional managers and they said in March and in April that somebody was coming down to look. He said he has called the tenants and the lady at the Chamber and she said someone showed up but all they did was put Clorox on the wall to wipe some of the mold away. Mayor Hines asked if we were having this problem before the previous owner passed away and Mr. Garland said, "No". Mayor Hines said, "When we did this long time ago, I spoke out against it, Annette Thomas and myself. We didn't vote for it because we felt it was a bad situation and it has turned into something really bad now and it never should have been done. Those buildings were dilapidated then; I mean it turned out to be a pretty good thing, but now we're suffering for it and after we get money from the five or six retail spaces and we're having problems now and we've got so many more years to deal with this, that's just a loss". Mr. Garland said, "We asked several years ago, I think starting in 2012, to put this as a note in the audit because if I'm alive I would come to Council in 2037 and say, "Hey these things are due you now, but there's a reversion clause in there that those buildings go back to the City". Councilwoman Reed said, "We must have an avenue of some kind of way to revisit the contract because they are already out of compliance on some things". Mr. Garland said, "We are doing what we can based on the law".

5 Minute Break

Councilwoman Baccus made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:12 PM to discuss the Municipal Court Judge. Darlington City Council will not vote after executive session. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Reed made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Baccus to go out of Executive Session at 7:35 PM.

Mayor Hines said there was a discussion in executive session, but there will not be a vote tonight.

Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer