CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2023 - AT 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons John Segars, John Milling, Howard Nettles, Elaine Reed & Sheila Baccus. Also present was Codes Enforcement Officer Ms. Sheila Jones, St. & Sanitation Superintendent Alex Gainey, Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Ms. Jannie Lathan, City Planner Ms. Merry Morgan Smith, Superintendent, Recreation Director Mr. Lee Andrews, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Darnell Carter, Ms. Rita Archer, Ms. Gloria Hines, Ms. Rosa Hudson, Ms. Ernestine Lyde, and other visitors.

Councilman Bryant Gardner was absent from the meeting.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Prayer by Mayor Boyd followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

AMEND AGENDA
Mr. Payne said we need to amend the agenda because there was a purchase order for the water & sewer department that came in after the packets were put together. Mr. Payne said normally I wouldn't have to ask you this but their bill went up ten percent from the last time. He said it's chemicals for the water system. Mr. Payne said to make that Item 7f under "New Business" – Purchase Order for the water & sewer department. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to amend the agenda to include Item 7f under "new business" which would be a purchase order for water & sewer department with respect to chemicals. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of amending the agenda.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON February 7, 2023
Councilman Howard Nettles made a motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 2023, Council Meeting. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA FOR March 14, 2023
Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for tonight's meeting March 14, 2023, with the addition of agenda Item 7f. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

CITIZENS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON, 30 TOTAL MINUTES MAXIMUM)
***Neither personal attacks nor disruptive behavior are permitted**

Mr. Darnell Carter said he received a note from Charlotte Fulton today helping him to understand the billing in the water department. Mr. Carter said I have a duplex which has one meter that's hooked up from years ago. The duplex like I said only has one meter but I'm being charged for two meters every month since, I think the 80's. My question to the people in the office was, "Why was I being charged for two meters, and they said we do that for everybody. Mr. Carter said, "It was not just her, but the mayor; superintendent here said they do that to everybody that has duplex or up to fifty or more units we charge a meter for each unit. So, after looking at that it's about $4,000 a month for that but with mine it's $77.00. He said each month after December of last year it went up $30 so she tried to explain that to me through the gallons/usage. Come to find out the meter on the outside wasn't working and I was being charged a certain amount and right now I'm in such a dilemma about it. After talking with the mayor, after talking with the superintendent, they have given me the run around so bad I don't even know what to do. So, what I came tonight for is to see if I can get an answer from you guys. Not to cause a problem but to fix the situation. And again, from the beginning I said I've got two tenants at one small place, and I do not have but one line running to that meter which I'll do that sooner or later. But let me tell you what I was told by the mayor…hearsay, that's hearsay. I was told by the mayor; I was told by the superintendent and Charlotte Fulton that this is what they practice in other counties such as Florence…either Florence…Florence County or the City of Florence this is what they do so I was kind of understanding that, but the truth of the matter is I've got a duplex run the same way in Florence…the exact same way. I've got two tenants; I've got one meter. I'm not being charged for an extra meter. This bill this month was $237 and guess how much the one was in Florence where they told me they do the same thing. Take a guess how much it was - $43. So, the money that's being made here in Darlington off of me for the last years; I'll actually say for the last ten. I just don't understand it. I might be a little excited about it but I'm not mad, but I can't understand how they keep giving me something that's not written. I asked for a policy. I asked for a readout. I got a bill for $500 in December so what she told me she did to find out what was going on she sent somebody (Charlotte). She sent somebody out to the place (126 Sparks Street) and had them to read the meter. I went right behind them, and the meter was the same way that it was after she sent me the text. Well, she sent it to me email. So, after she told me what the reading was I went and read it myself and we didn't come up with the same numbers, but I have a picture of mine and I have a picture of hers. Now, today she told me….I was told there, but I was told they put a new system out that's going to read it from now on. They can read it here in the office, so they say. When I went and looked at it today and that same little thing that was on there that she told me they put on there new, has been on there for quite a while." Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Carter if there was a number he could give him. He said 843-496-8781. Mayor Boyd asked him if he's available tomorrow and Mr. Carter said, "Yes Sir." Mayor Boyd said, "Just to stand corrected now, I didn't tell you what they do is the same as they do in Florence because I don't know how the city does theirs". Mr. Carter asked, "Are you the mayor"? Mayor Boyd said, "I'm the mayor". Mr. Carter said, "You told me that after you called me back. You called me back real quickly; you know the same day. You told me that day....you were so nice about it. And when I spoke to you mayor all due respect, you were very polite and very cordial". Mayor Boyd said, "I'm more than glad to help but I don't remember even talking to you…..Mr. Carter said, "But you did tell me this is what they told you". Mr. Carter said, "We don't have to go back and forth about it. You did tell me that

this is the practices they use in Florence". Mayor Boyd said, "Well, if I did, I'll just refer back to whatever they told me to tell you. Mayor Boyd said I'll be glad to meet with you tomorrow and go over it with you and go to them and see what's going on". Mr. Carter asked, "Are we clear on the part about I'm paying for two meters at one place, and nobody lived in the place at one time for two years". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Let me ask a question. I don't understand what you're saying. So, you're getting two bills that say the same thing"? Are you getting billed twice or you're getting billed for two meters and one bill or two meters……Mr. Carter said, "I have the bill but what she gave me is that today but that is not a policy; that is like you can go in and just print something on your computer. I've been begging her for four months to give me something writing to show me how I'm paying $237 from $167 four months ago. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "So were you being charged for water and meter the two years that the apartments were vacant"? Mr. Carter said, "Yes." Councilwoman Baccus said, "They still was charging you for water and meter"? Mr. Carter said, "Yes, because it's one……Mayor Boyd said, "We'll pull it up tomorrow and go through it and make sure it's all clarified and correct". Mr. Carter said, "But you told me you did that. You said you're the one personally looked at everything and cleared it up". Councilman Milling said, "Mr. Mayor we've gone over five minutes on this issue can we refer it to Mr. Payne so he can address it". Mayor Boyd said we'll get it all straight.

Ms. Jannie Lathan passed out copies of a notarized statement to document the conduct of one of our City of Darlington employee's behavior. Ms. Lathan said, "I would like to read from the statement I just provided to you, and it reads….Ms. Lathan started reading her statement and Mayor Boyd said, "Ms. Lathan I hate to stop you, but this is a personnel matter and I think it should be handled separately outside of council. Ms. Lathan said, "Well the concern is Mayor I bought this to your attention as well as the full council, as well as the city manager…….Mayor Boyd interjected and said, "Yes ma'am and we passed it on to the city manager". Ms. Lathan said, "Ok, I think I'm allowed to speak and over a month ago, but no action has been taken. No one has followed up with me." Mr. Payne said, "Mr. Mayor, excuse me; that's incorrect. We're going to discuss this in executive session". Ms. Lathan asked, "Did you follow up with me Mr. Payne"? Mr. Payne said, "No ma'am because I'm going to talk to my council first because this is a personnel matter that needs to be discussed in executive session and it will be tonight". Ms. Lathan asked, "When may I expect to get a response for my……Mr. Payne said, "It's a personnel matter. I can't share it with the public". Ms. Lathan said, "When will I, Mr. City Manager, because I bought this to your attention over a month ago". Mr. Payne said, "You did and it's a personnel matter and it can't be discussed….Mr. Lathan interrupted and said, "Could you not have told me a month ago Ms. Lathan we're going to discuss this, and we'll get back to you because how would I know". The same thing with you mayor or council members, how would I know. This is very concerning, and this is the reason that I documented this because to have a city employee make disparaging comments about a city council person is inappropriate". Mr. Payne said, "Mr. Mayor, she's trying to discuss personnel matter….Mayor Boyd said, "We'll handle this in executive session". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I read this just now. This is not specifically about no particular name of anybody. She's just talking about an incident that happened…..Mr. Payne and mayor Boyd both said, "This is a personnel matter". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Stop interrupting me". Councilwoman Baccus kept saying stop interrupting me. Ms. Lathan said, "At your request Mayor even though I will certainly state you are infringing

upon my constitutional right to speak, which you have no legal right to do. That being said, it's been over a month now and as of today, I have not received any communication from the city manager, our mayor or council on any actions taken to address this issue. My. Concern remains, that if this type of behavior is not properly addressed it will only escalate and lead to this city employee and other city employees continuing to do the same. If not properly addressed, it will send a clear signal to our city employees that this city manager and indeed this mayor and this city council finds this type of behavior to be totally acceptable and it is not. Therefore, I respectfully request again, that you properly address and handle this issue so that this type of behavior never happens again".

Ms. Gloria Hines said last Thursday she got a call about 11am from Ms. Teresa Bruce and when she called she said she was sending Mr. Vondell to talk with her. Ms. Hines said I told her I don't want to talk with Vondell. She said she was told; you've got another leak. Ms. Hines said she was working at the time, but she called back and told Teresa to have Vondell meet her at her house at 12:45. She said Vondell came to her house and went every place but on top of the house. He tried to find a leak, but they couldn't find one. Ms. Hines said, "The hole that the people dug up when I had them there in December, he went down in there where they put another cut of valve at. Vondell was saying about some water. I said, Vondell you see some water. She said they told me I was leaking thirty gallons. We couldn't find no water. He (Vondell) said, "I don't see nothing Ms. Hines". She said he went everywhere checking and couldn't find no leak. Ms. Hines said, "So, there's something wrong. I had a leak in December, I had a leak one time before about three years before that time; couldn't find a leak then and couldn't find a leak in December and then now I've got another leak. So, somebody needs to check that. And also last week and I was in Florence at Lowe's, and he saw a man getting out of a truck with Anderson plumbing on the side. Ms. Hines asked him if he was the one that went to Chiant's Wings & Things in Darlington and said there was no leak and the man said, "yes." Ms. Hines said did you tell the city supervisor, Mr. Shugart and he said, "no". Ms. Hines said Mr. Anderson told her he did not tell him that she had a leak. Ms. Hines said, "I said you wrote the letter and sent it to the water department, and he said, "Yes, I did. She had no leak." Ms. Hines said, "Something is going on in Darlington. Somebody needs to check something because I've had the right people come out and check mine. Even the city came out and checked mine last Thursday. There is no leak and I know this time I'm going to have a higher water bill. There is something wrong with that system. Please check it out because there's going to be some lawsuits going around after a while.

OLD BUSINESS

a)Public Hearing – Sale of 207 Siskron Street Property

Mayor opened the floor for the public hearing. Ms. Lathan asked if there was an agenda for the public hearing. Mr. Payne said, "No ma'am, it's just public comment. Ms. Lathan asked, "Is there a sign in sheet so the record will show all the citizens attending this public hearing"? Mr. Payne said, "No ma'am you can just step forward and speak. He said it's in the middle of our meeting". Ms. Lathan asked, "Is there anyone recording the minutes"? Mr. Payne said, "Yes." Ms. Lathan asked will the minutes of this public hearing be published"? Mr. Payne said, "yes." Ms. Lathan asked, "When will that occur"? Mr. Payne said, "When the minutes are approved next month.

Ms. Pridgen is doing that." Ms. Lathan asked, "Is this property that the City of Darlington owns now"? Mayor Boyd said, "Yes." Ms. Lathan asked, "When did the City of Darlington purchase this property"? Mayor Boyd said, "I don't have a date. It was prior to me being here." Ms. Lathan said, "Shouldn't someone know that to be able to….I mean who's chairing this public hearing"? My concern is, and I've addressed this concern before council before, is we do not afford the citizens of Darlington a public hearing. We end up with these fake public hearings noted as an agenda item on a regular city council meeting. And I've come before this council before and ask that when you do public hearing in the future, have an agenda. Have someone present these pertinent facts. We don't know and you're saying now, you don't know when the city purchased this property. How can you take actions on the sale of this property if a) you don't even know when the city purchased it. Do you know how much the city paid for the property? Mayor Boyd said, "Yes, $80,000 for all of the property where Siskron Street sits where the park is. Ms. Lathan said, So, the City paid $80,000 for the property and how much is the city proposing to sell the property for"? Mayor Boyd said, "We're not selling all of the property, we're selling a portion of the property. Ms. Lathan asked, "How much did the city pay for the portion of the property that we're selling". Mayor Boyd said, the total property was $80,000 so a portion of it is being cut off and sold". Ms. Lathan said, "Again, my question is, how much did the city pay for the portion that the city….of course this is all of the City of Darlington's money, not individual's money so how much would that be"? Mayor Boyd said, we don't have a total on that. Ms. Lathan said, "And how much are you proposing to sell this portion of the property for"? Mr. Payne said, "Mr. Mayor, this property was put out into the public and we got one bid on it for $35,000. I also spoke with the Municipal Association, and they said that it is permissible to have a public hearing in the middle of a regular meeting. They did not state that an agenda was required. All we had to do was allow the public to come and speak, which is what we're doing. Ms. Lathan said, "Did they tell you recorded minutes of this meeting was required"? Mr. Payne said, "It will be recorded in the minutes". Ms. Lathan said, "The last….what I considered to be a fake public hearing when this mayor and council raised our water rates once in the middle of a pandemic and twice since then….Mayor Boyd said, "only once since then". Mr. Payne said, "Mr. Mayor, I remember that meeting and I remember distinctly that Ms. Lathan was late for the meeting, and she did miss it". Ms. Lathan said, "Well see here's the problem with that this city council meeting started at 6:00. There was no time given for when the public hearing was supposed to start because it was an agenda item. So, when I arrived (and I remember it very distinctly was well) at 6:03, I asked when the public was supposed to begin, I was told the public hearing was over. So of course, I wanted to answer some questions because it affected me like every other citizen in the city of Darlington because now we're raising our water rates again. Councilman Milling said, "Mr. Mayor I think this is a public hearing with respect to 207 Siskron Street. It's not a public hearing about water rates and such as that so I would request that Ms. Lathan confine her remarks to the matter at hand for the public hearing which is the sale of the property. Ms. Lathan said, "I can do that respectfully councilman if everyone else can as well. So, you may share that with our city manager because I'm following up with comments that he made as well and not only direct them to me. I think that will only be fair and appropriate. Ms. Lathan said, "My next question is, because I see we have a 2nd reading to discuss the sale of this property. Do you Mayor and city council (and I know one of our city councilmen is a former judge, lawyer) do you guys think it is appropriate to move forward with approval and a 2nd

reading when you don't even know when the city bought this property? How much you paid for the property? How do we know that you're not selling the property for significantly less than what we paid for it. Are you"? Mayor Boyd said, "the building is only maybe 1,000 square feet and if it were in great condition pretty much the sale of everything in Darlington right at this moment is about $30 a square foot so that would be $30,000. We're selling it for $35,000. The building has a leak in it, it's in bad shape; it's been sitting there since I've been mayor for over three and a half years trying to see if we can get rid of it. We put it out for bid and we've got somebody that's come up willing to take it and renovate it and make it better. Mayor Boyd said the city paid $80,000 from my understanding for the whole property, I don't think it's relevant or if we need to know the….or reason when they bought the property but they did purchase the property for $80,000 so they're getting $35,000 back out of the $80,000 to be able to take that piece of property and give it to somebody that's going to now renovate it and make it a usable piece of property that will generate funds back into the city of Darlington as well as a viable business to make the neighborhood look a lot better and more profitable for the city. Mayor Boyd said, "The city put it out for bid and it came back and first person that bid on it got to where they had medical problems and were unable to continue through that, so we waited through that process. We put it out for bids again as they were supposed, and the one bid came back in; the council voted to approve that bid the first time. We'll vote again and if the council approves or disapproves, we will find out in just a few moments". Mayor Boyd said, "I think it's a great process of being able to make sure that we're making something that's not just sitting there like the library that has sat there for thirty-five years and we can't do anything with it now; Is to try and get that piece of property back to life and put back into the public for good use". Ms. Lathan asked, "So, this is the second time this property has been sent out for bid"? Mayor Boyd said, "correct." Ms. Lathan asked, "So what happened the first time"? Mayor Boyd said, the first time the guy was having issues and backed out." Ms. Lathan asked, "And how much was that first bid"? Mr. Payne said, $42,000". Ms. Lathan said, "But you're proposing to sell it for $35,000? But we bought it for $80,000. Mayor Boyd said, "We bought the whole property for $80,000". Ms. Lathan asked, "How much did you buy the building for"? Mayor Boyd said, "The building was included. We don't know the price of that. I just told you that the price estimated for about $30,000 if it was……Ms. Lathan interrupted and said, "Did the city get a market analysis to differentiate the building from the other part"? Mayor Boyd said, "No ma'am we did not." Ms. Lathan said, "So how do you know you're not taking our money…..Mayor Boyd interrupted and said, "Because I know that the property value is $30,000. Ms. Lathan said, "I didn't interrupt you. So, how do we know…the city purchased the property for $80,000. We got one bid for $42,000 and that fell through. You put it out for bid again and we only got one bid. Should we not have gotten more than one bid. I think that's counter to our policy. Mayor Boyd said, "No, no ma'am". Mr. Payne said. "That would be incorrect". Ms. Lathan said, But how do we know and how do you know the value of the building that was part of the $80,000. How do you know and how do we know that you're not literally just giving someone a real good deal and we're losing money. So, what is left? The building is gone so what else is part of this $80,000 that the city purchased. Mayor Boyd said the property that the Siskron playground sits on. The part that Hampton Street Park sits on. Mayor Boyd said we took a small section and section it off for the building that's sitting there and I know that property in this area values around $30 a square foot if it's in good shape, so at $35,000 it's really not even worth $35,000. Ms. Lathan said, "With all

due respect mayor, you're not a real estate agent and…Mayor Boyd interrupted and said, ":No ma'am but the council voted on it." Ms. Lathan told Mayor Boyd he interrupted her. Ms. Lathan said, "With all due respect it seems like the council, the city manager has not done the level of due diligence that's required to move forward. Mayor Boyd interrupted and said, "I'll argue that fact because I do know we have done extremely well to make sure that property sold. Ms. Lathan said, "You're interrupting me again and I didn't say anything while you were speaking". Ms. Lathan said, "As I said, I don't think we are in a position to move forward because as citizens of Darlington I think we all know and understand exactly the financial and the transactional issues that's taken forth on this property. And I think we should know that, and you guys should know that before we move forward". Mayor Boyd said, "I think that if somebody gave us a $1.00 for the property and they fixed the property up and brought permits and remodeled the building we would make money off of that and then when they opened that business up and made that neighborhood look better and put a business in there that would pay us business license and taxes on that property then we would know definitely be making more money than it is sitting there as it is right now. If it continues to sit there as it is right now and nobody else bids on it and offers to buy it then it's deteriorated. So, I think anything above $1 for the sale of that property, the city of Darlington has done extremely well. Ms. Lathan said, "Ok, so I'll buy it for $1 since you think you've done extremely well". Mayor Boyd said, "But you didn't bid on it". Ms. Lathan said, "That's your personal view and that's your personal opinion but this is not your personal money and there's certain levels of due diligence as a mayor, a city manager and council should do". Mr. Payne said, "Mr. Mayor I now have got the information that she asked for. He said we brought the property on September 11, 2018 for $80,500 for the entire tract of property. He said it has since been sub—divided and the restaurant (the former PoBoy's) is still there. Councilman Milling asked, "What were the renovation cost estimates? We looked at it one time". Mr. Payne said, "I did not see those but the roof is pretty much caving in, it's flooded, it's full of mold; it's got issues". Councilman Milling said, "I have some memory of a $40,000 renovation cost". Mr. Payne said it could easily be…just the roof. He said but under the law we put it out to bid and we received one bid. It was in the paper. It was properly advertised.. Anyone could have bid on this; we received one offer." Councilman Milling said, "I understand Ms. Lathan's concern about whether we've done due process or not and that was the purpose of the public hearing to express such an opinion. We have heard from Ms. Lathan and we've still got to act and if the citizens of the city feel like we're acting in a way without fully understanding, then the way for them to handle it is the next election. We can only do the best we can do". Ms. Lathan said, "Well, that's one way to handle it". Councilman Milling said, "That's about the only way to handle it. We do the best we can do under the circumstances". Mayor Boyd said, "For the record we're taking a……Ms. Lathan interrupted and said, "I would only beseech this council when citizens take the time to come and express an opinion, if you don't value it, at least act like you value it because this is our town, this is our time, this is our resources. It's like a slap in the face to deny us a public hearing so we can understand what the officials that we elected to represent us, that you're really representing us. And those who are, we really want to elect you again and like you said, those who are not we don't want to elect you again, but you're not even giving us that opportunity". Councilman Milling said, "Well, you're having a public hearing now and you have had an opportunity for the last twenty minutes to express your opinion". Ms. Lathan said, "In all fairness John, we have not". Councilman Milling said, "but you have

according to the operating procedures that have been explained to us by the Municipal Council. Councilman Milling said, “You may want to do it differently but if we are complying with what the Municipal Association tells us to do then we are complying with what the Municipal Association…and I appreciate your speaking your mind about thinking we haven’t done due diligence. We have looked at this piece of property; we tried to figure out if the city could do anything and we determined that the best thing to do was try to get the property sold. It then becomes a taxable piece of property and there are business licenses for the operation of whatever facility it is. If it’s another restaurant then hospitality taxes that are generated for the city. We know it’s in a bad state of repair. I think the heating and air system is bad as well as the roof being bad. So, we have given consideration to factors prior to having the first reading. We’re having the public hearing and I appreciate you expressing your views about where we have or have not fallen short. We also like you are taxpayers and citizens and we’re not benefitting in any way from the sale of this property. We’re trying to do something to help the citizens out and if they feel like that we have not done so, then they can correct that problem at the ballot box but honestly nobody is trying to hoodoo anybody. At least I’m not trying to hoodoo anybody with respect to this issue that’s come up with respect to the sale of the property. Councilman Milling said, “so when the public hearing is closed by the mayor, we’ll have to take action on the second reading one way or the other and hopefully we make a decision that turns out to be the correct decision”. Councilwoman Reed said, “Some of the things I share particularly about holding the public hearing. I would like us…..so many of the things that this council does is at the convenience of the council and I would appreciate it if they were a little more considerate about that when that interest or that concern has been voiced about holding the public hearing as an agenda item to our meeting. In the past , we have had public hearings that were not part of the agenda and that is why this is being voiced. Councilwoman Reed said, “I appreciated that myself because it separated that. I wanted my council meeting to be about the issues we’ve got outlined right here and the public hearing at a separate time so that you would probably get more participation from the citizens as it has shown in the past. Councilwoman Reed added that she is for the sale of that property and will vote for the second reading”. Councilwoman Reed said, “The purchase of the $80,000 allowed us to have the park on Hampton Street which is a resource and is enjoyed by so many of the citizens in Darlington so that is a plus as far as I see. The building itself is not of value right now in the condition and the first sale, they did not see where it would be profitable to them and backed out of the deal and we have someone now who is going all the way through. It will be, as our mayor did say be able to bring us some….be a positive thing for downtown Darlington and bring us some resources”. Ms. Lathan said, “Thank you Councilwoman Reed and I appreciate and value your comments and input as well as John (Councilman Milling) and I hear you and I value and appreciate your comments and I’m glad at least this time…..because we need to have real public hearings. And you’re preparing to act on things with some critical financial information that you don’t have. I’m just saying, moving forward, let’s do the due diligence. Let’s have a real public hearing even if the city is taking a loss”. Ms. Lathan said, “All we’re asking is allow the citizens to participate in the public hearings. Ms. Lathan brought up the public hearing about increase in water rates. Mayor Boyd said we’re not here to discuss the water bills. Mr. Payne said this is not germane to the public hearing……..Ms. Lathan, Councilwoman Baccus, & Mr. Payne were all talking at the same time. Ms. Gloria Hines said, “It would be more feasible to

have the public hearing before the council meeting. It needs to be separated; have it first and have a separate agenda sheet. Ms. Hines asked, “How much land is going with the building”? Mayor Boyd said, “Just the building itself and the property right around the edge of it”. Ms. Hines asked Mayor Boyd if he had a measurement for it and he said he doesn’t have it in front of him”. Mr. Payne told council the information is in their packets. Mr. Calvin Hankins said, “This is my first city council meeting and I‘m kind of disgusted at what I’m listening to; how y’all keep saying citizens. What citizens are y’all talking about”? Have y’all gone and walked in the neighborhood. They don’t know y’all. We don’t know y’all. They don’t know y’all. We don’t know y’all in the hood. What y’all doing for us in the hood”? **Councilman John Milling made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:47pm. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of ending the public hearing.**

b)2nd Reading Ordinance 2023-02, Sale of 207 Siskron Street, John Payne, City Manager
Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-02 the sale of 207 Siskron Street for the sum of $35,000 plus closing costs. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Wage and Classification Study Presentation – Mrs. Rita Archer, The Archer Company.
Mr. Payne said, “It’s been a while but when I interviewed for this position one of the items that I brought up…I told you and council that I thought that we needed to have a wage and classification study because there was no rhyme or reason to why employees are paid what they’re paid here and I knew that there was compression of wages and we needed a professional to come in and review everything. He said we put out to bid requests for proposals and you accepted the Archer Company proposal. We started doing this last year and she’s here to present her findings. The reason to do a study is mostly to attract and retain good employees but beyond that it’s the nitty-gritty of matching salaries to the outside, matching salaries on the inside, setting up a job order hierarchy determining pay ranges and things like that. She said her company has been doing this for a long time and the City of Darlington had Archer Company do a study in 1989. Councilwoman Reed asked Mrs. Archer to explain what she means by outside and inside. Mrs. Archer said, “Outside is the market. What they took for the market is all of South Carolina jurisdictions that are similar in size, demographics. Councilwoman Reed asked, “And inside is”? Mrs. Archer said, “Inside is…police officers should be paid the same as any other police officer. We say equal pay for equal work; equal pay for similar work and equal pay for totally different work that is of the same value to the citizens. Mrs. Archer said, “It’s all about fairness. Taxpayers on one side; employees on the other; and a limited amount of funds and being fair. She said the reason you hire an outsider is because sometimes in small towns there’s relationships that get thing out of whack. She said they take all of that out of it and they use numbers. Dr. Archer came up with a system a long time ago that takes words and gives them numbers and then it’s not in total numbers, but because Dr. Archer was an engineer, I’m an engineer, we like the numbers parts of it. We start out with numbers, but we come back to the city and we came back to the department directors and managers and asked if it makes

sense. Mrs. Archer said they don't make a lot of changes, but they do a subjective check once the objective numbers come out. She said it's in line with the Equal Pay Act, the Civil rights Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Americans With Disabilities Act; everything is taken into account. Mrs. Archer said they came here in October when they first started this, we explained it to the employees because even though the study is not about the employees per se, it's about their jobs. The people that hold the jobs are closest to it, they give us the information. We tell them fill it out as if somebody else held because we want to have the ideal kind of numbers if the job was held by a perfect human being then we want to use those numbers as we evaluate the jobs. What goes into a job evaluation is three main functions that you could break every job down into – working with data, working with people or working with equipment. Overall there's aptitudes that go with all of those like mathematical, and verbal aptitudes, functional and situational reasoning, physical strength, dexterity, etc. She said they look at the environment (working inside vs outside), in danger vs relative safety and we take into account the amount of education and experience required before you even start in that position. The overarching piece of it for responsibility factors for those who are not line workers (those that supervise others or take care of the money for the city or do some planning. We call it time span of discretion. Mrs. Archer said all of those pieces go into creating a score which they call a job evaluation and then they match those numbers to the salary for specific jobs. She said they took what they call benchmark jobs; they took one from the least complex to the most complex. They tried to go across every department. They tried to get jobs that cover a lot of people. Mrs. Archer said before they finalize their model, which is an engineering term for the line, and a pay line is what we come up with and that's kind of what you're paying for. All this data gathering to come up with a pay line. Mrs. Archer said you're trying to determine which jobs are comparable to other jobs and grouping them into pay grades and then assigning a pay range. She said what you get from a study is each job assigned to a pay grade and each grade assigned a pay range. You get some instruction on how to maintain this pay plan going forward. They take the cost of living adjustments from the consumer price index and if you take that line and you continually move it, you don't have to do another study like this because things stay in line basically, but every once in a while you add a new job and you want to know where that one fits in with all of the others or you combine jobs or…cities are always changing. Mrs. Archer said there's a little bit of maintenance that goes into it, but a pay plan can last a long time. She said the final thing they can do is spit out reports with all this data that will mesh with our budget. Instead of going with 100% of the market we take that whole line and move it down a little bit and then we could address what John was talking about, "the compression", because sometimes what's fair to the new guy really isn't fair to the person who's been here a long time. She said merit pay is what they call advancing through the pay ranges. Sometimes when you do a study you do that in lieu of merit pay and then the people that have been here a long-time kind of feel the compression. It's called wage compression where the new guy is making almost the same as the guy who taught him. She said in order to be fair you don't look at any individual job you're in, not even individuals at all, but you look at the pay line and you say in order to get that in the budget this year, we're going to have to move the line down a little bit or maybe we can do it in phases. Let's get the people to the minimum and then in six months or something we can start addressing the long time employees, but you don't talk about individuals. You talk about jobs, and you talk about the group, the whole city. And you don't talk about separate departments

because, if you only, for example give pay raises to the public safety people, the others that work alongside them in the public works will feel like there's something is wrong. Once the study is done you have the tools to make good decisions going forward. Councilman Milling asked, "Has the study been completed"? Mrs. Archer said, "The study has been completed". Councilman Milling asked, "Has the formal been issued"? Mrs. Archer said, "A formal report has been issued but the way we do our reports, (we call exhibits) so the first exhibit is alphabetical listing, job titles another one is a grade order listing and the final one is the implementation and I'm still waiting for input from your budget people to direct me how you want the last sheet to come out". Mrs. Archer said, An example is: the first column is just to accept the study; bring people to the minimum of the new pay ranges. The last column is what we call the quick fix and that would be not only bring people into the ranges at the bottom but address the people that have been here a long time and bring them toward the mid-point. Beyond the mid-point is just icing on the cake. We don't necessarily need to address that as part of the study because once people are paid at the market it's unlikely that they will leave. It's not that they're not valued beyond that but the rest of the pay ranges are really for administering merit increases for 300-year employees kind of thing. Mrs. Archer said Mr. Payne has the numbers. I don't know if he's happy with; I don't know where you are in your budget process, but I'll work with you until it all fits together. Councilman Milling asked, "When do we start seeing numbers"? Mr. Payne said, "It will be in the budget". Councilman Milling asked, "April"? Mr. Payne said, "April to May. He said I do have a breakdown per category, per classification, and per employee. It has a minimum, a mid-range and a higher level and we will go over that at that point." Mr. Payne said the CPI was at 6.9%. Mrs. Archer said, "Yes, we used the 6.9% and what we do is use the same time every year; year after year. Mr. Payne said, "This is why I need to wait until we get into the budget so I can see what kind of revenues we are looking at". Mr. Payne said I think if we were to institute the 6.9% across the board it was over $400,000. Mrs. Archer said the thing that was going to be important to this group is 6.9% cola for everyone and another 6% on top of that to address what was out of line. She said I'll work with you until we get somewhere, but the point is you're making progress just by doing this study. Councilwoman Baccus said, "so in our next budget session, if the council vote a certain budget in then the budget should be followed instead of the council voting in a certain budget and out of the blue we hand somebody $30,000. Mrs. Archer said, "I can't answer that". Councilwoman Baccus said, "It's not a question. I'm making a statement." Once the council vote a set rate and we say we're giving 2%, then we should give 2% instead of just throwing away $30,000 of citizens money out of the water department when citizens are struggling with these water bills. For one person. Mayor Boyd said, "Just to clarify that…the $30,000 that keeps get thrown around is you had a choice in the middle of the budget year you either brought a person in at a low rate and then that person has an opportunity and he's going to leave you if you don't match what they can leave with. Then your whole water department is going to be dropped down into nothing. So therefore, the manager had to make a decision. Councilwoman Baccus said, "The manager got bluffed". Councilwoman Reed said, "It does seem, John, that you are aware of the kind of procedures and policies or data that you used to come to this. That's why citizens like myself, don't know all of the numbers but just listening intensely so I could understand when we see that. I do not understand then with John having this kind of information that he would make a $30,000 increase in one person's salary when we're having these kinds of problems. That is the issue so I was truly listening to see how

this plays out and this process here and trying to understand these percentages because everything seems….it takes away the person's and see as a councilmember I can't take it away when I have folk coming to me. These men that are doing these jobs and they are making $12 an hour". Councilwoman Reed said, "So, I have to address…..and John and Curtis you know I say it all the time…..this is nothing new. I must because my area that I represent you can tell and if any of those out of there are city employees; yes they do come, and we talk about these things. I really fight to get increases in departments that we know. Our policemen, our firemen; not to mention our city workers". Mrs. Archer said, "So, anyway the study is about the group and individuals is outside the scope of the study."

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL UNIFORMS PURCHASE ORDER OVER $5,000 – LEE ANDREWS , RECREATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Andrews gave Council copies of the bids he received for uniforms. Lee Andrews said it's that time of year - baseball season. Lee said, "What we've done is we called around to people we usually use print- wise and some people we haven't used print- wise to do uniforms for us. Lee said the top is the winning bid of what we asked them to do. We told them to plan on us having at least 240 kids in the league and to give us a price on hats and shirts. We were going with a dry fit shirt, and we wanted replica uniforms if possible but if not it would say like Braves across the chest or Nets or Yankees or whatever. Mr. Andrews said, so we put that out and you can see what we got back. the winning bid was $27 a player. the reason they won is because they can get it back to us in two weeks. He said our plan was to order everything last week so we could get it back in a timely manner to get it out to everybody without them coming up on Friday or on Saturday morning to get everything. we can still get it in two weeks if we can get it out either tonight or in the morning because we told them what was going on Mr. Andrews said as you can see we ended up with 345 kids in the league so the price come in with kids and coaches' stuff at $10,308.60; and that is roughly $27 a player and we will get it back in two weeks. Councilman Milling asked, "What does a coaches shirt look like"? Mr. Andrews said it looks just like the player's shirt. Mr. Andrews said it won't have the number on the back, but it will have the sponsor. Councilman Milling asked, "Will it have something on it that says "coach"? Lee Andrews said, "It can." Councilman Milling said, "I just know there's been times that I've been out there and it's very difficult to tell who's coaching and who is just hanging". Mr. Andrews said, "We will throw "coach" across the back of it and it won't be at no extra cost". Councilman Milling said, "I think that would be a help". Mr. Andrews said the winning company was Sam's LLC. He said all of this is covered by sponsorships. They are charging $500 per team and that covers the cost of every team. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the purchase from Sam's Custom Apparel for the jerseys and hats for the sum of $10,308.60. Councilwoman Baccus seconded the motion.** Mayor Boyd asked, "You've got additional quotes correct"? Lee said, "Yes. Some people didn't turn in hats quotes some people didn't turn in anything. They based it on 240 kids, and they just wanted to bid on the shirts. He said we specifically asked when we sent it out that you're bidding on shirts and hats. **Councilpersons Nettles, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

TRASH ROLL CART PURCHASE ORDER OVER $5,000 – ALEX GAINEY, STREET & SANITATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Alex Gainey told Council they should have a packet that he put out that had three bids. He said whenever the packet was put together we only had two companies that submitted a bid at that point and right after the packet was put together we had a third company that came in which was SSI Schafer. Mr. Gainey said the first two bids they received one; was from The Cart Guy and the other one was from Amick Equipment. Amick Equipment is the company that we've ordered the last three orders that we've placed. He said we went with Amick two years ago Because one of the things that they offer is the injection molded cart which holds up a lot better. The Cart Guy offers the same kind of cart so those two are the same carts. SSI Schafer does not offer the injection molded cart. It's a plastic cart and we actually have some of them and that's some of the ones we're having to replace. He said it's a plastic cart so it doesn't hold up as well; it's not as flexible. When Amick equipment brought in the injection molding cart to give us a demo, they backed a truck into them, flattened it up against the wall and then it popped right back out to its normal shape. He said you will see that the Schafer carts are a little bit cheaper but like I said, that's some of the ones we're having to replace now. Councilman Milling asked, how long do you usually last for a Schafer type cart and how long do you usually last for an Amick type cart? Alex said, "the Schafer carts we've got, before we went with Amick, the Schafer carts were what they ordered prior to Amick. He said I've been ordering carts for going on three years and that's when we went to Amick and prior to that we had Schafer carts. I think they ordered Schafer carts for two years prior to Amick and we're already replacing some so I would say three to five years and we're already having to take some out of service. What I will say is some of the original carts that we had in service (the two bar carts. The old ones with the metal bars on the front) a lot of them look bad but we still have some of those in service and have been in service for twenty years. That was one of the questions I asked Amick equipment company when we started talking about the injection molded carts and they said they've got companies that have had them in service for 10 or 15 years and they are still holding up. He said, "As long as you take care of them and as long as you keep them clean and don't put hot grease in them, they will last. Alex said, my recommendation is the injection molded toter cart that Amick Equipment is offering for $21,240.74. He said the Schafer carts are $19,071.00 but the carts aren't going to last as long. Councilman Milling made a motion to approve purchase from Amick Equipment Company of 250 of the green body roll carts and 50 of the blue body roll carts for a total of $20,240.74. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Gainey said we have a 3–4-week lead time on these carts so if we place an order tomorrow in 3-4 weeks, 5 weeks at the most, we should have them delivered and we can start putting them together and start sending them out. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "That hole on Lee Street, what are we doing with that?" Mr. Gainey said, that's a sewer collapse. I'm not exactly sure what it is. It was a patch that was made before. I don't know if it's where the two pipes join because they haven't dug it up yet. I'll help them anyway I can because they've got their hands full on Main Street. Councilwoman Baccus said, I see the same thing happening on Edwards Avenue. There's another hole sinking at the manhole. Councilwoman Baccus said, All those streets that the city has cut….. The water department has cut into for patching a hole or fixing a sewer collapse….Alex said most of them are water taps, sewer taps or either….. Councilwoman Baccus said those spots that's half the length of this table, we can't re- patch that with our hotbox. Mr. Gainey said, "We can. I was told about two weeks ago (because we haven't gotten

any work orders on it). I called Ms. Teresa and I was like, hey I'm getting complaints about this spot in the road. We haven't gotten a work order. I don't know when y'all cutting if y'all don't send me work orders. And she said that they were told not to send us work orders any more. Mr. Gainey said, I don't know, Mr. Payne may be able to speak on it. I don't know. I was told that they were told to send them to Sam Evans and Sam's making the patches. Mr. Gainey said, We can do them in house. We've got one problem that we have right now: they've got the dump truck tied up on Main Street and that's what we use to pull the hotbox. He said there would have to be some coordination there but we can do them in house. Councilwoman Baccus asked, why are we paying Evans to pave and we spent….how much we spent on this hotbox? Councilman Nettles said, "A lot." Councilwoman Baccus said, "A lot of money so why is the hotbox not being used? Mr. Payne said, I have not been made aware of that. Mr. Gainey said, that's what I was told about two weeks ago. Mr. Payne asked what's the capacity for a hotbox? Mr. Gainey said we can hold four tons. Mr. Payne said, "No, what area can it work on"? Mr. Gainey said, "Any of the cuts that they make; a 3x3, 4x4 or a cut all the way across the road we can patch that. If they go in there and they cut a section of road out that's ten feet wide by twenty or forty feet long, the hotbox will put the asphalt down, but we don't have the packer to pack it and make it smooth like an asphalt company would have". Mr. Payne asked, How much have we used the hotbox to do that before? Alex said, "A week." Mr. Payne asked, And when is the last time you think you've used it? Alex said up until the current administration and the current management we have in that department, we use to use it all the time. Since the current management has come in we've probably done ten patches. Councilwoman Baccus said, and we're paying Evans construction a fortune. Alex said, I'm not saying that. I will say that Sam has always been fair to the city, and he will….. a lot of the time some of the stuff that he does when you look at the man hours, the equipment, and the materials, I don't know that the city could do it for the same price. Councilwoman Baccus said, For the big projects? Alex said, "Yes." Councilwoman Baccus said, I'm talking about the small ones. Alex said but the small ones, and that's what I told them. It's not feasible for us to take that hotbox and go get a yard of asphalt and come back and patch one hole. Get us several of them. He said if it's prepped right with the water department we can come in and do four or five in a day. Councilwoman Baccus said, And I'm saying that because on Avenue B the water department had that breakage over a year ago and they still haven't covered that spot, re-paved that surface. Councilwoman Baccus said it's right on the corner of First and B Avenue. She told Alex she called his department to report that problem. Mr. Gainey said, "I'll go look at it tomorrow. He said I ride around all the time and the way it's supposed to work is when they make a cut when it's ready to be patched then they are supposed to send us a work order and let us know that this cut has been made in this street and whenever you get a chance you can patch it. Because they may go in there and make a repair and it may not fix it. It may still seep. It may still have a problem and you need to let it dry out. You need to drive on it and let it pack down some. You don't need to just fix it and go right in behind and re-pave it. Councilman Nettles asked, an explanation should come through you once that work order is done as to whether or not you do it or Sam Evans does it or do they make that prior before coming to you so you don't see it. Alex said, "technically it should come to our department first and if it's more than we can handle then I can get with Mr. Payne. Alex said, but I was told that the work orders were….they were told in the office not to send us any more work orders. Who told them that, I don't know." Councilwoman Reed asked, did you do Chestnut by the railroad?

Alex said, no I did not do that. I'm assuming Sam Evans did that. Councilwoman Reed asked, Washington street in front of Ms. Harkless? Alex said Sam Evans did that one. Councilwoman Reed said they need to get back to that. That's a bad bump. It looks smooth and it looks pretty but when I hit that……Alex interrupted and said, I'll tell you what some of the problem is here and I have talked to the guys about it. When they dig these holes up, instead of taking the old mulk dirt out of the hole and hauling it off, they put it right back in the hole and it's wet and contaminated and it won't dry and then they try to asphalt over the top of it and it starts giving and that's what causes….if they would take the old dirt, haul it off, put good dirt in, put rock on top of it, drive on it and pack it, you wouldn't have those problems". He said Sam Evans has told them the same thing. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "The hole on Edwards Avenue that I talked to you about, are y'all gonna go in and smooth that out and put some dirt in that hole"? Alex said, are you talking about where the taps are? Councilwoman Baccus said, "Yes." Alex said, "I talked to Jonathan, and he was supposed to check on it and see if it was ready to be asphalted. He was going to put some rock in there and smooth it off to make it where it wouldn't tear cars up". Alex said I don't know if he has or not. Councilwoman Baccus said, "I went through there today and it hasn't been done". Councilwoman Reed said, "On Edwards Avenue a gentleman that walks every day, he walks in the areas that have sidewalks. Coming down Edwards Avenue he hit something…a patch that his foot went down, and he fell flat on the pavement". Councilwoman Reed said he was so upset about it that he came by her house, and he wrote a long letter. Councilwoman Reed said, I called Alex to see about it but I rode down there myself. It's on the sidewalk and it has a round metal cover that doesn't cover it. I put my foot on it and almost went down knowing it was like that. So, here's somebody walking and didn't know it because it was covered with leaves. Councilwoman Reed said it is a water meter. She said they called Johnathan, and he did come by and saw it. He couldn't identify what it was. Alex said I talked to him about that because I put a cone on it and I told him to find out exactly what it was. Alex said if it's an old meter that's been abandoned, we can take it out and we can pour concrete there and level it off. If it's not, we're going to have to figure out a solution. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "The street and sanitation department don't have any of those stands….the orange and white stands that we normally sit in the street in front of a hole or something like that"? Alex said, "We've got big signs that are "road closure" signs". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I'm asking you that because on the street that hole is big enough if somebody is coming down the street at night they're not going to see that hole. Those little orange cones are not going to stop them from running into that big hole in the middle of Lee Street". Alex said, "I have told Charles and I've told Jonathan what we need to do is get some more plates because when you have situations like that you can put that over it and give them a solid surface to drive over the hole until you can figure it out. Unless it's collapsing so bad that the plate could fall in the hole. That would buy you a little bit of time especially with everything they've got going on Main Street".

2023 HOSPITALITY TAX GRANTS – JOHN PAYNE, CITY MANAGER

Mr. Payne said if you'll recall, last year we standardized giving grants from hospitality tax away to local entities that were bringing in tourism. He said this year the deadline to submit applications is Monday March 20th. The grants committee will review them here on Wednesday March 29th and then they will present those to you at the April meeting. Mr. Payne said what I'm

asking you tonight is for a dollar amount to set aside out of hospitality to award to these entities. He said last year you designated $35,000. Mayor Boyd said Bryant is not here tonight, but he suggested last time that we….we've got the ballfield project and all of the other stuff coming up we need to be diligent with as much as we've got to try to get everything done that we want to at the ballfields. Councilman Nettles asked, "Can we not just keep it consistent with last year?" Councilwoman Reed asked, what's with the same amount Mr. Payne said that's fine. I just want a dollar amount. Councilman Nettles said, "Whatever that dollar amount is, let's keep it consistent with that." **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the sum of $35,000 for the 2023 Hospitality Tax Grants. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted to approve the motion.**

FY 2023 STATE APPROPRIATION TO CITY OF DARLINGTON DISBURSEMENTS – JOHN PAYNE, CITY MANAGER

Mr. Payne said as you are aware Representative Williams was able to secure for the city an appropriation, not a grant, last year of $300,000. You have set aside $250,000 of that to go toward the splash pad. The representative asked, and this is up to the council, for $50,000 to be given to some community organizations. I called the treasurer's office and asked what my boundaries are, what are my guidelines. They said as long as it is used for the public benefit we're OK with spending the money. Representative Williams came up with seven organizations which are included in your packet. The list is as follows: crazy hope community center which is the soup kitchen; mayo alumni foundation granting college scholarships to area high school seniors; the veterans Park - community park honoring area military service members; Families Engagement- provider of parenting, money management, employment training and transitional housing; West End Heritage Park - public park memorializing the contributions of mill employees from mid-20th century; Terrance Carraway Memorial Park - the one on S. Main Street - public memorial honoring slain police officer Terrance Carraway; Grand Old Post Office will award up to 50 scholarships for 2023 community youth summer music camp, including meals. Councilman Milling asked, "the seven organizations he recommended." Mr. Payne said, "Yes Sir." Councilman Nettles asked Mr. Payne where Families Engagement is located because he's just not familiar with it. Mr. Payne said, "They do a number of things. I know they own a facility on Law Street, and they are looking to renovate it and do some transitional housing to help people who are in need get back on their feet". Councilman Milling said it's the old Coleman Aimar Hospital. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve these allocations as requested by Representative Robert Williams in the amount of $50,000. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

INVOICE FOR FLOURIDE IN WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT – JOHN PAYNE, CITY MANAGER

Mr. Payne said this is the invoice that we asked you to amend the agenda for. This came in after the packets were put together. Mr. Payne said this is for fluoride that has to go into the drinking water. The water and sewer department buys this about twice a year. Their cost across the board went up ten percent so with tax the total is $5,749.92 which is above his $5,000 threshold. Mr. Payne said he needs permission from the council to pay this. He said this is a

product they have already received. Councilman Nettles asked if the council has that document. Mr. Payne said, “No, I just got this.” Councilwoman Baccus said, “I would like to have a copy of that document”. Mr. Payne said, “I will email it to you”. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the expenditure of $5,749,92 by the water department for chemicals to treat the water. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

Executive session

Councilwoman Baccus made a motion to go into executive session at 7:42 pm to receive legal advice dealing with matters covered by attorney client privilege, including potential legal claims, and a personnel matter involving an allegation made against an employee in the water and sewer department council may act following the executive section. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

5 Minute Break

Councilman Milling made a motion to end the executive session at 9:01 pm. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of ending the executive session.

Back In Session

Reminder

Tuesday April 4, 2023 - Regular Meeting of Darlington City Council 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, the council adjourned at 9:04 P.M. Councilpersons Nettles, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the adjournment.

_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer