CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – JUNE 4, 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, Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mrs. Rosena James, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Winifred & Brenda Harrington, Mr. Linwood Epps, Ms. Rita Buck, Mr. Will Isgett, Eva Mae Evans, Anna Dewitt, Ernest Boston and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, Seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to approve the *Minutes of May 7, 2019*. All approved the motion. Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to approve *the Minutes of May 9, 2019*. All approved the motion. Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the *Minutes of May 16, 2019.* All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for June 4, 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 DDRA's "Bringing Downtown Alive" Concert series will kick-off Thursday, June 27, 2019, from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM with Radio Vibe performing, Darlington Cruisers Car show, vendors and more. Mrs. Rock said the evening is sponsored by Pepsi, Wilson Senior Care and Cumulus Broadcasting Radio Station. She said they will be tweaking a few things this month such as moving the band to the street and they will be providing free Pepsi and water to those who attend. She said they still have spots available for vendors and sponsors who make these events possible. She said these events continue the fourth Thursday of the month through September except during Race Week when it will be on a Friday night. Mrs. Rock said businesses, individuals, civic groups and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. 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, June 26, 2019 at Takis Diner. She said the breakfast is free for members and $5.00 for others to go toward the meal.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MRS. ANNA DEWITT

Mrs. Anna Dewitt said Ms. Harriett Hobbs could not be at the meeting, so Ms. Dewitt gave the report for her. Mrs. Dewitt said the Carolina Brotherhood is a group of first responders from South Carolina & North Carolina that will do a 600-mile bike ride through South Carolina in memory of the fallen first responders and two canine offers that lost their lives in 2017. Ms. DeWitt said they will be riding through our city on June 27th at lunchtime. She said the City of Darlington and first responders must welcome these courageous riders with signs and flags. She said Curtis Boyd will generously volunteer to feed the bike riders at Fitness World Gym located at 1032 Pearl Street. She said the riders will get to our city at approximately 12 noon on the 27th and will be fed and get some rest. Darlington Raceway has invited them to take a lap around "the Lady in Black" and take pictures. Ms. DeWitt said if you would like to volunteer

your time or food items, please call Ms. Harriett Hobbs at the Chamber of Commerce. Freedom Fest will be June 29, 2019 from 5:00 -10:00 PM at the Darlington Raceway. They will have live music, food and merchandise for sale and amusement rides & bouncy houses for the children. Ms. DeWitt said the cost of admission is free; however, this year parking will cost $1.00 per car. The evening will end with a great firework show.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2019-09 DUKE ENERGY QUARTERLY FRANCHISE FEE

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-09 Duke Energy Quarterly Franchise Fee. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-10 (101 EXCHANGE STREET)

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-10 - 101 Exchange Street. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman Milling, who abstained due to a potential conflict of interest.

NEW BUSINESS

A) MR. WILL ISGETT – MISS DARLINGTON USA PAGEANT

Mr. Isgett said he has taken on a new since being out for one year after having brain surgery which is the Miss USA/Miss Universe organization. Mr. Isgett said he hopes to be able to start it here in Darlington on the local level. He said he has worked with Miss South Carolina and Miss America organization about 20 years as a volunteer, but now he has gone into the Miss USA/Miss Universe. He said he is hoping to be able to start here in Darlington. Mr. Isgett said he has assembled a team called Team ELITE which is comprised of business owners and people from Darlington and Florence. He said, "What we'll do for you is: 1) Hold the pageant on August 17th at Trinity Burnes Collegiate School; 2) Promote and raise all the funds for the event; 3) Recruit all contestants; 4) Obtain qualified judges, house

and provide them meals; 5) Conduct the interviews at Darlington Raceway Museum and provide a first class production; 6) Provide the queens with the opportunity to appear at many events throughout the year in the City of Darlington and throughout the State of South Carolina promoting our great City; 7) Be solely responsible for preparing the winners for the Miss SC USA & Miss SC Teen USA Pageant. Mr. Isgett said what they want the Mayor and City Council to do is: 1) For Mayor Hines to be present and give the welcome and help crown the new queens; 2) Asking for all City Council and City Admin to be present with free admission provided to all city employees; Asking for the City of Darlington to provide Team ELITE with $1,000 to help support the pageant.

B) ALLISION CARRAWAY – D AVENUE/SOUTH MAIN STREET PARK

Mr. Curtis Boyd & Mr. Daniel Blathers appeared before Council for Mrs. Allison Carraway because he said she was unable to be there. Mayor Hines asked Council what they thought about Mr. Boyd standing in for Mrs. Carraway since he wasn't on the agenda. Councilman Milling said he had no objection to Ms. Carraway's son and Curtis being speaking and hearing what they have to say. Mr. Boyd had drawings of the memorial park. He said they asked last month if Council would in be interested in supporting the memorial park on D Avenue. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Boyd if they have the 501c 3 and Mr. Boyd said, "Yes Sir, she got everything approved". Councilwoman Bruce said at the last meeting there was a concern about Ms. Carraway having her 501 c 3 designation and Curtis said she has that. Councilman Gardner said we can always vote to approve it without the 501 3 c. Mayor Hines said we'll take it for information tonight. Councilman Milling said, "Lisa previously advised us that it meets all of the City's plans". Mrs. Lisa Rock said, "Yes". Councilwoman Bruce asked Mrs. Rock if everything was in compliance and she said, "Yes". Councilman Gardner said, "We've never asked to see a person's 501 c 3, we've just taken it at face value that they had one and wrote them a check". Mr. Garland said, "We've asked for that before". Councilwoman Baccus said she remembers certain times we've asked people to bring them, so we can see it. Mayor Hines said, "we'll take it for information tonight and Mr. Garland will have to tell us what we have in the account". Councilman Milling said, "Would there be any problem about once the 501 c 3 certificate comes in, having Mrs. Carraway email it or bring it by Mr. Garland's office so it will be available if anybody wants to view it"? Mr. Garland said he will make a copy of it and give it to everybody. Councilman Gardner said,

"Historically, I've never had a 501 c 3 certificate presented to me at a council meeting. Councilman Gardner said, "We've had this on the agenda two times now and if it's alright we can go ahead and vote on the subject matter if we won't to give them the funds and then she can present the 501c 3 to Mr. Garland and he can approve it and cut the check." Mr. Garland said, "Whatever amount Council approve, if they vote to approve it". **Councilman Gardner said he would like to make a motion to approve a $5,000 donation**. Mayor Hines asked if we have the money? Mr. Garland told Council what was recently given to the Cotton Mill, Freedom Fest and the Veteran's Memorial. Councilman Gardner said, "We have $300,000 plus dollars coming in to hospitality tax money, so we have enough to approve $5,000". Mr. Garland said, "With our next budget we're going back to the way we did things in 2017 where each councilmember had control over some funds ($500.00) and if they wanted to give money to an organization, they could". He said this will start with the new budget July 1st. Councilwoman Reed said, "Because we've had, and we have not discussed that since we have had a little bit of opposition, but to vote on it without all of the things that was in question, let's see that and then go back". Councilwoman Reed said, "It won't be that we have to wait to the next meeting because we have meetings all the time". Mr. Curtis Boyd said, "Ms. Reed, you're the one that asked me to come". Councilwoman Reed said, "Yes, that's what I'm just acknowledging and I'm acknowledging as I am saying tonight I am one that like things to be done and I have to pay attention to, particularly those that I represent, and we have not dealt with it". Councilwoman Reed said, I want all of the information and since there's been some opposition I want to see if that address it as what you said that you would, and I haven't seen that yet along with the 501 c 3". Mr. Boyd said the opposition was the basketball court. Councilwoman Bruce said, "There were two things that we asked and #1- the basketball court and that's fenced in". Councilwoman Bruce said, "The question was asked tonight if the specs meet all of the city ordinances and according to Lisa, it does". Mrs. Rock said, "A public park, which is the majority primary use based on the fact that 75% of the property is just a public park; that is allowed in the GC (General Commercial) District". Councilwoman Bruce asked, "So those two things have been met"? Mrs. Rock said, "Yes". Councilwoman Bruce said, "The last thing mentioned was about the 501 c 3 license. You said she was in the process of getting it all approved". According to Mr. Blathers and Mr. Boyd those things have been approved. Councilwoman Bruce said, "I along with Councilman Gardner have never seen an organization present us a 501 c 3 license. She said we can table it with the intentions of getting

the license, but if the license is not there then everything is voided rather than having them come back and forth. Councilwoman Reed said, "You keep saying now that it's a public park, it was a memorial and that's the mindset". Councilwoman Reed said, "For this to happen, it seems like there's a lot of changes that has to be made and that's why I am where I am". She said, "As you're saying, it's a memorial to Terrance Carraway and that was a little different because the community does not want the basketball court there." She said that was the opposition she got. Councilman Milling said, "We don't have a right to tell somebody what they can do as long as they are in compliance and we've already been told that by Mrs. Rock". Councilwoman Reed said, "So we're going to ignore the 200 people on the list in that neighborhood who did not want the basketball court"? Councilwoman Reed said, "It was not in opposition to the memorial." Councilman Baccus said, "Those citizens have to live in that neighborhood and deal with the noise of the basketball court and the traffic of it". She said, "It's in their backyard, and not your backyard". Councilman Milling said, "What is our basis for ignoring an application that meets the terms of our ordinance"? Councilwoman Baccus said, "We're not ignoring it". Councilman Milling said, "All we're deciding on is to fund it for some dollar amount or whether we're not going to fund it". He said, "They have a right to solicit private funds to utilize that property for that purpose, so either the city funds it or they don't. Councilman Milling said we don't have any other issues. Councilwoman Reed said, "The issue came when there was opposition". Councilwoman Baccus said, "There was an issue when the citizens objected to the basketball court". Councilman Milling said, "If you have a legal basis for ignoring an application that's proper…He said we either vote to fund the money or we vote not to fund the money and we don't stop the project". Mayor Hines called to question. Councilwoman Baccus said, "We're just having an opinion". Mr. Daniel Blathers said this is not a recreation park, it is a memorial park that happens to have a small basketball court. Councilwoman Reed said, "We just opened the basketball court on Southern Pine Street and I've already had three complaint calls, so I'm just bringing these issues to you because that's what I'm receiving from the residents." Councilwoman Reed said, "I cannot in good representation as an elected city council, ignore what 200 names signed on the petition that Mrs. Jackson brought, say they would not like the basketball court, not the memorial". She said, "For that to exist over there it's now a public park". Mrs. Lisa Rock clarified why she used the term "public park". Mrs. Rock said what our zoning codes listed in the ordinance, the closest thing to a memorial park was a public park. She said

memorial park was not specifically listed, so the closest thing to it, based on the NAICS, was the public park. She said the basketball court is the secondary use. Mr. Curtis Boyd said he and Allison came up with ideas for the memorial. He said his first thought was to have a full court, but which would attract big guys coming in to play, but this is a quarter court in a fenced in area on the back corner of the property". He said they have a court on the other side of town and thought this would be good for the children on this side of town. Mr. Boyd said the only reason for putting the court there is because Terrance loved working with kids so that was their full purpose and thought behind it. He said their goal is to make something beautiful for Darlington. He said he had not intended to come and ask the City for any money, but Councilwoman Elaine Reed suggested that he do so". Councilwoman Bruce said, "From the Mayor and The City's standpoint; those 200 names that Mrs. Jackson provided, (because those folks don't come to the meeting), but in order to put their minds at ease, maybe have a meeting on the property and invite those folks in that community to come and talk with him and that might settle all of this". Mr. Boyd didn't have a problem with doing this. Mayor Hines asked, "Can we do this on contingency after you meet with the citizens, that if there's any money to donate, we do it after that"? **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve $5,000 for the purposes of the Terrance Carraway Memorial contingent on them producing the 501 c 3 to Howard Garland". Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

C) MAYOR HINES – RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Mayor Hines said about a month or so ago a mother called her and asked what she could do in recognizing her son who had been accepted into the Air Force Academy. Mayor Hines said this young man has done well for getting into the Air Force. She said he has worked with the Eagle Scouts and he has received letters of recognition from Tim Scott, Lindsey Graham, Henry McMaster and a couple more dignitaries. Mayor Hines presented a small "Key to the City" to Mr. Ernest B. Buck, III for his accomplishments and for being accepted into the Air Force Academy.

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-11 – BUSINESS LICENSE FEE

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, First Reading on Ordinance 2019-11 -Business License Fee, which unanimously carried.

E) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-12 – TAX LEVY (134.6125 MILS)

Mr. Garland said this is the increase that Council talked about during the budget work session. He said the consumer price index is 2.44% this year. 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 over $57,000 with all of the money going to pave city owned streets. He gave Council a list of City-owned streets that need to be paved and categorized in A, B, C order with "A" being the most critical. Mr. Garland said most of the streets are owned by SCDOT, but there are 43 that the City owns part of or all of. He said what he would propose to do if they vote on the millage increase is all of the streets that are categorized with "A", they will get bids on it and bring it back to Council and let them decide what will be paved. Mr. Garland said based on the size of our streets, we will be able to pave 3 or 3 1/2 streets with $57,000. Mr. Garland said the owner of a home valued at $100,000 would pay approximately $13.00 more a year on their property taxes. He told Council if they don't want to do it, that's fine, but he will have to readjust the budget. Mr. Garland told Council this is something that they brought to him and he was answering some of their questions that were raised during budget work sessions. Mr. Garland said we still have to have First Reading on budget and what they would have to do is amend the ordinance and go back to the current millage rate which is 131.4125. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2019-12 Tax Levy (134.6125 mils). There was no second.** Councilman Milling asked if could have a First Reading of 134.6125 mils and if they change their minds by the time we have second reading change it to 131.4125. Mr. Garland told Councilman Milling they can't do that. It has to be the same across the board. He said if they don't have first reading tonight, then we have to have first reading at a later date and you have to wait at least 15 days before your second reading. Mr. Garland said we'll go past July 1st without a budget. He told Councilman Milling they can vote to amend the agenda if 5 of 7 of them vote to amend it. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to amend our agenda. There was no second.** Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked for clarification on exactly what impact the increase would have on the budget. Council discussed among themselves whether they should or should not approve the millage increase in order to pave city streets. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2019-12 -Tax Levy (134.6125**

mils). Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

F) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-13 – TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, First Reading on Ordinance 2019-13, which was unanimously approved.

G) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-14 – WATER/SEWER FEE INCREASE

Mr. Garland said during budget work sessions last year Council voted to increase the water and sewer rates 3% each year for five years.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, First Reading on Ordinance 2019-14 (Water & Sewer Fee Increase). Mr. Kinsaul said water and sewer will increase six cents. **All approved the motion.**

H) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-15 SANITATION FEE INCREASE

Mr. Garland said the sanitation fee will increase from $21.50 to $22.50. Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2019-15 Sanitation Fee Increase, which unanimously carried.

I) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-16 (2019-2020 BUDGET APPROVAL)

Mr. Garland said we have to have a Public Hearing at the Second Reading. Mr. Garland said the earliest we can have the meeting is June 19th. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Reed, seconded by Councilman Gardner, First Reading on Ordinance 2019-16 (2019-2020 Budget), which unanimously carried.**

J) BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS
MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Mrs. Rock said there are several boards that have terms expiring and need to be filled. She said staff recommends that Mr. Steve Abbott be appointed to the Historic Landmarks Commission for another term. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman Milling, to reappoint Mr. Steve Abbott to the Historic Landmarks Commission for**

another term, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to reappoint Ms. Rosanne Brasington to the Historic Landmarks Commission for another term, which unanimously carried.
Mrs. Rock said the Board of Zoning Appeals has two seats available. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to reappoint Mr. Parker Howle to the Board of Zoning Appeals for another term, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to reappoint Mr. Calvin King to the Board of Zoning Appeals for another term, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said there is still a vacant seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mrs. Rock said there are several terms that are expiring on the Planning Commission that needs to be filled. She said staff recommends reappointing Mr. Francis Parnell, Ms. Rosalind Baokye and Mrs. Lou Kirchen. **Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to reappoint Mr. Francis Parnell to the Planning Commission to another term, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, to reappoint Ms. Rosalind Boakye be reappointed for another term to the Planning Commission, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to reappoint Mrs. Lou Kirchen to the Planning Commission for another term, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said there are still two seats open in the Planning Commission.

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Councilman John Milling made a motion that Judge Robert Stucks be reappointed for another two-year term for the City of Darlington. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

REMINDERS

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

Mayor Hines said we need to go into executive session to discuss recreation: Purchase of Property for ballfields, Political Sign Ordinance) The City of Darlington May or May not vote after Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to go into Executive Session at 7:40 PM to discuss recreation: Purchase of Property for ballfields, Political Sign Ordinance). The City of Darlington May or May not vote after Executive Session. All approved the motion.

(5 MINUTE BREAK)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 8:48 PM, which was seconded by Councilman John Segars.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman John Segars, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
PUBLIC HEARING
THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 AT 6:00 PM
&
SPECIAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

The City of Darlington held a Public Hearing to hear public comments on The Tax Levy, Water & Sewer Fee Increase, Sanitation Fee Increase and the 2019-2020 Budget Approval. Those in attendance included: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland, Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce, Elaine Reed, Sheila Backus and John Segars. Others in attendance included: Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Codes Enforcement Officer Mr. Alex Gainey, W&S Superintendent Mr. Kinsaul, City Intern Mr. Will Johnson, and Mr. Robert Thomas. City Attorney Mr. Kelvin Etheridge came in after we adjourned the meeting. (Councilmen Bryant Gardner & John Milling were not at the meeting).

Mr. Bobby from the News & Press was present at the meeting.

WELCOME
Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

PRAYER
Councilwoman Sheila Baccus did the invocation.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2019-12 – TAX LEVY (134.6125 MILS)
Mr. Garland said the CPI of 2.44% allows us to raise 3.2 mils so we propose the new millage rate of 134.6125 which generates $57,370 in revenue. Mayor Hines opened the floor for a Public Hearing and hearing no one to make comment, closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2019-14 WATER & SEWER FEE INCREASE
Mr. Garland said we propose to raise our water & sewer fee by an increase of 3% (.28 cents on water & .28 cents on sewer). Mayor Hines opened the floor for a Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2019-15 SANITATION FEE INCREASE

Mr. Garland said the sanitation fee is $21.50 per month and we propose to increase it to $22.50 per month. Mayor Hines opened the floor for the Public Hearing and hearing no one to make comment, the public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2019-16 – 2019-2020 BUDGET APPROVAL

Mr. Garland said the schedule of revenue for the general fund is proposed $6,921,471 and the schedule of revenue for the water & sewer is 3,916,981. Mr. Garland said he propose a 1% increase for salaries and there is no increase in health insurance rates. Mayor Hines opened the floor for the Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the public hearing.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

(None)

SPECIAL MEETING –IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING

SECOND READING ON ORDINANACE 2019-11 BUSINESS LICENSE FEE

Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-11 Business License Fee, which unanimously approved.

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-12 TAX LEVY (134.6125 MILS)

Upon Motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded Councilwoman Elaine Reed Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-12 Tax Levy (134.6125 mils), which unanimously approved.

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-13 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-13 Tax Levy (134.6125 mils), which unanimously approved.

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-14 WATER/SEWER FEE INCREASE

Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-14 Water/Sewer Fee Increase, which unanimously approved.

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-15 SANITATION FEE INCREASE

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-15 Sanitation Fee Increase, which unanimously approved.

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-16 (2019-2020 BUDGET APPROVAL)

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-16 (2019-2020 Budget Approval), which unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 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 – JULY 2, 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, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mrs. Rosena James, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mr. Lee Andrews. Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Will Isgett, Mrs. Anna Dewitt, 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 Elaine Reed, Seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve the Budget Work Session *Minutes of May 28, 2019*. All approved the motion. Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to approve *the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 4, 2019*. All approved the motion. Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to approve the *Minutes of the Public Hearing & Special Council Meeting on June 20, 2019*. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for July 2, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus. All approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock thanked everyone that came out to The DDRA's "Bringing Downtown Alive" Concert last Thursday. The Series continues Thursday July 25th from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM with the Rick Strickland Band performing, Darlington Cruisers Car show, vendors and more. Mrs. Rock said the evening is sponsored by Pepsi, Wilson Senior Care and Cumulus Broadcasting Radio Station. She said the band and stage have moved to the street and thanks to Pepsi they will be providing free Pepsi and water to those who attend. Food and beer will be available for purchase and they still have spots available for vendors and sponsors who make these events possible. She said these events will continue monthly through September. The next event is on August 30th the Friday of Race Week and the last event of the season will be on September 26th. Mrs. Rock said if anyone is interested in helping with any of these events, the concert committee will meet at 6:30 PM, Thursday July 18, 2018 at Joe's Grill to discuss feedback from past events and work on future events. Mrs. Rock said businesses, individuals, civic groups and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. 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 per calendar year 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 next monthly Breakfast is at 8:00 AM, Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at Takis Diner. She said the breakfast is free for members and $5.00 for others to go toward the meal.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –

No one was present to represent the Chamber

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR

A) Mr. Curtis Boyd – Thank You – Mr. Boyd said he wanted to tell everyone thank you for getting it cleared up about when campaigns signs could be put out. He also thanked council for voting to give a donation to the Terrance Carraway Memorial. Mr. Boyd said the bikers came through and they donated $1,000 to the memorial.

Mrs. Anna DeWitt – Ordinance Mrs. DeWitt said with the upcoming election it is important to learn as much as they can about the various candidates and one way of doing that is by checking their voting records which can be done by reviewing the minutes of past meetings. Mrs. DeWitt said she wants to ask council to start following our city ordinance Chapter 2, Article 3, section 2-80(c). This ordinance states that the vote on every question shall be by roll call and the vote by name shall be recorded in the council minutes by the clerk-treasurer. By doing this it will ensure that the citizens of our town get an accurate record in which to form an educated opinion of the candidates as well as leaving a factual record for future generations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A) MR. STEPHEN EDWARDS – DARLINGTON FREE MEDICAL CLINIC - UPDATE

Mr. Edwards said he's a Darlington native that moved away about twenty-five years ago to pursue a career in higher education and he's glad to be back. He said he's been running the Free Medical Clinic since January. Mr. Edwards recognized Ms. Cathy Baxley who he said ran the clinic with compassion for fifteen or more years and has left the clinic in great financial shape. Mr. Edwards said in 1999 Dr. J. Matthews & Dr. Olin Whitener along with a group volunteers felt the need to help Darlington County uninsured residents that didn't have medical insurance. Mr. Edwards said they all came together and put this vision into action in 2000. In 2006 a satellite clinic was opened in Hartsville. He said about three weeks ago Dr. Alex Cohen who has been a volunteer for many, many years saw Darlington's 5,000th patient. Mr. Edwards said since being back, one of the questions he's heard many times is, "Well, with the Affordable Care Act why do we need a Free Clinic if everybody's got insurance"? Mr. Edwards said, "That's not the case". He said according to S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control Darlington County's population of 67,000 in 2018 approximately 60% fall between the age group of those born in 1964. He said 15.6% of that population is uninsured. He said there are 6,200 adults in this County that are uninsured. Mr. Edwards said of that 6,200, 18.9% of the adult population delayed medical care in 2018 due to cost; 5,700 avoidable emergency room visits; 2,200 avoidable hospitalizations. He said these are people who can't pay. Mr. Edwards said this raises the medical costs of

those who do have insurance. Mr. Edwards said those are the ones who the Free Medical Clinic takes care of. He said they don't get any government funding; they do it based on grants, churches, individuals, businesses supporting the clinic. He said 12.9% of the babies born in Darlington are born prior to 37 weeks which significantly increases health concerns. He said 42% of the county's population is obese; 479 cancer instances per 100,000 population and the 10-year stroke mortality rate for Darlington County residents is 7.6% higher than the State average. Darlington County is 36 out of 46 counties in this State for health outcomes which measure length and quality of life. Mr. Edwards said according to the S.C. Best Chance Network Darlington County does have the lowest instance of breast cancer in the State. He said on the other side of that coin is, we also have the highest mortality rate of ladies diagnosed with breast cancer because they are not getting screened. Mr. Edwards said these are all things the Free Medical Clinic can help with. Mr. Edwards gave Council a copy of their services and products and eligibility. Mr. Edwards said, "We have now partnered with PDRTA because many of our patients have to be referred to a specialist in Florence and they don't have the transportation to get there so they can now get on a bus here with the pass we give them so they can get to any specialist at McLeod free of charge". He said effective July 31, 2019, if any of their patients need mental counseling, Pee Dee Mental Health will begin seeing their patients as well as their Darlington clients in their facility on Grove Street. He said they have also partnered with vocational rehab. He said in 2018 alone the clinics in Hartsville and Darlington provided 551 free primary care visits with a value of over $68,000; 891 lab & x-ray referrals with a value of over $134,000; provided 116 specialist referrals with a value of over $26,000; and they provided over 3,100 free prescriptions with a value of over $415,000. They had volunteer physicians, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionist that have provided hundreds of hours with a value of more than $36,000. He said over the course of 18 years that the clinic has been in service that is more than $12 million dollars' worth of free medical care to the residents of Darlington County. Mr. Edwards gave a success story involving a twenty-nine-year-old female (which being that age, didn't meet the criteria to qualify for a mammogram) that came in the clinic a couple of months ago complaining about soreness in her breast and Dr. Tom Dickerson Wilson scheduled the appropriate exams the next day. The Radiologist called them immediately after and said they need to get the lady back in. They met with the lady the next night and the next day they had her at the Oncology Office in Florence. Mr. Edwards said they got a call from the McLeod Foundation saying the lady wouldn't have to pay anything,

she's going through care right now. He said later this summer they will have a full-time provider that will be seeing patients close to 40 hours a week. Mr. Edwards thanked Council for their continued support and told them to be sure to tell folks about them.

B) PARK BENCHES EQUIPMENT – COUNCILMAN GARDNER

Councilman Gardner said there are a couple of things we need to add to the property to make sure we get all of the use we can out of it such as park benches and picnic tables at both parks-The Terrance Carraway Park and the Hampton Street Park. Councilwoman Baccus said if they are going to add benches at the two parks, they also need to add them at the pool. Mr. Lee Andrews passed out pictures of the park benches and tables. Mr. Andrews said Councilman Gardner got with him and he got some prices together that he asked for. Mr. Andrews said the estimate includes The Barn of All Trades which is the same people that's doing the benches for DDRA. He said they will also make the picnic tables for us so they will match. He said the benches and picnic tables will be metal. Mr. Andrews said the estimate he received does not include the pool. Mr. Andrews told Council all he's doing is giving them the prices of what they gave him. He said the custom benches are $475.00 each. He said they plan to put the City seal on them. The picnic tables are 4x4 square with a 12x48 bench on each side. Mr. Andrews said the estimate of $10,607.39 also includes the lumber to finish the fencing at both parks. Mr. Andrews told Council what they don't see on the estimate is a picnic area and that's because he's been approached by a men's group in the area that's interested in building that for them. Councilwoman Bruce said, "When we looked at the original plan of Carraway Park, I thought that was already included in that; the picnic area, the public area". Mr. Andrews said, "No ma'am, it's not included as far as pricing, no ma'am". Councilwoman Bruce said, "I thought I saw it on there". Mr. Andrews said that was the concept for the park. He said a price was never gotten for that. Councilwoman Bruce said, "I thought we talked about a public area". Mr., Andrews said, we talked about it, but there was no price". Councilwoman Bruce said, "I'm talking about the original plan and we voted on a covered area-a picnic area". Mr. Andrews said, "The original plan was for Virgil Wells Stadium and what we're talking about here is Carraway Park and the only thing we've voted on and passed for Carraway Park was the basketball court and the playground area". Councilwoman Reed said, "I know that the plan for Virgil Wells Complex (things changed when we wanted to name it Terrance Carraway); however, once we saw the play area, I thought it was understood that we would still

have fencing and seating". Mr. Andrews said, "the only pricing we have gotten for the Terrance Carraway area is the playground and the basketball court". Mr. Andrews said the benches, nor the picnic shelter has been priced. He said the concept has always been that we were going to put a walking area, the fence and a picnic area at Terrance Carraway Park. Councilwoman Reed said, "I was thinking we still had it in the plan, and these would be temporary because I know funding for the plan was going to be sort of stretched out but coming out there myself to both parks, we've got to get some place for people to sit". Councilwoman Reed said, "Whatever we need to do to follow that, I'm all in favor". Councilman Milling asked Mr. Andrews if the bid was for both the Carraway and the Hampton Street park? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes Sir". Mayor Hines asked Mr. Andrews "What about the exercise equipment that was in the plan"? Mr. Andrews said, "The exercise equipment was crossed out when they added the musical equipment and the dog park". Councilwoman Bruce said, "the dog park was already originally on there". Mr. Andrews and Councilman Milling both said we pulled the exercise equipment. Mr. Andrews went on to say the equipment was pulled because of cost. Councilman Milling said he would give $475 for one bench. Mr. Garland said Mr. Alex Gainey said he'll pay for a bench in memory of his daughter. Mr. Garland said Ms. Lathan said she'll buy a bench as well as Etheridge Law Firm. That will leave the City only having to buy six benches at $475 and 5 picnic tables**. Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the purchase of six (6) benches and five (5) picnic tables and accepting of the gifts from the four (4) honorable people in this room tonight. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion.** Councilman Gardner said, "It was brought to our attention tonight that we had to vote by roll call as stated in our ordinance as pointed out by Mrs. Anna DeWitt. Councilman Gardner said, "When County Council votes they usually start the line and go down the line, but I don't know how we want to go about doing this". Mayor Hines said, "I'm just following protocol, they've been doing this for the 19 years since I've been on Council". Councilman Gardner said, "And we all make mistakes sometime for 19 years, but I'll just start by saying "Aye". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I'll say we'll research the ordinance and then we'll do that at the next meeting after we verify it". **All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said she's been on Council for 19 years and since she's been on Council that ordinance states that we put signs out thirty (30) days before

the election and have to take them back in seven days after the election. She said there was a discussion, but there was no vote on it. She said it was determined that somebody was told they could put the signs up. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland to discuss this and tell what it is. Mr. Garland deferred this to the City Attorney for a legal opinion. Mr. Etheridge said whoever is challenging the ordinance would have to prove that it's unconstitutional, so right now it does remain valid. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Etheridge about private property rights. Mr. Etheridge said as long as it's on someone's private property it would be very hard telling them what they could or could not do. He said the ordinance is all we have to go by right now. Mayor Hines said there is no challenge at the time. She said, "So what you're saying now is that signs can be put out in private citizen's yard"? Mr. Etheridge said, "The ordinance is in effect". Mayor Hines said the ordinance is in effect, it has not been changed and it states thirty (30) days before the election". Councilman Gardner said, "Just for clarity, nothing has been brought towards the State Supreme Court in relation to signs"? Mr. Etheridge said, the only thing we have to go by is the Attorney General ruling in other states. Councilman Gardner asked if anything has been brought related to this and Mr. Etheridge said, "No". Mr. Etheridge said, "Right now the law is valid. Councilman Gardner said, "But, the Attorney General stated specifically that if it was brought to the Supreme Court, it would probably be struck down plus we probably should address the issue". Councilwoman Bruce said, "If I'm not mistaken, this conversation came up because of a sign you (Mayor) had in somebody's yard. Mayor Hines said, "Yes". Councilwoman Bruce said, "Someone challenged that, and that sign was taken out of the person's yard". She said nobody talked about any personal or anything like that and now, all of a sudden, our ordinance might be infringing on somebody's first amendment rights. Mr. Etheridge said nobody brought this before us, so we only have the Attorney General that says if it was brought in front of us it might be unconstitutional. Councilwoman Bruce said, "My concern is our city ordinance said that signs don't go out until thirty (30) days before the election. She said when she ran four years ago that's what she was told, and nobody put their signs out until thirty days (30) before the election. Councilwoman Bruce said, "Now when somebody asked to put a sign in their personal yard, and it gets challenged; then someone goes and takes the sign out the person's yard and now all of a sudden somebody else can take their signs and put them all through the city. There's some inconsistency somewhere in all of this". Councilwoman Bruce said, "Now we're looking at somebody's First Amendment rights but that was never looked at before her (Mayor's) sign was told to be taken out

of someone's yard". Councilwoman Bruce said, "There seems to be some inconsistencies as we talk about this ordinance and infringing on somebody's First Amendment rights". She said, "It's almost like you're changing something to suit certain people". Councilwoman Reed said, "As Bryant just pointed out it has been brought to our attention about roll call as stated in our ordinance and if we are going to start going by the ordinance, then let's start". Councilwoman Reed said, "You can't pick and choose which one you want to do". She said, "If we are going to follow the rule on one, then follow the rule on the other". Councilwoman Reed said, "If you are going to follow this one, then follow the other. She said, "According to our ordinance it says thirty (30) days". Councilwoman Bruce said, "Four years ago, according to Kevin you infringed on my constitutional rights". Councilman Milling said, "Nobody challenged it, nobody made an issue out of it". Councilman Milling said, "If you know that it's going to likely be declared unconstitutional, just be aware that it's subject to be challenged and you're subject to having to spend city money in connection with that challenge. Councilwoman Bruce said, "I understand that; the thing is I have no problem with anybody signs being out now". She said, "What I'm saying, we need to be consistent across the board and not pick and choose-nitpick when it comes to somebody's signs". Councilwoman Bruce said, she is going to wait and put her signs out 30 days prior to the election. City Attorney Etheridge and Council continued to discuss the validity of the ordinance. Councilwoman Baccus said at this point and time we need to stick to our ordinance and enforce it. Councilwoman Baccus said the ordinance also says you can only put one sign per yard. She said there are places where there's 2 or 3 signs in a yard. Councilwoman Reed said every ordinance we have can be challenged. Councilwoman Baccus said, "It's amazing how ya'll bend the rules". Mayor called point of order. Mayor Hines said we will visit this at another time. Councilman Gardner said, "We have another ordinance that has been brought to his attention that we haven't been following. He said it's the ordinance with relation to writing new ordinances you're supposed to have the sponsor listed beside the ordinance that's presented. Councilman Gardner said he wanted to ask that when we're writing future ordinances, we follow the appropriate protocol.

REMINDERS

City-County Supper Monday July 29, 2019
Regional Advocacy Meeting in August 27th & August 28th. One meeting is in Lake City and the other is in Sumter.

Tuesday August 6, 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 7:24 PM to discuss contract at Gandy Pool: The City of Darlington May or May not vote after Executive Session. All approved the motion.

(5 MINUTE BREAK)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED

Councilman John Milling made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 8:08 PM, which was seconded by Councilman John Segars.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – AUGUST 6, 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, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Mr. John Isgett, Mr. Kerry Tharp, Mr. Lee Andrews. Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mrs. Anna Dewitt, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporter from the Morning News.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2019 Council Meeting. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman John Milling said because Council did not receive information pertaining to item 8 (c) Ordinance for corner of Wyandot Street & Nez Perce Drive prior to the meeting, **he made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for August 6, 2019 without item 8 (c) and carry it over to the next meeting. 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 thanked everyone that came out to The DDRA's "Bringing Downtown Alive" Concert series in July. She gave a special thank you to

American Legion Post #13. Mrs. Rock said Race Week is coming up in Darlington which will start with the Car Haulers Parade and Race Fest on the Public Square on Thursday August 29th. She said the car haulers will come at 7:00 and the Race Fest will continue from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. On Friday night Bill Rivers and the Bonding Company perform at DDRA's free next "Bringing Downtown Alive" concert from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM. On Saturday night after the VFW sports clips 200 they will have the Southern 550 parade downtown. Mrs. Rock said on Sunday they will have the Bojangles Southern 500. Mrs. Rock said businesses, individuals, civic groups and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. Mrs. Rock said members can give them a call or send them an email 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 system. Mrs. Rock said the next monthly Breakfast is at 8:00 AM, Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at Takis Diner. She said the breakfast is free for members and $5.00 for others to go toward the meal. Mrs. Rock said there's one other event that's coming up and she included a press release in the Council packets. She said Councilwoman Baccus already knows about this event already because she's part of the organizing factor of it. Mrs. Rock said The Darlington Memorial Cemetery Association is organizing a community Clean Up Day beginning at 6:00 AM on Saturday August 17, 2019 at the cemetery on D Avenue. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Rock if the Miss Darlington USA Pageant scheduled for august 17th was still on? Mrs. Rock said, "Yes", the Pageant will be held at Trinity-Burns Collegiate School at 7:00 PM that evening.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –
No one was present to represent the Chamber

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR
Ms. Rose Pruitt – Flooding Ms. Pruitt said she don't think for an instant that her area is the only area that floods in town but she's aware the big storms have caused some problems. However, she said she has two feet of water at the end of her driveway and she can't get in or out of it. She said she has water lapping at the siding that she recently replaced because of the flooding damage. Ms. Pruitt said, "We've got that vac truck and paid a lot of tax money for it. I don't know how often it gets used, but it doesn't get used often enough". She said, "They came out, did a little bit of work on the storm drain in front of my house but nobody ever came back to finish the

job". Ms. Pruitt said they may have dug out a few extra buckets of sand and made a little bit more capacity there, but the job is not finished until it goes all the way through that drain. Ms. Pruitt said this is a block on the City's storm water plan that was omitted. She said, "My neighbors and I have located the missing section of storm drain that's clogged that runs for about four lots across the street from me down to Edwards Avenue". She said that line can be cleaned out really easily with the vac truck because it has about three or four access points. Ms. Pruitt said it's just something that's been overlooked. She said it's not just her property that's flooding, it's all her neighbor's property and it's escalating now. She said they have cars stalling out in front of her house and crazy people trying to go 100 mph and hydroplaning. Ms. Pruitt said this time, somebody tried to drive around the flooded street and drove down the sidewalk. It's not just a safety issue, but they are damaging city property. Ms. Pruitt said, "I hope you will send that vac truck back out there; I hope that you've got somebody to operate it. It needs to be out there every day". She said its hurricane season again and we're all just one flood away from getting washed away, but she's getting pretty tired of the damage to her property. Ms. Pruitt said, "I hope that the City can find some way to follow through with what they started before". She said Mr. Ervin came out to see if he could locate a line that went off toward Tedder Street, but nothing ever came of that. She said aside from that initial blast where they probably cleared out about twenty or fifty feet, they've had no further action on that. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he knows why the vactor truck never went back out? Mr. Garland said he'll have to check it tomorrow. Mayor Hines said, "You say they did something else to it; they came out and dug it out a little bit and didn't come back and finish it up"? Ms. Pruitt said, "Right. Well, and again we're starting in the middle of an area that needs to run all the way to the creek or where ever it drains to". Councilwoman Reed said, "You said you had someone to outline or map out the drain line of what's clogged"? Ms. Pruitt said, "It wasn't included in the storm water plan. That was the plan, I don't know what the date on that was. They just left the whole block out. Talk about what a big flooding problem it was and then didn't bother to map the storm water features". Ms. Pruitt said what they found in that four-lot area, they found the storm drain. She said they couldn't locate it before because it was so filled in, but they located it because there are two or three manhole covers that are easily accessible. Councilwoman Reed said, "you say "we", I wanted to know who". Ms. Pruitt said, "My neighbors". Councilwoman Reed said, "I'm interested because I'm asking to see if our departments that's responsible for all of that if they come out there will they know where

to do this to alleviate some of this problem". Ms. Pruitt said these manhole covers were there all along, but nobody noticed them before because a lot of sand covered them up. Councilman Gardner asked, "We originally came out there, I know and then we purchased a camera and a root cutter, has anybody come out there since"? Ms. Pruitt said, "No". Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Garland if this information that Ms. Pruitt is providing been given to Mr. Kinsaul's department so they can do whatever they can. Mr. Garland said, "We just found out about it tonight". Ms. Pruitt said, "Well, I've talked to Mr. Kinsaul about it at one of the earlier meetings, so it is something that they knew about, but it's not a regular during office hours complaint kind of thing so whether or not that went in one ear and out the other, I don't know". She said, "The thing is, that's an expensive truck; that's expensive equipment. It does a good job, but it only does it when somebody uses it". Ms. Pruitt said that truck should be out there every day because Darlington is drowning. Mayor Hines said the reason she pushed for the cutter and the camera is because roots were growing in the sewer line so if it's not being used, it's no good to the citizens. Councilwoman Reed said, "Mayor can we find out why it's not being used"? "I mean, I didn't know it wasn't being used". Mayor Hines said, "I thought it was being used too; we need to find out about that".

Dianna Pruitt – Flooding Ms. Pruitt said she has much the same complaint as Rose Pruitt. She said they are renovating the property at 368 W. Broad Street (which is the corner of Broad & Edwards). Ms. Pruitt said, "Just like Rose Pruitt, we are experiencing some horrific problems simply because this area of town is some of the worst flooded area of town and it was completely left off the Master Plan and I have a hard time understanding how that happened when there was such a discussion about it to begin with". She said, "While Rose Pruitt and some of the neighbors tracked down where these drain lines are, didn't ya'll pay engineers to do that job"? Ms. Pruitt said the reason you don't have that information is because engineers didn't come down through there and that's citizens researching something that engineers were paid to research. She said, "I don't mean any disrespect to anyone, but clearly, the City of Darlington paid for this job to be done properly not just in our street, not just in our neighborhood, but in every neighborhood in the City that is flooding so badly that most recently the news media has taken it up again and made Darlington look badly on television which is not something that the City needs when everybody is trying to pull it up. Ms. Pruitt said we have a half million-dollar piece of equipment, parked. She said we flood every time we get more than an inch

of rain. She said the storm drain by their house at the Edwards Street side is less than two feet from the top full of dirt, grass and trash. Ms. Pruitt said, "For three weeks prior to this week past, the lid has been off that drain and inside of the drain. And as I pointed out when I went over to the proper department and spoke to the young lady, that drain frame is so far out of the ground that an adult, much less a small child, is going to get hurt". Ms. Pruitt asked, "Who is going to fix that"? She said because that drain is so full of sand, dirt, trash and grass, their property is flooding". She said she and her husband Scott is trying to do everything they can to renovate their property. Ms. Pruitt said she and Scott both work full time jobs, but every chance they get they are on that property making the necessary renovations and every time it rains, their property floods. Ms. Pruitt said, "Just like Rose Pruitt the work we're doing is being destroyed slowly but surely, because we've got a half million-dollar piece of equipment sitting in a parking lot somewhere not getting used". She said, "And I don't know why either and I'm confused about that, but I don't think that the priorities in this cleaning, using the vac truck were laid out the way they needed to be done". She said, "I know the entire City needs to be addressed but from Main Street, down Broad Street, down Edwards Street was completely left off the plan, how does something like that happens"? Ms. Pruitt said, "And at this point, I just ask you with the greatest degree of respect, how do we fix that"? She said, "From here forward, how can we fix that Mayor, because it is hurricane season and the rain we've experienced over the last three to four months is nothing like what we're fixing to experience and if we don't address this problem right now Rose and I are not the only ones who's going to be standing in front of you crying". Mayor Hines said, "Mr. Garland directs them as to where to go". Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he would check on this because she thought the vactor truck would be used on a continuous basis every day. Councilwoman Reed said, "The storm water master plan that you're talking about…..are you talking about the project that we just finished completing or are you talking about something else"? Ms. Pruitt said the entire storm water master plan of what was supposed to be repaired and cleaned out". Councilwoman Reed said the project that we have just competed….Councilwoman Bruce said she's not talking about the southwest Darlington project. Councilwoman Bruce asked Ms. Pruitt if she was talking about the storm water master plan and she said, "Yes ma'am". Mayor Hines told Mr. Garland she wants him to check on this early in the morning and see what's going on with this. Councilman Milling said, "It might also be time for you to start putting together a proposal where we take another look at what needs to be done and how much it will cost to get some

of this stuff engineered even if we can't go through with everything because of extreme cost of storm water. We can at least identify where our problems are and how they can be resolved". Councilman Gardner said he agrees with that. Councilman Gardner said, "The GIS program that we discussed in the work session if we can get that going and start at least mapping out our areas and include the areas that were left out of the storm water master plan like that area on the other side of Swift Creek". Councilman Gardner said, "And then we can start using the vac. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Well as far as the storm water master plan is concerned, if I remember correctly, we discussed this six months ago and said we were going to go back in, and Ms. Lathan was supposed to present something else to this council six months and the council itself didn't follow up on it". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, I'm not going to say and let it be blamed on Ms. Lathan who created the storm water master plan. Mr. Garland was supposed to get with Ms. Lathan, and she was supposed to come back again and add and improve the storm water master plan. The council did not follow through". Councilman Gardner said, "I'm not familiar with that". Councilman Milling said, "I don't remember that meeting either". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Yes we did, we had that meeting, I'll find the minutes and show it to you. We had that meeting". Mayor Hines said, "It will be looked after".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A) MAYOR'S AWARD – MAYOR GLORIA C. HINES

Mayor Hines presented Mr. Kerry Tharp with a Plaque and a "Key to the City of Darlington" for his outstanding service and hard work and dedication. Mayor Hines told Mr. Tharpe he has done a marvelous job with the race track even though it's in the County she feels it's the City because he promotes businesses in the City. Mayor Hines told Mr. Tharp that the plaque presented was from her and the "Key" was from the City of Darlington. Mr. Tharp told Mayor, City Council and Mr. Garland that he appreciates the award very much, but the race track is Darlington, whether City, County or whatever it is a part of this community. Mr. Tharp said he came into the community a little over three years ago and he absolutely loves it. He said he loves living in Darlington and he's committed to Darlington. Mr. Tharpe said he is proud to be a part of this great community and this great race track. Mr. Tharpe said today they had a great event at the

race track. He said they had Bubba Wallace, Kyle Petty and Richard Petty were in Darlington today. He said they had big news coming out of Darlington today and it was all over the Country. Mr. Tharp said this is what they like; they like to bring positive reflection on our community. He said in about 25 days they will have sixty to seventy thousand people coming to Darlington from all over the world. Mr. Tharpe thanked Mayor & Council for the award.

MS. JANNIE LATHAN

Ms. Lathan said, "I know this is out of order and if I would ask permission for two minutes to just straighten up something about the storm water master plan because I think some of our citizens have some of the council persons who are under misimpression. Ms. Lathan said, "That was the storm water master plan, it was not a design for any storm water projects or any storm water sections. The intent of that plan was to show a road map for how the City would go about tackling managing storm water within the City Limits. It broke the entire City into four quadrants. It then prioritized which one of those quadrants the City should focus its resources on designing projects to correct flooding. It was never intended to be a design, because it wasn't. Within that plan it also did what Councilman Milling is recommending. It gave a rough cost estimate for how much it would cost the city over time to tackle hiring an engineer and designing projects. She said that was the whole purpose of that. What the City then proceeded to do, based on that plan was now hire engineers and design storm water projects in southwest and southeast Darlington which was the priority areas because everything is draining from north to south. Ms. Lathan said, "I just wanted to clear that up". Councilman Gardner said, "Ms. Jannie, may I ask you a question"? Ms. Lathan said, "Yes Sir". Councilman Gardner said, "You said the storm water master plan included the entire City"? Ms. Lathan said, "Exactly". Councilman Gardner said, "So, why can't I find anything on the other side of Swift Creek, for instance I can't find the Country Club, the Medford neighborhood or Oakdale or any of those neighborhoods on the map at all"? Councilman Gardner said, "But you said it included the whole City". Ms. Lathan said, "If you let me finish please". Councilman Gardner said, "It's my fault". Ms. Lathan said, "Because it was not designed to go neighborhood by neighborhood. It was designed to look at the entire City, break the City up in four quadrants which included the entire city and then from that look at laying out a plan, not a design and from that plan then the City could hire engineers to design specific projects in specific areas to look at specific flooding areas. Ms. Lathan said, "It also said in that plan that the

City needed to develop a comprehensive maintenance plan and with that maintenance plan, the city would then do what the City is doing now-secure the equipment, come up with a comprehensive maintenance plan and comprehensively section by section throughout the entire City begin to clean out our ditches and pipelines. Ms. Lathan said, "This misconception is really something I think we really need to clean up". Councilman Gardner said, "My apologies, maybe I misspoke. I guess what I should ask is how can a plan cover the whole city when the map or the plan doesn't have the whole City included"? He said, "What I mean by that is anything that's on the opposite side of Swift Creek; The Medford area of our town which is a large part of our City; The Country Club & Oakdale part of town which is large part of our City is not even in there anywhere". Ms. Lathan said, "I think Councilman Gardner you looked at one or two maps and did not read….Councilman Milling said, "Ms. Lathan and Mr. Gardner, we're not on this issue tonight and I think it's important to address it, but we approved an agenda that had certain items on it, so I think we need to move to the agenda and give you an opportunity to come back and get on the agenda so that we can address it properly at that time". Councilman Milling said, "Ms. Lathan if you will, work with Mr. Garland so that you can get yourself a set amount of time and make your presentation that you want to make, and the agenda can be developed so that the time that you need can be afforded to you and Mr. Gardner or anybody that has questions will have a chance for questions. Councilman Milling said, "Just don't want to get us bogged tonight addressing something that's not on the agenda". Ms. Lathan said, "I understand, I appreciate that, but Councilwoman Baccus is correct; the Council did decide but never followed through with what was supposed to be a working session so that we could go over this in detail so that the citizens of Darlington have a clear understanding of what that plan does and does not do. Mayor Hines said, "It really needs to be cleared up even though it was not on the agenda. I let her speak because it was brought up and we don't want the citizens misinformed about what's going on". Mayor Hines told Ms. Lathan they would have her back to bring it up again.

B) DARLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB – SOUTHERN 500 GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDING REQUEST – MR. TIMMY HUNTLEY

Mr. Timmy Huntley wrote a letter to mayor & Council seeking financial support for the Southern 500 Golf Tournament hosted by the Darlington Country Club. Mr. Huntley said each year DCC sponsors the Southern 500 Golf Tournament which has been an annual tradition for fifty-four consecutive years. He said the annual event draws approximately 150

golfers from across the southeast; many of which bring their families. The tournament will be August 23rd – August 25th. He said the tournament requires additional staffing for DCC and attracts over 400 visitors to the tournament. Mr. Huntley said in 2018, the approximate cost of the tournament was $35,000 which covered salaries for temporary staffing, prizes, as well as administrative and food costs. He said they tried to offset this financial burden by relying on donations and sponsorships. He said they are requesting $7,500 from the City of Darlington Hospitality Tax Fund to help support this event. He said donations and sponsorships allow DCC to improve the quality of the tournament and provide athletic scholarships for young golfers. He asked them to consider the number of people their tournament brings to Darlington when deciding if they should receive hospitality tax funds. Mayor Hines asked Councils thoughts on this. Mr. Garland told Council the amounts the City has given to different organizations this year. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve $5,000 for the golf tournament at Darlington Country Club. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilmembers John Milling & John Segars abstained from voting because of a conflict of interest. Councilpersons Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Elaine Reed & Mayor Hines voted for the motion. (Motion Passes)**

C) ORDINANCE 2019-18 SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Mr. Garland said recently we were approached by the City of Hartsville to work and look at something called "The Bailey Bill" which is a specialty property tax assessment for rehabilitating historic properties (can be residential or commercial). Mr. Garland said we have five historic districts in Darlington that over a hundred properties are a part of. He said what they are proposing with this ordinance is if someone improves their historical commercial or historical residential the property taxes would be frozen. He said this would be a benefit for them to come into Darlington and improve their residential historic structure or their commercial historic structure. Mr. Garland said for this to work out we have to have approval from the School District, Darlington County Council, Darlington City Council, Society Hill Town Council and Lamar Town Council. Mr. Garland said everyone has to be involved so the tax breaks are equal for everyone. He said this is another incentive to beautify our historic residential and commercial buildings. Mr. Garland said we are also working on a partnership with Historic Preservation Agency to come in and look at some of these historical buildings and

hopefully adopt some of these buildings and advertise them for us nationally. Councilman John Milling said the only thing he had when he reviewed the drafts that were included from Richland County & Hartsville had sections in it that address eligible rehabilitation and eligibility requirements, eligible properties, we do not have either of those sections contained in the proposed ordinance. Mr. Garland said we already have eligible structures in historic districts. He said I don't think Hartsville have the same historic district structure that we have, while they have the centennial downtown historic district, the Hartsville historic districts are local in nature. Mr. Garland said we already have those properties listed individually. Councilman Milling asked if such a designation is contained within our ordinance and Mr. Garland said, "Yes, it is". Councilman Milling asked if we have something that describes the same as what's done in Richland County and Hartsville about the eligible rehabilitation"? Mr. Garland said eventually this would have to go through the Historic Landmarks Commission for their approval, but as far as tax credits are concerned, I think that has to be approved at the local, State and then the federal level. Councilman Milling said Section 23-63 of the Richland County just says, "Standards for Rehabilitation" and there's a similar section in Hartsville and he didn't see those sections, so he is asking the question now to see if there is anything further, we need to do as we are looking". He said we can make adjustments if necessary, before a second reading, but he wanted to bring it to is attention so he can double check it to be sure we don't miss something. Mr. Garland said it is a rather complicated ordinance. Mr. Garland said he feels this is an important step towards rehabbing these residential and commercial properties. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland how many commercial properties do we have? Mr. Garland said we have two commercial historic districts 1) East Broad Historic District which includes approximately 10 properties and the Historic District on parts of the Public Square which includes the south side, west side and properties on Exchange & Ward Street for a total of approximately 30 properties; the rest are residential properties. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-18 Special Property Tax Assessment for Rehabilitated Historic Properties. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

D) ORDINANCE 2019-19 FIRE DEPARTMENT COST RECOVERY ORDINANCE – FIRE CHIEF PAT CAVANAUGH

Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh told Council the ordinance they have before them is the finished product and the City Attorney Mr. Kevin Etheridge has

worked very hard with them to come up with good wording. Chief Cavanaugh said as he explained before this is something that's not going to make a lot of money, but it will be in place in case we have a tanker overturn or a spill and use a lot of our equipment and materials. This will be a way to recoup some of the cost back from the insurance company, so we don't exhaust all of our resources and drain our budget. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-19 Fire Department Recovery Cost Ordinance. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

E) ORDINANCE 2019-20 FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE AND PREVENTION – POLICE CHIEF KELVIN WASHINGTON

Police Chief Kelvin Washington said a few weeks ago they had a particular business in town that within a seven-day period they had nine false alarms for fire. Chief Washington said each time they received that phone call they dispatched fire personnel as well as law enforcement personnel. He said on one particular call there was an actual fire at another location while they were responding to the false alarm. Chief Washington said he spoke with Assistant Chief Davis, Fire Chief Cavanaugh and the City Manager about this. He said there is nothing in place here in the City of Darlington to help people to remember that they need to get those false alarms repaired quickly. Chief Washington said they want to put an ordinance in place that after the third and subsequent false alarm within a thirty-day period they will be assesses a fee for it. Chief Washington said those are valuable resources that the City is having to put into use to respond to these calls. He said a lot of times all the business owner or resident owner has to do is call the alarm company and get them to come out and repair. Chief Washington said they will work with people if they can show them that they have called the alarm company or made some attempt to get the alarm company out there. He said this particular business in town the other week, nine calls in a seven-day period is a bit ridiculous. Each time they are sending a fire truck out there, our on-duty personnel as well as our volunteer firemen and our police personnel is responding. Councilman Milling asked if we need to have a provision in the ordinance in it for collection? He said he notice there's a dollar amount if they fail to do it but we don't have any way to enforce it; there's no criminal penalty 30 days or $200 is just a fine, I didn't know if we need something where if it was unpaid within a certain period of time that it needed to be added to the city tax bill or some way of "putting some teeth" into it. Chief Washington told Councilman Milling that he agrees with him and he can speak with Mr. Garland and City Attorney Etheridge and they

can do something and maybe bring it back to the next council meeting. Mayor Hines asked, "What do you think about charging after the third time"? Fire Chief Cavanaugh said, "The biggest thing about the fire side, we don't have to worry about that". He said, for instance, if it's the hospital and they fail to get their alarm fixed, he notifies the Fire Marshall and they close them down. Fire Chief Cavanaugh said with an ordinance in place, that would help them a lot. Mr. Garland said we can take away their business license if we have to. Councilman Milling said, "That takes care of the businesses, but will this apply for residences as well.? Fire Chief Cavanaugh said they don't have a lot of problems with the residents. He said you may have an older person that has a problem with their alarm, but that's not what they are concerned about because they will go out and help them. He said their biggest problem is businesses and not being able to contact a keyholder or have a keyholder present. Chief Washington said there are times that police personnel respond and the keyholder doesn't come out and they can't get into the building to determine if a burglary is or has taken place. He said the only thing they can do is an exterior check to make sure that the exterior is in place. Chief Washington said if we assess some fines and fees this will end some of the false alarms. Chief Washington said he can meet with Mr. Garland and Attorney Etheridge within the next week or two and they will put something in place and bring it back to Council next month. Councilwoman Reed asked if Council needs to vote on this now or wait until he comes back. Chief Washington said he recommends just tabling it until the next meeting and then they will have all of the language correct. He said at this point, receive as information only.

F) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2019-21 REZONING 245 COLUMBIAN STREET – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the property they are discussing is at the corner of Columbian & East Broad Street and there was a tobacco warehouse that was torn down and the property cleared. She said the new owner would like the property to be rezone Office Residential - OR, it's currently zoned General Commercial - GC. She said everything else on Columbian Street is zoned OR with the exception of the Feed & Seed which is zoned Core Commercial – CC. Mrs. Rock said on the right-hand side of E. Board Street from S. Main Street is all zoned GC and once you get past this piece of property, it's all zoned High-Density Residential – R-6. She said the property owner wants to put triplex or quadplex rental units on the property. He has not submitted any plans, but he did send a picture of what he's thinking about putting there. Mrs. Rock said, "Next to the property if you are on E. Broad

Street the property is on your left. The next property is apartments and then if you go down two or three houses there's a duplex, so it's not uncommon for this neighborhood". She said the Planning Commission recommended changing the parcel to R-6 which is stricter than OR. She said 3 members of the Board were present and the only neighbor who attended the public hearing they had about this issue simply said they wanted it to remain residential. Mrs. Rock said currently it is not residential at all, it's GC in which you could put most businesses there. Mrs. Rock said either designation would accomplish the concern of the neighbor. She said the property owner could not be at the meeting tonight, but they will be here for second reading. Mrs. Rock said the owner implores that Council disregards what the Planning Commission said and go with Office Residential - OR which they Commission didn't give a clear reason on why not. Mrs. Rock said any kind of plans that this person would come up with has to go through Codes Enforcement and if there's any issue with parking or other issues, Mr. Gainey would stop them before they start digging. Councilman Gardner said, "We have a lack of rental properties in our community and I'm in favor of this". Councilwoman Baccus said, "regardless of whether it's deemed R-6 or OC it still can be rental property, right"? Councilman Gardner and Lisa Rock both said, "Yes". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So it doesn't matter, so the Planning Board is recommending R-6"? Mrs. Rock said the Planning Commission is recommending the more restrictive designation. Councilwoman Reed said, "Was there any reason for that"? "Did they indicate…..Mrs. Rock said the best reason I could gather from the discussion was they had some concern about parking, but the only neighbor that came up was really just concerned that it was residential. Mrs. Rock said obviously the rest of our zoning ordinance and Codes Enforcement when they do their site plan review would stop them from building if there's not enough space for parking. Councilwoman Reed asked. "If we went with the Planning Commission it still gets him what he wants, what's the problem"? Mrs. Rock said he won't be able to (based on the setbacks and maximum impervious square footage) get that fourth unit in. Councilman Gardner said, "So he can't build what he wants to build". Mrs. Rock said, "Without an actual plan, she can't tell if he could build this on that property, but he has no way of building this if it's R-6". Mrs. Rock said the owner has said if Council is going to go with the Planning Commission recommendation, they further withdraw their request to change the zoning. Councilman Segars said we have a Planning Commission in place, and I think we need to go with their recommendation. Councilman Gardner said at some point we've got to worry about the rental property issues in our community.

Councilwoman Bruce said, Did Mr. Evans say when he would have a blueprint"? Mrs. Rock said he doesn't have any type of site plan because you can't have one drawn until the zoning designation is determined. Councilwoman Bruce said, "So the problem is now he's not able to do the fourth unit"? Mrs. Rock said the way it's zoned now, he can't do a duplex; he can't do anything with it now". Mrs. Rock said right now it's commercial and he can build a single-family home and that's it in terms of residential. He wants to do something more in the duplex, triplex or quadplex or whatever he can figure out to fix with his engineer/architect. Councilwoman Bruce said, "And the Planning Commission couldn't give you a reason"? Mrs. Rock said the best they came up with was parking and I didn't really see that as an issue given that our zoning ordinance addresses parking. Councilwoman Reed said, "But as R-6 he just can't do all of what he wants; he can still build whatever he wants to build except for the quantity". Mrs. Rock said if Council is not going to give the R-6 designation, then he doesn't want to. Mrs. Rock said, "And of course there's a precedent Council has overlooked Planning Commission recommendations on several occasions most notably in this kind of situation-South of Pearl. The Planning Commission recommended a completely different zoning designation than was originally stated. It ended up being approved as GC to allow that business to open. Councilman Gardner said, "If you look at the blocks, you've got R-6 as a huge jump and directly beside it you have another jump that's OR and he's literally asking for that line to extend one property down and he will be in that same rectangle". Mrs. Rock said, "If you look at Columbian Street everything on that street even the houses are Office Residential-OR". Councilman Gardner said, "So why would we make this one different if he's wanting to change to that, Mr. Segars"? Councilman Segars said, "I'm just going on the recommendation of the Planning Commission plus if you're recall from previous meeting the improvements, he made on that street were not to our ordinance. Consequently, if you'll recall now, DOT has given us Columbian Street to maintain because it was not, the setback was in place". Councilman Gardner said, "You are correct on that but that would be a problem with our building inspector not doing his job, but this doesn't negate that we need new rental properties in the entire block as Office Residential – OR. Mrs. Rock said, it may be perceived that this is punishing him for something that the past building inspector didn't do or allowed him to do that shouldn't have been allowed. Mayor Hines asked if Mr. Evans was asking for this property to be zoned OR and Mrs. Rock said, "Yes". Councilman Gardner said, "And he's a developer. He's a developer that's been building throughout our

community, but not in the City. He said the only two times he's been to the City it looks like at this time we don't approved what he's interested in Office Residential and the rest of the block is. Councilman Gardner said, "This will be another time when we say we don't want you to invest and build properties within our City". He said, "I don't think that's the route we want to go with investors who are interested in investing in our City". Councilwoman Reed said, "It's not the route, but it's like we ignore our Planning, our department their recommendations and things of that sort". Councilwoman Reed said, "I am for all of this and I'm for everybody building but he has built there on Columbian". Councilwoman Reed said, "seems like the Planning Commission would have all this information as well. What is their apprehension and just like you're laying it out to us…Mrs. Rock said she laid it out the exact same way to Planning Commission. Councilwoman Reed said she wish someone from the Planning Commission was at the meeting and they could ask them the reason for their opposition to the zoning change. Mrs. Rock said had the same concern that Mr. Segars had about the properties on Columbian Street. She said some people don't like how the houses on Columbian Street looks; they don't like that they're not to the specifications and I can't say that that's not part of it. Mrs. Rock said, "We can't penalize him for something that… we dropped the ball on that". She asked, "Why is he going to be penalized for that"? Mayor Hines asked Council what they want to do. Mayor Hines asked, "Mrs. Rock with this duplex, townhouse or whatever he want to build; it looks like it has four apartments, is that space large enough for that"? Mrs. Rock said, "It depends on how big it is, I don't know and without any kind of plans, I can't say yes, it is or no, it's not". Mayor Hines said, "I know it wouldn't be approved if there's no parking". Mrs. Rock said it's got to have two parking spaces per spot, per unit and if he can't with the engineer figure out how to do that on there, that's his problem, that's not our problem". Councilman Gardner said, "The economics of it is not our interest. What our interest is, do we want to make this triangle more of a rectangle and include his property in the same block as every other property behind it. Or do we want to go and make a zigzag line and make it part of the R-6. They are directly beside each other. Councilman Gardner said OR is not anything like zoning it commercial, you still can build a house or an apartment. Councilman Gardner said, "One thing I know our previous Comprehensive Plan tells us we need more rental properties". Mrs. Rock said, "Well in Office and Residential sort of serves as a buffer zone so you don't end up with GC or CC butting up right next to Residential. Mayor Hines said, "So if we change it to this OR and then he come in and want to

build that duplex or whatever and don't have enough space you can deny"? Mrs. Rock said, "Correct, Codes Enforcement can deny it and not give them a building permit if it doesn't fit". Mr. Garland asked Mayor Hines if she wanted Alex to give an opinion on that? Codes Enforcement Officer Alex Gainey said, "One thing I would say is #1, if somebody wants to build something in the City, I think I should be the first person they talk to because I'm the one that has to approve it or deny it". Mr. Gainey said, "He has not talk to me one time about anything he wants to do. He did talk to me about some property at Avenue D and Main Street. He wanted to put four houses down there and I told him, there's no way you can do it. So, then he decided to trade the property with Curtis for the Memorial Park to take the property down at the corner of Broad Street and Columbian Street. Mr. Gainey said, "But he has not come to me and ask what can I build on this property with the size that we have". Mr. Gainey said he did present to us a patio style home or a townhome. Mr. Gainey said if you look in our ordinance, the ordinance says that to build a townhouse in the City of Darlington you have to have a minimum of 50,000 square feet. If you add all the property together it doesn't have but 43,000 square feet, so he's not going to be able build it to start with. Mr. Gainey said, "If he wants to build three houses there or something, that's fine he's got enough room to do it, I think; he hasn't submitted anything to me". Mr. Gainey said, "I will say that when I took this job, and I think that's where the Planning Commission was coming from whenever they made the decision they made". Mr. Gainey said, "When I took this job, I caught a lot of grief for all the little houses that he built on Columbian Street because it was zoned OR so the stipulations were a lot broader as to what he could do". Mr. Gainey said he was also told that no plans were ever submitted until after he actually started the project, but he doesn't know that. Mr. Gainey said, "No, he can't be penalized for what happened prior because he was allowed to do it by the City or whoever. Mr. Gainey said there are way too many houses on a small piece of land, and they are not to code because being that close they are supposed to have fire walls and everything else. Mr. Gainey said, "Keith's statement to me has been in the past, if I can't build four, I don't want to build anything". He said that's the wrong mentality to have; nevertheless, I think he should be coming to my department first instead of trying to go around my office and get everything done because I'm the one's that's got to approve everything. Mrs. Rock said, "I don't think that was the intent and based on how you're describing it he could see this as the City or you as a fellow builder taking some sort of negative impact on him and I know that's not the case". Councilman Gardner said, "I think we're making assumptions and we need

to come to reality". Mrs. Rock said, "But we're talking about reality is, if anybody came up here and said I want to make this Office and Residential, why wouldn't you"? "That doesn't make any sense not to". Councilwoman Reed & Bruce both said, "Based on the Planning Commission that is the recommendation". Mrs. Rock said, "But again, think about what this looks like from a third-party view". She said if Keith had his name on that zoning sheet and he didn't have any plans submitted, then you are judging it based on who he is. Councilwoman Bruce said, "No, no, no, I'm judging it based on the information the City Inspector just gave us. Councilwoman Bruce said, "Even if we change the zoning from that, it's still not feasible". Mrs. Rock said, "Which is fine". Mayor Hines hit the gavel and said let's go ahead and call a vote so we can go on because it's gone a little too far. Councilmembers agreed that this needed to be tabled until they get more information. Mrs. Rock asked, "What information would you like"? Councilwoman Reed said, "From the Planning Commission". Councilwoman Bruce said, "I think he should go speak with Alex and then Alex can come back and present to us what he wants to do, and he can bring that information back to us and we've got accurate information". Councilwoman Bruce said, we're just getting into this whole thing here and we don't want to make it look like he's being targeted, as you say". Mrs. Rock said, "I don't see how he would be either but when you look at that map that little corner looks weird. If you were to be redrawing this and not know anything of what was there, would you not think that this would be OR". Councilwoman Bruce said, "If you have that conversation with Alex and he can get that information back to us and then I think we can make some intelligent decisions". Councilwoman Reed said, "The department that we have that is a City Board and we got them to function and we should consider that". Councilwoman Reed said, "I would like to hear why they put those restrictions". Councilwoman Reed said, "I want to see why in your presentation you think that they made a bad decision, that's the way I'm getting it from you". Mrs. Rock said, "I really didn't understand why they chose R-6 over OR other than they mentioned parking and the little houses next to it and if anybody else came to say this should be OR, I don't see how we would deny them". Councilwoman Reed said, "But rather than assume what they meant, let's hear what it is. Let's see why they did that along with the information we're going to get from Alex". Councilman Gardner said, "To be clear, the information we're getting from Alex is Alex is going to contact Evans Construction". Mayor Hines said, "No, we didn't say that". Mr. Gainey said. "I'll tell you right now it's not going to do any good for me to contact him because he's not going to answer the phone and he won't

return my phone calls". Mrs. Rock said, "What can Mr. Evans submit to Alex if they don't know what the zoning is"? Councilman Gardner asked, "We want to have some back and forth between some entity and possibly Alex as our Building Inspector and we want to find out what he's trying to build to fit on the property as far as our codes enforcement goes, is that the question"? Councilman Gardner said he's trying to figure out what additional information we're tabling this for. Mrs. Rock said, "What is the extra information that we need for Council's purposes"? (Mayor, some of the Councilmembers and Lisa continued back and forth discussion concerning this issue). Mayor Hines said we need to table this because we're not getting anywhere with it. She said we need to table it or vote it up or down. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to table this discussion to a future date. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.**

G) BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the Williamson Park Committee has a couple of people that will be rotating off and they have nominated Mr. Jay Ervin who would like to serve. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to appoint John M. Ervin, III also known as "Jay Ervin" to serve on the Williamson Park Committee. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

REMINDERS

Race Week is coming up & Mayo Alumni is coming up
September 3, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – SEPTEMBER 3, 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, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Mrs. Anna Dewitt, Mr. Francis Parnell, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mr. Ernest Boston, Mr. Winfred & Mrs. Brenda Herrington, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present was Mr. Bobby Bryant, News Reporter from the News & Press.

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 Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2019 Council Meeting. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Hines said Mr. Garland informed her they would not be voting on Item 7A tonight for a lack of information. **Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve the meeting agenda with the exception of Item 7A. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons John Segars, John Millings, Elaine Reed, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion.**

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock thanked everyone that came out to The DDRA's "Bringing Downtown Alive" Concert Series on Friday night. She gave a special thank you to American Legion Post #13 for their support in July and August and to PDRTA for its contribution shuttling race fans downtown during Friday's event. Mrs. Rock said the Grand for the series will be their Community Karaoke Party from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM on Thursday September 26th. Mrs. Rock said businesses, individuals, civic groups and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. Mrs. Rock said members can give them a call or send them an email 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 system. Memberships are $150 for most businesses, $100 for civic groups, churches and nonprofits, and $50 for individuals. Mrs. Rock said the next monthly Breakfast is at 8:00 AM, Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at Takis Diner. She said the breakfast is free for members and $5.00 for others to go toward the meal. She said other dates to put on your calendar include "Scare on the Square" on Thursday October 31st from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM and Thursday November 21st for the Shop Small Downtown Open House.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MS. ANNA DEWITT

Mrs. Dewitt said Mr. Griggs, the Chamber Chairman wanted her to convey the following information: She said Freedom Fest was a huge success with an estimated turnout of over 20,000 and they made $20,000 towards the operating costs. Sponsors include Pee Dee Food Service, McLeod Health, Patriot Automotive, Duke Energy Care South, SPC, Wilson Senior Care and Kinghorn Insurance. The Chamber's Planning Retreat is scheduled for September 11, 2019 and they will be electing new officers and planning future events. The tentative date for Toast of Darlington is Thursday October 24th; however, the Chamber Board meets on Wednesday September 11th and they will be finalizing the date at that time. She said Mr. Griggs, the Chairman of the Chamber would like to extend his thanks to the City and Mr. Garland with regards to their building. The building has now been deemed cleaned of mold and they look forward to returning to downtown.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR

Mr. George Chace – Storm Drains

Mr. Chace said he came to approach the storm drain water system from another angle. Mr. Chace said he and his neighbor across the street would like to give special thanks to Alex for working on the storm drains. He said every time we have a hard rain the lady across the street has flooding under her house and she couldn't put ductwork under the house, and she had to put in a special heating system which cost three times what the ductwork system did. Mr. Chace said when we had a bad enough rain it would flood underneath his house. He said Alex has not completed the project, but he is showing them some light at the end of the tunnel and he thinks he need some credit because he is working hard at it. Mr. Chace said, "And another man who I don't think gets enough credit is the man that runs that new machine that we have for cleaning out the storm drains". Mr. Chace said, "Every time he comes out there, I go out and talk with him. He is a very polite gentleman and he is unusual in the fact that he cares about the piece of machinery that he runs". Mr. Chace said he gets upset if he doesn't get to do inspections and maintenance when he's supposed to. Mr. Chace said, "He's a good man, ya'll need to keep him".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2019-18 SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES (Omitted for lack of info)

B) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2019-19 – FIRE DEPARTMENT COST RECOVERY ORDINANCE

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-19 Fire Department Cost Recovery Ordinance. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. **Councilpersons John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion**

C) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2019-20 – FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE AND PREVENTION

Councilman Bryant Gardner said he would like for one thing to be added to the ordinance - a phone number and a contact person. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to amend the Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-20 False Alarm Ordinance and Prevention; under the "False Alarm Number of offenses, he would like to add the sentence of who to contact and the phone number to follow "Failure to respond to the notifying public official within 30 minutes". Councilwoman Elaine**

Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion

D) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2019-21 OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE

Mrs. Rock told Council they have a complete copy of all the new proposed ordinance that the Planning Commission approved. She also had a letter from the Planning Commission which she read asking the City to support the proposed ordinance update to provide businesses a clearer picture of what is required and to provide Codes enforcement concrete information to give businesses. Mrs. Rock said this change also improves nighttime security and public safety while discouraging energy waste while reducing glare and light trespass onto other properties. The Planning Commission thanked the City for their consideration of the proposal. Mrs. Rock said our original ordinance was about two pages, but this expands the lighting classifications a lot of the definitions to include the advances in technology over the last ten years or so. Mayor Hines asked would this information be in the package when a new person comes to town to get a business. Mrs. Rock said, "It should be". Mr. Garland said Codes Enforcement and staff agrees with the proposed ordinance. Councilman Milling said, "As far as the City buildings are concerned, would we be in compliance or out of compliance or partly in and partly out"? Mrs. Rock said she is not really sure what all the fixtures; that would be a codes enforcement question. Mrs. Rock said this will only be for exterior lighting. Councilman Gardner said, "One of my questions is 2700 kelvin I believe that's a rating of how white the light is; the lower the number the more yellow, the higher the number the whiter, and then blue". Councilman Gardner said, "Could I recognize you (referring to Mr. Parnell) or to whoever wants to answer this". Mr. Parnell said the 2700 kelvin still is white light, but a lot of the blue has been removed. Councilman Gardner said, "My next question is on #7 (off sight light trespass) in commercial areas light projected onto other commercial properties should not exceed 1.0-foot candle; how do we actually measure that"? Mrs. Rock said, "When they submit a plan there is a page in there that shows where the light and how much light is going to be extended beyond and, on their property". Councilman Gardner asked, "And how do we actually follow-up on….Mr. Parnell interrupted and said, "As a matter of fact the section on Site Plan Applications when they send in the plans showing where all of the fixtures are at and the types they are going to use. Mr. Parnell said that's one thing they haven't been doing; sending in what they need to send". Councilman Gardner said, "I understand, as far as a new building, I'm more interested in

like if you go on and this would be a follow-up question, but under "Grandfathering" it has #2 has some things that the City can deem to be a nuisance-a glare or create a safety and those people would have to comply with the regulations within 60 days". Councilman Gardner asked, "How would we measure if those people are going to be complying with it"? Mrs. Rock said, "I think what we are addressing mainly with this is; ok, when you are going to upfit your building and not a new building, when they come to pull their permit, they will have this available to say here, this is what you need to show us". Mrs. Rock said right now our ordinance is not as specific, it's a little more vague so that is why Mr. Gainey is not getting the information he needs from those contractors to enforce the lighting ordinance as it was intended. Councilwoman Reed said, "To go along with whatever Bryant is asking, whatever the lighting is now, and they are in compliance with what we have now because we are changing or upgrading our ordinance, then they would have to begin to upgrade, they just couldn't remain like they are"? Mrs. Rock said, "They would be fine as they are, the thing is most of the people that have those incandescent lights, as those bulbs and fixtures start to break and they have to be replaced, we want them replaced with the right kind of thing and that's what we're really addressing". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So I can clearly understand what you're saying; anybody new coming in would have to follow the ordinance' anybody who's prior is fine until they have to do an upgrade". Mrs. Rock said, "Yes, until they start pulling permits and having to change their fixtures". Councilman Gardner said, "That's technically not correct though because in section 6-6.9 – Grandfathering, section 2 says "Any grandfathered fixture deemed by the City to cause nuisance glare or create a safety hazard, i.e., discomfort or disability glare, shall be made to comply with these regulations within 60 days". Councilman Gardner said, "I'm understanding if a new person coming with a new light fixture, they'll have to bring it to Alex, and they'll have to comply". Councilman Gardner said, "My concern is if Alex gets a call from citizen "A" who says my house is being polluted by this light, how does Alex then go in and say that something is exceeding the commercial area light projecting onto their commercial property shall not exceed 1 foot and their' s exceeded 1.5? Mr. Gainey said, "The main thing is going to be that your light is not lighting up someone else's property. He said what we've got when you start talking about grandfathering in, is a lot of times what you have is people, they don't pull permits". He said if a fixture goes out, they'll go buy an LED fixture and they put it up and it's not shielded like it's supposed to be. Mr. Gainey also said with the new ordinance, it will give us a little more to be able to

say, “Hey, this is the problem, but with the ordinance we have now it’s very vague and it’s hard to enforce some of it”. He said with the new lighting ordinance if he starts getting complaints, he can go talk to them and tell them what they need to do but it’s just pertaining to commercial, not residential. Councilman Gardner said, “I may be confused, but how are you going to project and authenticate on your end that its not exceeding 1 foot”? Mrs. Rock said that would be from the manufacturer’s information on the product. Mrs. Rock said, “If it’s not clearly obvious and I think most of these cases are going to be clearly obvious”. Mr. Gainey said, “Like I said, if it’s not shining in the roadway or lighting up your neighbor’s property, I’m fine with that, but if it’s lighting up the roadway or lighting up your neighbor’s property, I’m not fine with that and that’s what we’re going to use this ordinance for”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “This is for just commercial anyway, right”? Mrs. Rock said, “Yes, just commercial property”. Councilman Milling asked, “Lisa, you don’t have to do it because this is only the First Reading, but would it make sense under the 6-6.9 (Grandfathering, subsection 2), if it said “any grandfathered fixture deemed by the Building Inspector to cause a nuisance and then allow an appeal from Alex if they choose to do so to the Planning Commission. Councilman Milling said, “So that if somebody comes in, they can’t say Alex is mad with me and this is wrong. They could at least come to the Planning Commission”. Mrs. Rock said currently if anybody disagrees with a ruling from Codes Enforcement, they can make an appeal to the Board of zoning Appeals, so that’s already in existence. Councilman Milling said the ordinance just says the “City”. Mrs. Rock said it’s worded that way in case we change the structure, so that’s why we just put the “City”. Mayor Hines said Mr. Parnell has been sending us emails for a long time and he keeps up with the lighting so she will permit him to speak. Mr. Francis Parnell said the original ordinance the City passed was 10 years before the LED revolution and it does not handle the LED’s. Mr. Parnell said when Genesis put their sign up, they heard from a lot of people and they were mad because they didn’t want the digital signs going up. He said this new ordinance handles the LED’s. Councilman Gardner asked, “Under 6-6.9 (Grandfathering) can we change “City” to Building Inspector and add can appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals within 60 days”. Mrs. Rock said that’s already in existence in our current ordinance. Councilwoman Bruce said, “This is going to be the new ordinance that they will receive, right”? Councilwoman Bruce said, “So they wouldn’t know that if it’s not in the new ordinance”. Mrs. Rock said, “No, it’s in the actual zoning ordinance, not in the specific Lighting Ordinance”. Councilman Gardner said, “So, if

we're not going to include it, then will it just be within the prerogative of the Building Inspector to inform the citizen if they have an issue"? Mr. Gainey said, "Yes, any time they have an issue, I tell them they can appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals". **Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to accept First Reading of Ordinance 2019-21 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons John Segars, John Milling, Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Carolyn Bruce and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion**

E) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2019-22 PROPERTY DONATION (165-10-03-057) CHALMERS STREET EXTENSION

Mr. Garland said Ms. Ila turner called later last week and said she wanted to donate this property to the City, and it is contiguous with Gandy Pool. He said it will be a great benefit to the City to accept it if we can get a clear title to it. Mayor Hines asked, "How much land is it"? Mr. Garland said he thinks it is less than a quarter of an acre, but it's one of the parcels that we were looking at. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to accept the First Reading on Ordinance 2019-22 Property Donation (165-10-03-057) Chalmers Street Extension. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons John Segars, John Milling, Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Carolyn Bruce and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion.**

F) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-16 – REGULATIONS/SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES – MR. GARLAND

Mr. Garland said we had two first readings last year, so we need to have second reading. Mr. Garland said AT&T has called and want to put in some small wireless facilities in our area. He said as a reminder from last year there is an application fee involved. It's $100.00 for each small wireless facility and if it's a consolidated application it's $100.00 each for the first five and $50.00 for each additional small wireless facility up to the maximum of twenty. Mr. Garland said other fees that would come to the City are on page 15 (annual rate on city owned poles would be $100 per year for a wooden pole or $250 per year for all the City owned poles. He said we don't own that many poles so most of that money would go to Duke Energy or Pee Dee Electric. Mr. Garland said this is a model ordinance from the Municipal Association of South Carolina and last year Council asked that we change some of the structure, which we did. Mr. Garland recommends that

Council pass this ordinance. He said AT&T and Verizon will be building small wireless facilities in our town and we'd rather they do it under our regulations than just come in with something we wouldn't have regulations over. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-16 (Regulations/small Wireless Facilities. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons John Segars, John Milling, Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Carolyn Bruce and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion.**

G) CHALMERS STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT – COUNCILWOMAN ELAINE REED

Councilwoman Elaine Reed said when we completed the storm water project and the ditch that had been piped was covered, it left a big open space there and Ms. Rhonda Brown was able to bring this to their attention because she was aware of the kinds of things they wanted to do in her ward. Councilwoman Reed said Ms. Brown realized this was City property which she could beautify and be an asset to the area. Councilwoman Reed said Ms. Brown talked with Councilman Bryant Gardner and they called her. Councilwoman Reed said they want to make this a green area that would be pleasant to look at, but it won't be a park. She said Ms. Brown has plans for this area that's why they are calling it a beautification project. Councilwoman Reed said she would like the support of Mayor and Council for them to be able to do that. Mayor Hines said, "Councilwoman Reed, the only thing that I would say about that is, that trailer sitting up there, we've got to try to get that trailer out first before you put any flowers up there". Mayor Hines said, "It's an eyesore. She said flowers would be beautiful, but that trailer sitting up there would take away from the flowers". Councilwoman Reed said, "Councilman Gardner said that he could use that, so I'm looking at that being removed very soon". Councilman Gardner said, "I've got no interest in using that trailer, but I don't think it'll be a problem getting that trailer off of the property". Councilman Gardner said, "I think Rhonda is interested in creating a green space by putting some grass there and maybe add a bench or two or transfer the benches we planned to put outside the pool". Councilwoman Reed said, "Most of the residents in the area, because they are seniors, they were not about the benches so much". Councilwoman Reed said the main thing was to make the area look better. Councilwoman Reed said, "The majority of folk that has been contacted said they would prefer no benches, which is less expensive". Councilman Gardner asked, "Councilwoman Reed do we want to put grass there and

Councilwoman Reed said, "Yes". Councilman Gardner asked if we want to approve funds for grass seeds? Councilwoman Reed said, "I didn't know what was needed from us". Councilman Milling told Councilwoman Reed, "why don't you and Ms. Brown bring us a plan together with figures so Council would really know what they're acting on". Mayor Hines told Councilwoman Elaine Reed we'll take this as info until they bring the requested information back.

NEW BUSINESS

A) 2017-2018 AUDIT PRESENTATION – MR. BILL HANCOCK

Mr. Bill Hancock with The Brittingham Group thanked Council for allowing them to be of service to the City. Mr. Bill said the first and most important thing the City needs from an audit every year is an unmodified or unqualified opinion. He said the result of their work of the financial statement was fairly stated and they didn't fund any issues with the presentations. Mr. Hancock went to page 44 which talks about internal controls. He said they didn't find any instances where we had material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls. He said the most important item the City gas as far as headline risks is 1) Are you in compliance, because we have to be in compliance with a lot of things. He said what would get you in the newspaper is if you run afoul sending in your police fine money and the period, they audited showed all 12 months were sent in on time for the correct amounts. He didn't find any issues with getting retirement payments in on time nor our payroll taxes. Mr. Hancock went over page 4 of the audit which showed the balance sheet; went over page 10 which showed the Statement of General Fund Revenues, Expenditures & Changes. He said there is a change in the fund balance of a positive $151,000. The final budget was $6.7 million, and we came within $151,000 of breaking even. He explained the variances in the budget. He then went to page 12 - Fund Income Statement for W&S and the Stormwater Funds. Mr. Bill said in the W&S Fund under Loss before Capital we are showing a $500,000 loss in that fund. He said we have to ask, "Why"? Did anything happen out of the ordinary? Mr. Bill said his recommendation to management is have a Reg Study done periodically (every 3 or every 5 years). Another question would be, "Are we charging what our peers are charging? Other cities and towns have stated rates and is ours in line with theirs? And if we are already higher than theirs and we're still losing money, then why? If we're not as high as they are and we're losing money, we might want to consider mirroring some of their rates. Mr. Hancock went on to say one of the things bond holders, banks, etc. do is look at the audit

and measure our overall health. One measure of health is how many days cash do we have on hand. Mr. Hancock said if all operations were to stop and no more money would come in, how many days could we last with the cash that we have in the bank right now? He said the calculation for this fund is about 193 days which is great because we've got more than 6 months' worth of cash in the bank and you say, "What have we got to worry about"? Well, what happens if you lose $500,000 again next year? He said if the City hasn't had a Reg Study done, he would recommend that they do so. Mr. Hancock said we have about 125 days of cash on hand in the general fund. He said the rule of thumb: Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends that you have 180-270 days of cash on hand. He said the reason GFOA recommends this is because when have a natural disaster, municipalities, cities, counties, etc. are charged with getting things right. He said if you have a flood or this Hurricane hits, the City has got to spend some money to get things back up and running like they were supposed to and that means you've got to pay people to do it. That's why you need to have the cash on hand. Mr. Hancock said you may get reimbursed by the insurance, but that takes time. Mr. Hancock said the City has to exercise prudence on our millage rate because you can only go up so much on that per year and that's State Law. He said, "So where do you raise revenues"? He said it's a lot easier to restrict expenditures, than it is to raise revenues. He said as a caution, remain diligent and be restrictive in how you spend your resources. He went over page 28 of the audit explaining the retirement and page 29 tells what our rates are that we have to pay. Mr. Hancock said with retirement rates, they are increasing 1% every year, so what does that mean"? He said if you take 1% of the City's entire payroll and add that to what you paid last year, that's an added expense you have. He said you haven't given your employees a single raise, but you're still going to have to put 1% more in the retirement system for them. Mr. Hancock said, "I'm sure everyone has heard about "unfunded pension liability". He said, "We've got conflicting authority here; I've got the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and Accounting Standards on the other and I'm torn right down the middle". He said the Constitution of the State says that the State of South Carolina will not let the State Retirement go bankrupt, so they make the employer pay more in for the employees. Accounting Standards says each participating agency member has to carry its fair share of the "unfunded liability" on its book. (Back to page 4) Mr. Hancock said the second biggest liability the City has is this "unfunded pension liability" of $7.6 million. He said what this means is you're going to report this and as this liability goes up or down depending on the rate of

return that the system gets, that's how our balance sheet is going to go, up or down. On page 34, it shows how the $7.6 million is broken down between SCRS and PORS. Also, on page 34 it lists all of the debt the City has. Page 35 lists the obligations individually with the interest rates and reasons we borrowed the money. Pages 37-39 has the amortization of the debts. Mr. Hancock said those are the highlights of the audit. He said he is glad the City is on track now with the State Treasurer's Office. He said they are scheduled to do the field work for the 2019 audit the first two weeks of October and he plans on presenting that to Council in December. Mr. Hancock said, "That is important because Council hasn't had audited information to look back on in several years and I would like for when you do your fiscal year 2020-21 budget, to have actual figures for fiscal year 2019. He said you can at least look back on something that actually happened when you are making a decision on how to allocate your resources. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "Last year when we had an update on this subject, they said that we weren't going to get our audits caught up for a number of years; so, you're telling me we'll potentially have it caught up by next year"? Mr. Hancock said, "Not potentially; you will have it caught up by the end of this calendar year". Mr. Hancock said, "I can't get paid until I get finished and I like getting paid". Mayor Hines said, "So, we are actually caught up, because this is 2018 here". Mr. Hancock said, "You are not out of compliance with the Treasurer's Office anymore and then by the end of this calendar year, hopefully at the December meeting, I will present this fiscal year 2019 report". Mr. Garland thanked Mr. Hancock and his group for the quick way they responded to us. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to accept the 2017-2018 audit that's been presented by Mr. Bill Hancock on behalf of the Brittingham Group, LLC. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion**. **Councilpersons John Segars, John Milling, Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Carolyn Bruce and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion**

B) BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said he has one seat available on the Board of Zoning Appeals. He said that Mr. Mike Sprott has expressed interest in filling that seat. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion that we approve Mike Sprott for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. Councilpersons John Segars, John Milling, Elaine**

Reed, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Carolyn Bruce and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said at the last Council meeting there was a discussion about the comprehensive Plan and things we didn't follow up on. She said a comment was made that we never had a discussion about this. Councilwoman Baccus provided Council with a copy of their September 25, 2018 work session where they did have a conversation of several things that they discussed that they needed to follow up on. She said at the bottom of the page Councilman Milling gave a summary of what we discussed, and all the things were listed that we were going to follow up on and we have not followed up on them. Councilman Milling said it seems like Mr. Garland asked us to give some opinions of some things that we thought needed to be done with the City. Councilman Milling said everybody discussed it and he made notes and tried to do a summary of what everybody had. He said, "Councilman Milling said, "This isn't my input necessarily". Councilwoman Baccus said, "It said you gave a summary". Councilman Milling said, "I gave a summary of what Council discussed". Councilwoman Baccus said, "The point is, we need to follow up". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Is there a dress code for Council meetings"? She said, "I think we need to research that". Mr. Garland said, "I don't think there's anything in the ordinance about it. I think there's one for court". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Ok, just curious". Councilman Gardner said, "What kind of dress code would you like"? Councilwoman Reed said, "As long as they don't come in naked".

Mayor Hines thanked the City with help during Mayo Alumni, Southern 500 and also helping Ms. Sheila Baccus with the cemetery cleanup.

REMINDERS

October 1, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – OCTOBER 1, 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, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Mrs. Anna Dewitt, Mr. Francis Parnell, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mr. Ernest Boston, Mr. Winfred & Mrs. Brenda Herrington, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mrs. Judy Langley, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Ginger Ridgill, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Ms. Ronda Brown, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present was Mr. Bobby Bryant, News Reporter from the News & Press.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce 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 the September 3, 2019 Council Meeting. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. Councilpersons John Segars, John Millings, Elaine Reed, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock thanked everyone that came out to The DDRA's "Bringing Downtown Alive" Concert Series Final Event on Thursday. She said they had a fun time with the Community Karaoke Party and Classic Cars from the Darlington Cruisers. Mrs. Rock gave a special thank you to Darlington Kiwanis Club for staffing the event. Also thank you to the sponsors Pepsi of Florence, Wilson Senior Care and Cumulus Broadcasting. She thanked the Fire, Police, Recreation and Street & Sanitation Departments and the DDRA Board of Directors for supporting this effort. She said they will have a concert committee wrap-up meeting this month so if you are interested in participating in future or have any suggestions for improving their events, please contact her office. Mrs. Rock said this year DDRA will offer its members a special "referral bonus" for all new paid membership for 2020. Each new member paid by February 29th will equal a free ticket to the 2020 "Taste of Darlington" and the member who has the most referrals will receive a pack of tickets to the Southern 500, which in 2020 will kick off the playoffs for the season. Mrs. Rock said businesses, individuals, civic groups and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. Mrs. Rock said members can give them a call or send her an email or go online 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 system. Mrs. Rock said the next monthly Breakfast is at 8:00 AM, Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at Takis Diner. She said the cost of breakfast is free for members and $5.00 for others to go toward the meal. She said this is their last breakfast for the year so they would love to see as many members there as possible.

Mrs. Rock said Ghouls and Ghosts will take over downtown from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM on Thursday October 24th for "Scare on the Square" our downtown trick or treating event on collaboration with Darlington Recreation Department and area businesses. Mrs. Rock said the Square will be blocked off for the children, any business, church, civic group or nonprofit can set up a table on the courthouse grounds to distribute materials to the children; just contact her office to register. She said get ready for the holiday season on Thursday November 21st for Shop Small Downtown Open House on the Public Square with Santa, DJ, snow and more. Mrs. Rock said this is the 10th anniversary of Shop Small so they want to have a big turnout and support our local businesses. Mrs. Rock said if any business is interested in giving them any kind of flyers, menus, etc., they will certainly take those up to the week before the event.

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

Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber is back open. They had it thoroughly clean although they do have two more leaks. Thursday October 3rd beginning at 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM the Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce "Business After Hours" hosted by Patriot Chevrolet formerly known as Auddie Brown. She said Patriot Chevrolet and the Chamber invites everyone to come out and network with other business and community leaders. A Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday October 9th at 11:30 AM for MUSC Primary Health Darlington located at 301 Pearl Street. Ms. Hobbs said after the Ribbon Cutting everyone is asked to stay for a small reception to meet and greet the new staff and see the facility. The "Toast of Darlington" presented by Manheim Darlington this year will be held on November 14th. The band this year is Jelly Side Up. Ms. Hobbs said to date, they have fifteen cooks lined up. She said she hopes that Mayor Hines will be there to give the "Toast" for Darlington as well as the Mayors from Lamar and Society Hill. Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber has reduced the ticket price from $35.00 to $25.00. She said a cash bar will be available. She said they are not including alcohol in the ticket price this year because not everyone drinks. Ms. Hobbs said they are gearing up again for "Light Up Darlington". She said they have a lot of things on the burner this year. They are going to light up the Square and the County has pruned the trees along the courthouse grounds. She said if you want to get involved, they would love to have your input. She said to check the Darlington Chamber's website because she always posts when the meetings are. Ms. Hobbs said they welcome suggestions, comments and volunteers. The "Toast of Darlington" will be 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR

Ms. Ronda Brown - Park

Ms. Brown said after all the improvements were done and the road is finished, they have a wide-open area on Chalmers Street. Ms. Brown said the area is large enough that within our long-term planning one of the things that was mentioned was more passive parks are required within the City of Darlington according to the Master Plan. She said when she saw the area, she thought it was a perfect area to use as one of Darlington's passive parks to fit in with our Master Plan. Ms. Brown said, "The only thing that's really required to start; this is not a $30,000, play equipment, you just don't do that in passive parks, but it would be a nice small neighborhood area where we just have to mow the grass". She said we would start and do it in phases

with the front part of the park right now would be the entrance where we would plant a few trees, put some grass seed out there and keep it mowed so if you ever have to do any service work there, it will be easy access. Ms. Brown said with Darlington being a "Tree City USA" we're always trying to find places for trees. Ms. Brown said they could do natural trees along the side of the border and to do a quarter of crepe myrtles. Ms. Brown told Council she wanted them to have an idea of Phase1and then they can work on it. She gave Council estimated prices to do the work in this area. Councilwoman Reed asked, "Is this was official for us to go forward"? She said Council left last time saying that they needed to have some kind of budget, some kind of idea of what it would cost to do whatever we were planning". Mayor Hines said, "Well, it just says $20 per tree. It's $200 and it averages about $400". Councilman Gardner said, "I've got no problem with that. I don't know if we even have to vote on it because Howard can approve it if it's under $2,000". Mr. Garland said, "Under $5,000". Mayor Hines said we don't need to vote on it. Councilman Gardner asked, "Just to be clear are we fine with moving ahead with it"? Mr. Garland said, "Yes".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2019-18 SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Mayor Hines opened the Public Hearing at 6:47 PM. Mrs. Lisa Rock said as the Executive Director for the Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association they would like to share their support for passage of this program because it would certainly create more incentives, especially in our downtown but all over the city. Mayor Hines asked if everyone has to come on board. Mr. Garland said the County is doing it. Mayor Hines asked about Lamar and Mrs. Rock said she hasn't heard. Mayor Hines said she knows Hartsville is doing it. She said everybody has to be in on it before we can do it. Councilman Gardner said, "Previously John Milling had some questions, did we get those resolved"? Councilman Milling said, "We did, and Howard has put a provision in here so that if the property gets the tax break under the "Bailey Bill" and the homeowner does not maintain it in good appearance, the they would lose their tax advantage". ***Public Hearing ended at 6:50 PM***.

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-18 SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR REHABILITATED PROPERTIES

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-18 Special Property Tax Assessment for Rehabilitated Properties. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. **Councilpersons John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion**

C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-21 OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE

Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he wanted to make comments on this subject, but he deferred to Mrs. Rock because since she works closely with those folks and he thinks they made some changes to the ordinance that Council requested. Mrs. Rock said as requested by Council, they did change that line that Mr. Milling pointed out. She said this will help Codes Enforcement be better able to enforce it. Councilman Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-21 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance**. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling, Segars and Mayor Hines all voted in favor of the motion.**

D) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-22 PROPERTY DONATION (165-10-03-037) CHALMERS STREET EXTENSION

Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-22 Property Donation (165-10-03-037) Chalmers Street Extension.

Councilman Milling said Councilman Segars just pointed out in the description of the unfinished business as to the property tax map number has a designation last 3 numbers of ***037*** whereas the ordinance has **057** so we need to correct it, so we have the correct tax map number. Mr. Garland said it's his fault and it should be ***057*** so they probably need to restate the motion. Mayor Hines restated the motion for Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-22 Property Donation (165-10-03-057). **Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-22 Property Donation (165-10-03-057) Chalmers Street Extension. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce,**

Baccus, Reed, Milling, Segars and Mayor Hines all voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A) S.C. SWEET POTATO FESTIVAL FUNDING REQUEST – MRS. JUDY LANGLEY, MS. GINGER RIDGILL – DARLINGTON PILOT CLUB

Mrs. Judy Langley said she and Ms. Ridgill are there representing the Pilot Club and as sponsors of the S.C. Sweet Potato Festival they asked Council for additional funding this year. Mrs. Langley said they appreciate all of the support they have received from the City of Darlington in the past because they don't know what they would do without the Street Department and the Recreation Department. She said they have also received some monetary support. She said in the past they looked back over their records and in 2016 and 2017 they received $750. She said they looked at the last two years and they didn't receive anything. Mrs. Langley said after speaking with Mr. Garland he said the request was not received for the funds. She said they received a $400 contribution for this year. Mrs. Langley said while they appreciate that, they really feel that this is an important event that takes place in the City of Darlington that helps the local economy and bring in approximately 20,000-30,000 people. Mrs. Langley said with the money that they raise they do a lot of things to help people in the community. She said in the last few years advertising has gotten more expensive and in keeping with their costs it seems like they are making a smaller and smaller amount. She said they are putting more and bringing in less and it's harder to give back to the community and that's why they are coming to the City to request $5,000 this year. Ms. Ginger Ridgill said t-shirts always show up the day of the festival, but this year they are honoring their first responders. Ms. Ridgill showed them the t-shirt they will have available at the festival. Mayor Hines told the ladies they have done a great job over the years and it's very rewarding for the citizens of Darlington and it is very well attended by people from all around. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland how much the City could afford to give. Mr. Garland said, "We have $612,000 in the hospitality collections account. He said we've given out $15,00 for Freedom Fest, $10,000 for the Veterans Memorial; $5,000 for the Cotton Mill Memorial and we just gave $5,000 for the Southern 500 Golf Tournament. He told Council that's what they've approved so far. **Councilman Milling made a motion that we increase the 2019 budget for the Sweet Potato**

Festival to the amount of $5,000 with that $5,000 coming out of the Hospitality Tax Fund. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling, Segars and Mayor Hines all voted in favor of the motion.

B) PEE DEE COALITION PROCLAMATION – MS. SIERRA & MS. DELORES BESS

Ms. Sierra said she is the Victim's Advocate here in Darlington and besides the Proclamation she wanted to let them know they are having their Domestic Violence Awareness Month Walk on Saturday October 19th at 10:00 AM at the Courthouse. Ms. Delores Bess said she wanted to introduce herself. She said she is the Trauma Counselor for Darlington County. Ms. Bess said she is stationed here in Darlington City as well as Hartsville. Ms. Bess said most people don't or have been saying that they don't know that they have counseling services right here in Darlington and it is free. Councilman Milling asked the location of the business and Ms. Bess said 105 Orange Street. Ms. Sierra said she put some brochures in the lobby. Mayor Hines read the Proclamation proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and presented it to Ms. Sierra & Ms. Bess. A picture was taken with the Mayor presenting the two ladies with the Proclamation.

B) PDRTA BOARD REAPPOINTMENT – MR. HOWARD GARLAND

Mr. Garland said July Alexander has served on the PDRTA Board for approximately eight years as Chairperson and he received a nice note from the new Director, Mr. Don Strickland about what a good job she is doing. Mr. Garland said Ms. Alexander's time is technically up and they want to have her reappointed and he concur. Mr. Garland said he don't think we've had a better representative on that Board since he's been here. He recommends that Council that they approve Judy Alexander for another term on the PDRTA Board representative. **Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion for Council to accept Ms. Judy Alexander for another term on the PDRTA Board reappointment. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Hines all voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Elaine Reed recused herself from voting because Ms. Alexander is her sister.**

OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY SOFTBALL FIELD – COUNCILWOMAN SHEILA BACCUS

Councilwoman Baccus said she and Mr. Garland was discussing some information about putting playground equipment at the softball field that's near Bowens Manor because of the fact that they are going to start back using field. She said the City still owns the field so we're going to start back using the field, so Mr. Andrews is going to present Council with information on this. (Mr. Andrews passed out a copy of the quote with a picture of the playground equipment attached) Mr. Andrews said about three weeks ago we found out there was a possibility of us getting five acres back at the ballfield and Ms. Baccus approached him about what we were going to do there. He said he had to get clarification to see if we could do certain things there or not. Mr. Andrews said as long as it's a recreational area we can do whatever we want to do there as long as it remains a recreational area. He said we didn't play ball there this year because we felt we didn't own it and didn't want to put nobody at risk. Mr. Andrews said, "Since we own it, we do plan on using it because it makes life a little bit easier to have our adults and older guys go over there and play and keep them off Blue Street some because its crowded at Blue Street. Mr. Andrews said we are planning on using it as a ballfield, but Ms. Baccus wanted to add a playground there, so he went out and got a quote (State contract quote from Play & Park Structures) which is the same people that did all of our parks. Mr. Andrews said the quote of $41,162.83 (Installed price) he received is half price right now so everything that's showing on the diagram is what they are quoting on. Mayor Hines asked if we would pay for this out of the hospitality tax money and Mr. Garland said this would come out of the bond money. Councilman Milling asked, "What is the age group of people living in that area"? Mr. Andrews said, "Mr. Milling, I wouldn't even know. I know there are kids out there at Bowens Manor". Councilwoman Baccus said, "There's a lot of kids in Bowens Manor. There's a lot of kids in that area". Mr. Andrews said, "I can't give an educated answer on that to exactly how many kids are in the area". Mayor Hines said she was approached about three months ago as to why it wasn't cut because the person said kids were playing out there. Mr. Andrews said, "At that time that was not our property anymore as far as we were concerned; that's why that was not being cut by the recreation department. He said the street department went out there after that and since then they had it bush-hogged and it is back on their schedule to be cut. Mr. Andrews said they have been having a bad problem with overcrowding at Virgil Wells Stadium because everybody wants to practice on game day out there when they are playing. Mr. Andrews said, "Now they

can relocate them to over there and they can practice over there and come back to the field". Mayor Hines said Bowens Manor has a lot of children so she knows they would greatly appreciate it. Councilman Segars said, "You mentioned about a lot of traffic, a lot of cars, do you have room out there to locate this playground where it will be safe for the children"? Mr. Andrews said, "where we would put it would be safe for the children". (He showed them the area on the sketch where it would be located). Councilman Gardner asked, "Do we own any land more in the middle, in the heart of the Cain neighborhood"? Councilman Gardner said, "I think the idea is to give an area of play for the other side of 52 in the Cain neighborhood essentially". Councilman Gardner said, "What my worry is I know there's a potential business coming in to the property beside a plant owned potentially expanding the roads for a whole bunch of tractor trailers to be coming through there so I wouldn't want to put a playground right beside it and the majority of the children would have to cross old Florence Highway. Councilman Gardner said he didn't know if there was a property more centrally located in the neighborhood. Mr. Garland said we don't own anything in that area other than lift and pump stations. He said we do own the old dump property which is off Friendship Road. Councilwoman Baccus said, "That location is a good location because the kids from Second Street, Third Street and the alphabet streets it's more convenient for them to go away from the highway instead of the highway. Councilwoman Baccus said, "And from where he's speaking of putting it at, if you've ever been to Bowens Manor, it's at the back of the property". She said when you come into that baseball field to park the parking is at the front of the field, he's speaking about the far end of the field, so it's totally safe for kids to play there. Councilman Gardner asked exactly where this is located. Mr. Andrews said the entrance down the third base line coming in down the field entrance. Councilman Milling said, "Have you identified a funding source"? Mr. Andrews said, "I think hospitality tax was mentioned to be used for that". Councilman Milling said, "How does this particular park fit in with tourism for the hospitality money to be used"? Mayor Hines said Mr. Garland said "Bond Money". Mr. Andrews said, "Bond Money and H-Tax Money is all the same thing." He said we will have to come up with a plan and I think Bryant has already started working on that plan. He said you're going to have to connect these parks; you're going to have to do a trail system; you're going to have to do something along that line to draw people into wanting to use these and visit these parks". Mr. Andrews said, I said parks, plural because you're going to have to tie Bowen Manor to Hampton Street or you're going to have to tie Bowen Manor to Virgil Wells. He said

Virgil Wells is a different story because we are already bringing in people. Mr. Andrews said we've got to do something that's going to say, "Come Visit Us". If we don't do that, in my professional opinion, it's not hospitality driven. Councilwoman Baccus said, "From centralization where Bowens Manor is to Hampton Street, it's a lot easier to tie a trail from Bowen Manor to Hampton Street than from Hampton Street to anywhere else". Mr. Andrews said, "Absolutely". He said, " I know none of this has happened yet and we're speaking out at City Council, but if we were so lucky to get the Brunson-Dargan property in the future there's another way to tie into that because we already own the land all the way there and I think we are one homeowner away from getting an easement across Main Street and then we can tie three different areas in the City together". Mr. Andrews said, "It by itself, I don't think you can do hospitality tax, but it within that structure most certainly can be used as hospitality tax". Councilman Gardner said, "If you were wanting to use the hospitality funds and tie it into tourism you can go from the Pee Dee Land Trust Property and then potentially tie it into Williamson Park Trails". Councilwoman Reed said, "If we know that this is what needs to be done, what are we waiting on"? She said, "If you've got a plan let's connect it. We know that this is one of the criteria for keeping the money and getting the money-add another park". Mr. Andrews said, "As recreation director for Darlington County I do not think that we could have enough places for kids, adults, seniors, whatever, to go out and enjoy themselves, but what I would like as recreation director is to sit down with some of ya'll and put a plan together of exactly what we're going to do so we can work towards that so I'm not getting a piece from this one, and a piece from this one and a piece from this one and then we're trying to go in a hundred different directions and nothing's being finished". Mr. Andrews said he would like to sit down and put a plan together and work toward doing that. Mr. Andrews said, "I don't want to spend time spending my wheels on something that council as a whole doesn't agree on. I want it to be something that everybody is united on and we move forward with". He said there are a lot of needs, but we've got to focus on what we want to do. Mr. Andrews said, "If you would, let's put two or three people on a committee and let's have a plan and get something done". Mayor Hines asked if Monday October 14th would be a good day for a meeting? Mr. Garland said, "Why don't we make it a Friday evening where we start in the afternoon maybe and make it four hours". Mr. Garland said everybody is shaking their head "No". Mayor Hines came up with another date of October 10th which didn't work for the majority of council. Mr. Garland said, "I don't think two hours is enough time to go over everything he's

talking about. He said maybe a Saturday morning where they can have breakfast and stay to about 11 AM or 11:30 AM. Mayor Hines called out other possible dates for the meeting. Councilwoman Bruce asked, "We've got to do it now"? Councilman Gardner said, "Maybe after the election". Mayor Hines said, "We'll discuss it later then". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Are we discussing the trail later or are we discussing the whole idea, plan"? Some of the Councilmembers said, "The plan, tying it all together". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So we're gonna postpone talking about or making a vote on the equipment until after we have the plan hashed out, is that what you're saying you want to do"? Mr. Garland said she's talking more about the equipment for the playground not so much about the plan. Councilman Milling asked if we had a source of funding that could be utilized to pay for this equipment and then if once we get things tied together so we don't have an issue of whether or not we would have to pay back hospitality tax funds if we don't have things tied together"? Mr. Garland said, "The best I can tell you on that is that it would have to be taken from general fund and we don't have the money for that. He said there's two accounts you can take it from-the hospitality tax collection account or the hospitality tax bond. Councilman Milling said both of them should be related to bringing tourism. Mr. Garland said the Hospitality Bond Account has to be spent by June 2020. Mr. Garland said the way the bond itself was written it said baseball and other recreational facilities. Mr. Garland said, "If ya'll want to do that, ya'll go ahead and do it and worry about it later; or ya'll punt, but the question Ms. Baccus was asking about was the playground equipment". Councilwoman Reed said, "I'm saying, so we're all okay about the recreational park, so I'm saying all this is-we're going to do something that is recreational that'll fit what the hospitality money is about". Councilwoman Reed said, "All I'm saying is let's move on. If we need to go ahead and approve the equipment while it's half price and the plan is to make all this meet". Mr. Andrews said the product must be shipped by December 31st to get it half price. Councilman Gardner said, "I don't want to punt into the indefinite future, but I'm fine for punting into the mid November range and have a group session together and discuss this and what we have for the future of Darlington as far as recreation goes". He said we just can't be spending all over the place if it's not some way to attach it to tourism unless we can find another funding source. Councilwoman Baccus said, "As far as attracting tourism we have already built two other parks and the same difference parks are parks and all of them attracting tourism in that case". Mr. Andrews said, "In defense of that, we were going to build the ballfield and we talked about expanding the trail to Hampton

Street over to Brunson-Dargan. When the 17 ½ acres got sold the only thing that changed now is the route. He said Virgil Wells is generating tourism dollars over there right now and it's stand alone and doesn't have to be connected to Old Florence Road or Hampton Street. Mr. Andrews said we're going to have to connect Old Florence Road and even then, we're going to have to show that people are coming in to use that too. Councilwoman Bruce said, "Help me to understand what the issue is tonight-whether or not we have the correct funding coming out of the hospitality or the general fund because there's a whole lot of conversation going on and it seems like we're not sure we can get this based on hospitality" "So do we need to wait until we tie in these trails you're talking about"? Councilwoman Bruce said, "My question is can you go ahead and get the equipment now"? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes, as far as we're committed to making it a tourism attraction". Councilman Segars said, "The funding is going to be coming from hospitality and not from the ballfield bond, is that correct"? Mr. Garland said Council needs to designate which one you want it to come from. Councilman Segars said, "I think we need to be sensitive about that bond that we took out to build all those ballfields that we haven't produced yet and we don't need to be taking money away from that if there's a snowballs chance that we're going to build a ballfield". Councilwoman Baccus said, "That statement is kind of way out there because we definitely probably won't be building no ballfield by June 2020 so if we don't use that bond by June 2020 it goes back, right"? She said, "So that's a million dollars that we're going to lose if we don't use the money by 2020 and we definitely won't be building no ballfield by 2020". "We don't even have land to build it on. First, we've got to find the land, so that's not even an issue and $41,000 is not big of a deal when you're talking about that much money just sitting there in a bond". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I think the problem is, it's a location issue here that seems to be the problem". Mayor Hines said we need to finalize this because we've spent too much time on it. She told Council they need to vote on it; vote it up or vote it down. Councilman Gardner said, "I've got no problem with the location and agrees with Councilwoman Baccus that the bond is probably where we should spend it from because of the deadline". Councilman Gardner said, "We can spend that money on buying land for the ballfields and there are many things we can spend it on to get the process rolling for the ballfields". He said if we don't come forward with a plan as far as what we're going to do with the City and spend those funds, we're going to have an issue in a few short months". **Councilwoman Bruce made a motion to purchase the playground equipment in the amount of $41,162.83 for Bowen Manor**

Apartments as long as we do it legally. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Carolyn Bruce, Elaine Reed & Mayor Hines voted in favor of the motion. Councilpersons John Milling and John Segars voted against the motion. (Motion Passes)

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said we want to thank Dixie Cup for writing a letter of approval for getting the EDA Grant.

Mr. Garland said County Council has called for a Special work session tomorrow morning, 9:00 AM at the Raceway Media Center. They are going to give an update on the status for consideration for a new Judicial Courthouse Facility.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed presented Councilwoman Sheila Baccus with her portion of $250 since she's heading up the restoration and cleanup of the Darlington Cemetery.

Councilman Bryant Gardner said he would like to thank Administration, The COG, State & Federal Representative for work with the EDA Grant. He also thanked Administration and the different departments for their help.

REMINDERS

November 5, 2019 at 7 AM – 7 PM - City of Darlington Municipal Election;
November 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

_____
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer

CITY OF DARLINGTON

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2019

The Regular Meeting of Darlington City Council was held November 12, 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

Ms. Elaine Reed gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 council meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reed. John Segars, Shelia Baccus, Carolyn Bruce and John Milling approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGEANDA

Mr. Milling made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baccus. John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner and Elaine Reed approved the motion.

DDRA UPDATE – MS. LISA ROCK

Ms. Lisa Rock stated that the DDRA is a part of the Beautification Board and will host a state-wide program called "Grab a Bag SC Campaign" this weekend, November 16, 2019 from 9-12. They will be meeting at the City Administration building. She also stated that teams up to four who collect the most trash will receive $100 Walmart gift cards. Ms. Rock also stated that the DDRA is offering it's members a referral bonus for all newly paid members before February 29, 2020. They will receive a free Taste of Darlington ticket. The member that gets the most newest members will receive a pack of tickets to the Southern 500. The DDRA is kicking off the holiday season with Shop Small on November 21, 2019 downtown with a Santa, DJ, snow and much more to support our downtown businesses. Arbor Day will be held December 6, 2019 at 10 am on the corner of South Main and Patience Street.

CHAMBER UPDATE – MS. HARRIET

Ms. Harriett Hobbs stated that the Toast of Darlington was going to be held November 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm on Edwards Avenue. She said they would have at least 18 cooks and tickets could still be purchase for $25. There is going to be a cash bar and the band Jelly Side Up. Ms. Hobbs said that Light Up Darlington had already begun, and that Darlington would be having their first annual Christmas on the Square December 14th, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. This event will be free to the public and Santa will be there. Ms. Hobbs said that there will be a ribbon cutting on December 21st at 119 Cashua Street for A & D Tax.

CITIZENS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. James Quick came before council to discuss the rezoning of D. Avenue. He stated that he lives on D Avenue and was concerned about having the Dixie Cup plant and what they are planning to build across the street from his home.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Miss Darlington USA – Karoline Kitching's, Miss Darlington-Teen-USA- Sullivan Blackwell-Miss Darlington-USA Executive Director-Will Isgett

   Mr. Will Isgett and Ms. Karoline Kitching's were present to let Council and Mayor know how much they appreciate them and all that they have done for them and the Miss Darlington Organization.

b. First Reading Ordinance 2019-23-Zoning Designation for Blue Street (164-06-01-078) R-10 Low Density Residential

   Ms. Reed made the motion to approve the first reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Milling. John Segars, Shelia Baccus, Carolyn Bruce and Bryant Gardner and approved the motion.

c. First Reading Ordinance 2019-24-Zoning Designation for Old Florence Highway, Avenue D. and Friendship Street (165-04-01-005) and (165-00-02-010) BI, Basic Industrial District

   Mr. Bryant made the motion to approve the first reading. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baccus. John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, John Milling and Elaine Reed approved the motion.

d. Approval 1019-2020 Housing Demolition List

e. Mr. Milling made the motion to approve the 2019-2020 Housing Demolition List. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reed. John Segars, Shelia Baccus, Carolyn Bruce and Bryant Gardner approved the motion.

Receive as Information

Department reports/ no action needed

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines addressed council and the citizens in the courtroom. She wanted to congratulate all the winners from the election and wished them well.

Ms. Bruce addressed council and the citizens in the courtroom. She thanked the City of Darlington for allowing her to serve for the last 4 years. She congratulated the reelected council members and the new Mayor Curtis Boyd. She stated that she looked forward to seeing what was in store for the City of Darlington and that GOD give them the wisdom, insight, knowledge and courage to help move Darlington forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Gardner, seconded by Ms. Reed, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Secretary

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY –DECEMBER 3, 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, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mr. Ernest Boston, Mr. Winfred & Mrs. Brenda Herrington, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. A.D. Jordan, Mr. Spencer Cheeseboro, Mr. Danny Watson, Mr. Steve Buffkin, Mr. Freddie Kinsaul, Mrs. Rosena James, Mrs. Ouida Page, Mr. Howard Nettles, Mrs. Kim Nelson, Mr. Charles Bailey, Ms. Tonnette Chatman, Ms. Jannie Lathan and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present was Mr. Bobby Bryant, News Reporter from the News & Press and Mrs. Tonya Brown with WPDE TV15.

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 Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Council Meeting. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. Councilpersons John Segars, John Millings, Elaine Reed, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the Beautification Board's Grab a Bag SC Litter Collection Day on November 16th was a success. She said volunteers removed more than 300 pounds of trash from the streets. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA Shop Darlington Contest kicks off as they encourage folks to shop local this holiday season. She said you can shop at five (5) different Darlington businesses between Thanksgiving and Christmas, send in copies of those receipts with an entry form and you will be entered into a drawing for one of three $100 gifts cards. (She said fuel and prescriptions don't count) Mrs. Rock said every five (5) receipts counts as an entry. She said entry forms can be found at local businesses, online, at the News & Press and on Facebook. Mrs. Rock said the City Tree Board and Darlington Garden Club will hold the Annual Arbor Day Ceremony on Friday at 10:00 AM on S. Main Street at Patience Street (Across from Walmart Gas Station). On Sunday, the Darlington Rescue Squad's Christmas Parade & Festival will begin at 4:00 PM followed by the Darlington Kiwanis Club's Annual Carol Lighting Ceremony at 6:00 PM on the Square. The Annual DDRA Golf Tournament is Wednesday April 8, 2020 at the Darlington Country Club. The "Taste of Darlington" will be Thursday April 23, 2020.

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

Ms. Hobbs said Light Up Darlington is still working on getting Darlington lit up. She said they have purchased more lights and decorations and they have already started working on plans for next year. Ms. Hobbs said on Tuesday December 10, 2019 at 6:00 – 8:00 PM one of the greatest linebackers to ever come out of the State of South Carolina is coming back home. She said Levon Kirkland of Lamar, SC will be in Darlington at Dominion Church to speak to our youth and our adults. Ms. Hobbs said Mr. Kirkland is going to speak about his great NFL career, his career at Clemson University, his career at Seattle, his career with the Pittsburg Steelers, Eagles and the Seahawks. Ms. Hobbs said Mr. Kirkland will speak about the life lessons you learn from losing games and being a good Christian athlete. Ms. Hobbs said we need to get as many children to this event since it's free to children (students). She said he's a life coach and he go around talking to students about what it means to win and what it means to lose. Ms. Hobbs said they will have a hot dog supper and Mr. Kirkland will speak from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The event is being hosted by the Chamber and Dominion

Church, but it's being presented by Fitness World Gym. Ms. Hobbs encouraged everyone to attend. On Saturday December 14th they talked about Light Up Darlington hosting the first Annual Christmas on the Square from 5:30 – 8:00 PM. They will have pictures with Santa, free hot chocolate, cookies and candy canes for all the kids. Ms. Hobbs said they are lighting up a different part of Darlington (out towards the Carnegie Library) with lights, blowups, and places to have pictures taken. She said on the other end of town they have a breathtaking live nativity scene. She said they are looking for carolers to come and sing that night and if anyone would like to volunteer one of the choirs from their church, give her a call.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON

Mr. Curtis Boyd said he brings good news and bad news. He said in October Ms. Baccus brought up about purchasing playground equipment for Bowens Manor. He said during that time he and Mr. Lee Andrews had been talking about different things. The CEO from Pee Dee Electric asked to have a meeting with him, so he invited Mr. Andrews to go with him for that. Mr. Boyd said he went to speak to Mr. Fuller, not about the playground but about a different situation and while they were discussing things, the ballfield at Bowens Manor was brought up about how it was grown up. He said Mr. Fuller brought up about how he played out there with the team for Pee Dee Electric and how disheartening it was to him because he saw the kids out there and they were playing in the trash can. Mr. Boyd said during the last part of the meeting when they were getting ready to leave Mr. Andrews told him about how Council voted on trying to get the playground if they could do it legally with hospitality tax funds. Mr. Fuller said he could make it happen with a 1% loan. Mr. Boyd said Mr. Andrews explained to Mr. Fuller that there was a deadline and if the playground wasn't bought within a week, that they would lose the opportunity to get it saving $41,000 because we're getting it half price. Mr. Boyd said Mr. Fuller was onboard to see if he can make it happen. Mr. Boyd said he and Lee went back and talked to Kevin and with Howard and they were in agreeance to try to see if they can make it work. It has to be agreed and voted on by City Council next month. Mr. Boyd said his understanding from Mr. Etheridge is it's not going to be given, so that's the bad news. He said Ms. Baccus won't be able to get the playground. He said the kids over there will still be playing in trash can because there won't be a playground over there. Mr. Boyd said it's been secured with a purchase order, so the playground company has agreed to hold it so therefore that time limit is over now, and

you've got it secured as long as Council votes on it next month. Mr. Boyd said, "Then to proceed with it if they decide to do it legally, you'll be able to get the playground and there will be activity over there where the kids will have something to play with". He said he just wanted to share that because it's great news. He said there was a chance we were going to lose it. You can't have enough playgrounds, you can't have enough ballfields, you can't have enough activities for citizens to be able do, but you have to make sure it's done correctly. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Boyd if he would be bringing information about the terms and repayment. Mr. Boyd said he thinks the payment will be a little over $500.00 month for seven (7) years at 1% interest. He told Mr. Milling he would bring that information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-23 ZONING DESIGNATION FOR BLUE STREET (164-06-01-078)

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-23 Zoning Designation for Blue Street property parcel 164-06-01-078 and it be rezoned as R-10 Low Density Residential. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Baccus, Bruce, Reed, Milling and Segars approved the motion.

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-24 ZONING DESIGNATION FOR OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY, AVENUE D AND FRIENDSHIP STREET (165-04-01-005) & (165-00-02-010) BI-BASIC INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-24 Zoning Designation for Old Florence Highway, Avenue D and Friendship Street 165-04-01-005 and 165-00-02-010, BI Basic Industrial District. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Baccus, Bruce, Reed, Milling and Segars approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A) OUTGOING MAYOR PRESENTATION – MAYOR GLORIA C. HINES AND OTHERS

Mayor Hines said we will do the "And Others" first. Mr. A.D. Jordan with Senator Tim Scott's office presented Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce with a Plaque for her distinguished career of public service to the people of Darlington having served four years on Darlington City Council and a

Certificate of Excellence in recognition of her outstanding achievement. Mr. A.D. Jordan also presented Mayor Gloria Hines with a Plaque for her distinguished career in public service to the people of Darlington having served fourteen years on Darlington City Council in addition to her four years as Mayor and her tireless work in the community and a Certificate of Excellence in recognition of outstanding achievement and senior service. Mr. Jordan said, "On a personal level, Mayor Hines has always been very kind to me, and I appreciate that but also as a former elected official I'd like to say my personal thank you because I know what you and your families go through just to serve in public office". "So, on a personal note from me, Thank you".

Mayor Hines made surprise presentations to Officer Steve Buffkin with a "Key to the City" for forty (40) years of service. Officer Buffkin has been employed with the City of Darlington since October 1978. Mayor Hines took a picture of Officer Buffkin along with his wife and daughter. Chief Kelvin Washington said Officer Buffkin is not retiring, this was just something Mayor Hines waned to do before leaving office. Mayor Hines also presented Clerk & Treasurer Gloria Pridgen with a "Key to the City" and what she called the "Mayor's Award" which was the framed and matted article that ran in the Diversity Works Magazine.

B) PEE DEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – 80TH ANNIVERSARY – MS. KATIE WILLCOX & MR. JEFF SINGLETARY

Mr. Singletary said they came to present Council with Pee Dee Electric's 80th Year History Book. He said they wanted everyone to have a copy of the book.

C) 2007-2017 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Garland said he checked the minutes from 2012 -2013 and they never adopted an update to the Comprehensive Plan originally done by Dan Vismor in 2007 and updated in 2012. Mr. Garland said Jannie Lathan has updated this plan and several characteristics have been updated but we really can't do a true new Comprehensive Plan until the 2020 Census comes out. So that we'll be in compliance with the ordinance he's asking Council tonight to adopt the 2007-2017 plan update. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the 2007-2017 Comprehensive Plan Update. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Baccus, Bruce, Reed, Milling and Segars approved the motion**.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council John Milling told Mayor Hines on behalf of the entire City Council they have enjoyed working with her as Mayor and Councilwoman Bruce as Mayor Pro-Tem these last four years and he wish them well as they engage in new endeavors. He said they look forward to working with Mayor Elect Curtis Boyd and Councilman Elect Howard Nettles.

Councilman Bryant Gardner said he shares the same sentiment. He told Mayor Hines it's been an honor to serve with her and he told Councilwoman Bruce he can't thank her enough for the hours she's given him and the personal phones calls.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed said she wanted to thank them both for the way they have taken her under their wings and guided her through a lot. She said it's been a pleasure for them to be her friends and being very supportive.

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus thanked Mayor Hines for her eighteen (18) years of service and she is still looking forward to her participating in the City events they will be having and staying active with them in City Council. Councilwoman Baccus thanked Councilwoman Bruce for her time and her service on City Council.

Councilman John Segars said, "Ditto" I can't add anything to that".

Mayor Hines during her tenure as Mayor they have made history twice; 1st as the first Black Mayor and 2nd as the first Black female Mayor of the City of Darlington. Mayor Hines said when she got on Council, she went to a beautification meeting and they talked about the lights and they knew at that time she loved lights. She thanked Bryant Gardner for the time they went out and redid all of the old lights and they did great with lights around the Square. She said as each year progressed, they added on lights and they dressed up Darlington around the Square and all the way out to Walmart. After that they went on each side and Darlington is looking great. Mayor Hines said under her leadership some wonderful and great things have happened: They secured a $2.5 million in grant money in the City of Darlington's Storm Water Bond; Storm Water project beginning from Fleming Street to Short Coker Street which is now completed; The

infrastructure project which eliminated the stinky smell coming from the Oil Mill draining into the ditch on Chalmers Street. Lathan consulting Company wrote the Ria Grant for this project; The EDA Grant totaling $821,000 in sewer lines for the By-Pass which if we have any problems will carry the sewer to Florence; The CDBG Grant for sewer line improvements in Southwest Darlington totaling $530,000 replacing sewer lines on six (6) streets next to S. Main Street; The CDBG for multiple community improvements in Southeast Darlington as part of Renaissance Grant and as part of the grant façade improvements were made to six houses, five dilapidated houses were demolished, stormwater improvements were made in the Southeast Darlington area. Project has been completed and the grant was written by Lathan Consulting Corporation; Construction on a new Walmart was completed in April 2016 and Darlington Walmart opened for business May 16, 2016 offering over 300 jobs; In July the City Council approved the purchased the purchase of a new vactor truck. The vactor truck has made a big difference helping out from Hurricane Florence and other storms coming to Darlington and it's being used all over the City of Darlington; In 2016 we hired a new City Attorney, Mr. Kevin Etheridge; In 2017 we hired Mr. Robert Stucks as our new City Judge; In 2018 we hired Chief Kelvin Washington as Darlington's new Police Chief; In February, 2019 SCDOT began the installation of four hundred linear feet (400') of sidewalk on S. Main Street stretching from F Avenue to Walmart. She said Senator Gerald Malloy was very instrumental in securing the grant for this sidewalk; In December 2018 Darlington approved the installation of two new playgrounds in the City of Darlington – The Sgt. Terrance Carraway Memorial Park on Southern Pine Street and the park on Siskron & Hampton Streets, which has not been named yet; The Darlington Garden Club has placed more than thirty (30) decorative pots in the downtown area; In February 2017 Darlington Fire Department acquired a new 2017 fire truck replacing an aging fire truck; Tractor Supply opened in 2016; Little Caesar's Pizza open in 2016; Fahrenheit 225 opened on the Square; Genesis Healthcare completed their project on Exchange Street; Construction continues on the new Carolina Bank; Chianti's Wings & Things opened April 2, 2019; S.C. Carolina House of Wings opened in 2019; there are new store fronts around the Square with new businesses that we located - a new tax office, Ward's Unique Flowers, MUSC Doctor's Office and Sonic is almost complete. Mayor Hines said there have been a lot of accomplishments under her tenure as Mayor in four years. She said, "Thank you and may God Bless the Citizens of Darlington. God sit's high and looks low and can see very well what's happening in Darlington, thank you".

REMINDERS

December 24th, 25th & 26th, 2019 – Christmas Holidays; All City Offices Closed

January 7, 2020 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer