**CITY OF DARLINGTON**
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT**
**400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC**
**TUESDAY APRIL 4, 2023 - AT 6:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons John Segars, John Milling, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed & Sheila Baccus. Also present was Codes Enforcement Officer Ms. Sheila Jones, St. & Sanitation Superintendent Alex Gainey, Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Ms. Jannie Lathan, City Planner Ms. Merry Morgan Smith, Superintendent, Recreation Director Mr. Brantley Jett, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Ms. Gloria Hines, Ms. Rosa Hudson, Mr. Terry James, Ms. Ernestine Lyde, Mrs. Lisa Bailey, Mr. Mike Sprott, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mr. James Cooper, Ms. Delores Bess, Mr. Rujon Williams, Mr. Albert Johnson, Mr. Jonathan Boatwright from the water & sewer department and other visitors. Also present was a representative from the News & Press.

*Councilman* Howard Nettles *was absent from the meeting.*

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 14, 2023**
**Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 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 APRIL 4, 2023**
**Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for tonight's meeting April 4, 2023. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Milling, 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. Albert Johnson** said he owns property at 305 Lee Street and for the last 10 years he has been having problems with the sewer backing up and its stinking up the whole neighborhood. Mr. Johnson said he got so frustrated about it because the city keeps telling me "It's not our problem, it's your pipes, it's your problem. So, I had every pipe around that house dug up and I said I'm going to replace all of the pipes, which I did and when my plumber got down there to do the work, when he got to the street sewer line….first it was a gas line on it so I worked with the gas people and they came and jacked their line up, but the water from the sewer kept coming

back in the property. My plumber kept telling me, I can't do anything else because the water keeps coming back in the sewer system. I asked, "It's not rain"? He said, "No I went down there, and it wasn't rain, it was stinking sewer water. Mr. Johnson said the neighbors and everybody in town is calling me about it. He said, "I've done everything possible". Mr. Johnson said, "I found a licensed plumber, which is hard to do. All the plumbers on the list from the city wouldn't do the work. One plumber on the list from Florence told me he would come over, but I've got to give him my credit card number first, so I said I was not going to do that. So, I found a licensed plumber and he did all of this work and is still doing work on it. He did everything Ms. Sheila asked him to do. Everything that Mr. Charles asked him to do. So, for two months…we're too busy, we're working on the streets all over town, we can't do it. So, every time I called and complained to everybody that I knew to call. They always given me the excuse…. We cannot do it and it's from your plumbing work. Mr. Johnson said, "I said it can't be from my plumbing work. My water is turned off. Now why is water back in the hole? Mr. Charles came down there with my plumber and they had all of this large equipment and they suctioned all of the water out of it. The water still started coming back in from the sewer on the street. So, they went and got a lot of dirt, and they built it up and still the water was coming in from the sewer. So, they told my plumber to hook up and he did everything they asked him to do but the water was still coming from the sewer. Mr. Johnson said I talked to Mr. Charles after we went down there together and saw where the water was coming from. He admits it's coming from the sewer, and he promises me that on Friday he's going to have somebody come in (a contractor) and straighten it out. He said it's just been a problem. I haven't been able to rent the house for three months and I've spent $5,000 over the years to get it snaked out and I paid the plumber $5,000 to dig up every pipe and replace them. I did everything that they asked me to do but the sewer is still coming in the hole. He said my plumber couldn't do anything…. I paid him in advance because he showed me where the water was coming from the sewer and it's still coming from the sewer. They assured me they would have it fixed by Friday. Mr. Johnson said, "It worried me so bad that I went to a medical facility and got my blood pressure checked by the registered nurse and it was 192. She said we need to put you in the ambulance and send you to the hospital. Mr. Johnson said, I said no I'm just upset about some plumbing work. It's hard for me to sleep now. I take sleeping pills and I've never done that before. He said this water thing is worrying me to death and I did everything they asked me to do, and they kept telling me it's your problem, it's not the sewer problem. Mr. Johnson said, "The lady from the TV station came by there and looked at it and I showed her where the water was backing up from the city". Mr. Johnson said, "I saw the tape today and they talked to your city manager Mr. Payne, and he told her I need to get a plumber. Now that's a lie. I don't need to get a plumber. My plumber did everything. Mr. Johnson said, "And believe me, I don't want something for nothing".

**Mr. Terry James** said, "I manage a piece of property at 42 Public Square, and we have been waiting since last year….we got a structural engineer to draw up the plans and we have not received an answer". Every time we try to call Ms. Sheila, can't find her, can't call her. Mr. James said I've been talking around town and some things I've been hearing I don't like. Mr. James said, I'm not a troublemaker but I believe in handling business and I'm to the point I'm rubbing raw now. I'll be honest with you. I don't know what's going on and I don't really care. The only thing we asked you to do… we have a structural engineer who's been practicing for

about 35 years. He said she should have sent everything in a letter to him. He gets nothing. He called her, can't get her but then she pops off with some smartness…and I'm talking about what I received from her. I'm here today and I need an answer. Councilwoman Baccus said, "What you're saying is you submitted your paperwork and you're trying to get your permit"? Mr. James said, "That's it. Ever since last year so we can get busy. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So, you're not able to get your permit because they are not responding back or….Mr. James said, "And I've had people calling me asking, do you want to sell? I said, "No we don't want to sell, and I've had somebody else call me and I tell them, look I am fed up with people calling me about the property". Councilwoman Baccus asked Sheila Jones what's the status of his permit? Sheila Jones said we received the drawings for the permit, and they are indeed from an engineer, however there were questions about the drawings that were submitted because it did not speak to the floors that were falling in and the roof that was falling in, so I had some questions. Ms. Jones said I've made several calls to the engineer so I could ask him questions, which is a common thing to do. The engineer never called me back. She said I had a lady from the engineer's office to call but I had not heard from this gentleman (Mr. James). I'm not sure who this gentleman is. Ms. Jones said, so last month I rolled them up and considered the drawings abandoned because I had not heard anything from the engineer, or from the owner or from this gentleman - I'm not sure who this gentleman is. Ms. Sheila Jones said, I'll be more than happy to look over it and I'll be more than happy to talk to the engineer but…..Mr. James said, "Give me a number where we can reach you at because this thing….like I said, ever since 2022 and we're well into this year". Mayor Boyd said, you can come up to the office and speak with her. Ms. Jones said, "And I'll be more than happy to talk to him". Mr. James said, "He's been over here more than one time. I'm just saying, the things that I'm hearing and the things that's going on, I don't care for. I ain't got nothing to do with that. The only thing is we need a permit and whatever you need, submit it to us and we'll get you whatever you need". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Mr. James, what number do you have"? Councilwoman Baccus asked Sheila to give her office number which she did. Councilwoman Reed asked, "Sheila, did you inform them of what your problem was with the drawing"? Sheila said, "I made several calls to the engineer so that we could discuss what was on there. Like the gentleman said, that was in 2022. "I made several calls to the engineer and the engineer never called me back". Mr. James said, "We'll make sure…because if we don't come back, next meeting I'll be back with more force because I'm tired". Councilwoman Reed asked Sheila to respond to Mr. Johnson's situation. Sheila said Mr. Johnson's plumbers pulled a permit and did some work. When I went there to do the inspection, in order to test for the plumbing drain lines when you replace drain lines, you have to have a 10-foot stack …….to ensure the lines aren't leaking. And then you also check the slope to make sure that the drain lines are falling towards the sewer main so that when waste is coming from the house, it goes down. There was a portion within four feet of the back of the house that did not have the proper slope and it did not have the 10-foot stack. I spoke to the plumber and let him know what they had to do. Mr. Johnson called the next day and said the plumbers were ready. I went back out there, and nothing had been done. There was not a 10-foot stack and there still was not the repair to the pipe that was not falling properly. I called Mr. Johnson and let him know and I called the plumber and let him know. The plumber told me, "Well no it's not done. I haven't done the repairs". Sheila said, "I said OK, give me a call when you're ready and I'll go back out there". They called me and said that he was ready. Not only did

it not fall, but there was not a pipe. He had cut that four-foot section so there was not a pipe at all and then they had it slanted in kind of a slope and then they had sewer problems. Sheila Jones said, “I told them what they had to do to fix the problem and call me back when it’s fixed”. Ms. Jones said Mr. Johnson called and said he was having trouble getting those plumbers to give him a call and could I please help him to get his plumbers to do the work. He said he’d already paid them and he was having trouble getting them to come out. Sheila Jones said she told Mr. Johnson that she would give them a call and ask them to come out there, but she can’t make them come out there. Ms. Jones said she called the plumbers and they said they would be out the next week and I called Mr. Johnson back to let him know that. She said they came back the next week and they called her and said they were ready. Ms. Jones said when I went out there it was full of sewer again. Mr. Johnson is absolutely correct. There is a sewer problem. He called me; I talked to Charles and Charles said absolutely there is something that’s going on. Sheila said he’s had the vac truck out there several times. They’ve attempted to make the repairs but could not. Sheila said when I went out to check it again, the drainpipes that they installed were floating in the water that was in there. She said I can’t check for slope when you have floating pipes. I called Mr. Johnson back to let him know I couldn’t check it if it’s floating. She said I can’t see if they are leaking, they are sitting in water, I don’t know if there’s a slope because they are not on grade. I can’t check it and I can’t inspect it when it’s sitting in water. Mr. Johnson expressed to me that he understood that. Mr. Johnson said he had talked to Charles also and that there was a problem, and it would be fixed on Friday. Sheila said, “I told him as soon as its fixed and those pipes are laid again and there is a 10-foot stack on it so that I can check to make sure it’s legal, I’ll come back out there. So, we’re waiting for Friday to come. Councilwoman Reed said, the problem that the city has acknowledged, has that been addressed? Sheila said, that’s a Charles Shugart question. Mayor Boyd said we need to move on because he’s been back and forth with Mr. Johnson, he didn’t explain that we’ve talked a number of times. Mayor Boyd said, Mr. Johnson I would really prefer that you explain that to them also. He said I tried to help Mr. Johnson……and here’s the issue. The issue is there is a sewer drain problem over there. It is in the contract with all that’s being worked and being fixed. Mayor Boyd said, “I think Sam Evans construction is the one that’s doing that they’re supposed to have that ready by Friday. And yes, it’s like a bombshell has gone off everywhere. We have two contractors working. They are working at midnight and throughout the day trying to get things fixed. When they get something fixed they find another hole. Mayor Boyd said they had to turn around and tear up S. Main Street. Everybody is mad because S. Main Street is blocked and torn up but if you drove by there you would have collapsed because of what they found. He said Mr. Johnson’s issue is there is a sewer drain problem on Lee Street which is being corrected. It has been in the works to be corrected and supposed to be corrected by Friday as we just spoke earlier today. Mayor Boyd said when they go out to suction it out, time they suction it out then the plumber comes….the plumber has not been able to continuously fix it and I’m sure the plumber is probably upset because he comes and there’s sewer in it, but the contractor is supposed to go Friday to fix it. Mayor Boyd reiterated everything that Ms. Sheila Jones just explained. Mayor Boyd told Mr. Johnson he knows he’s been on the phone with him a number of times including today, and we said we both will make sure they are out there by Friday. If it’s not raining Friday it’s going to be fixed. Mr. Johnson said, Mr. Mayor my plumber said he did everything Sheila asked him to do. Mayor Boyd said, “According to Sheila, the stack

is not there". Mr. Johnson said, "The stack is there". Mr. Johnson asked Sheila, "The stack is not there? Sheila said the stack was not there the last time I was there. Mr. Johnson asked her when the last time was she was out there. Sheila said the last time she was called out there was Friday. Sheila said, "As of Friday… when I spoke to you on Friday afternoon, and you said Charles said he wasn't going to be able to fix it until this Friday". Mayor Boyd said if he's got the stack out there and he's got the drain….Mr. Johnson said, "My plumber did everything he was supposed to do". Mayor Boyd said, "He's got the stack out there now when she goes back out there when she sees it, she'll approve everything". Mr. Johnson said Sheila said she can't see if it's level or not because the water is on top of it. Mayor Boyd said that will be corrected hopefully by Friday by the contractor. Mr. Johnson asked Sheila if that was the only problem. Sheila said, "The last time they called when they said they fixed it when I went out there it was floating in the water so we had to wait until…… Mayor Boyd said, "So once the contractor gets done, she and Charles both can get it approved". Mr. Johnson said, "Why have they been telling me for 10 years it was my problem, my pipes and not the sewer problem and now they admit that it's a sewer problem"? Mayor Boyd said, "I don't know what anybody's been telling you. "I know what I'm trying to do for you Mr. Johnson, so you know that I'm trying to help you".

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Grants Committee Recommendations for 2023 H-Tax Grants – Mr. John Payne, City Manager**

Mr. Payne said last summer the council established a community-based grants committee to review H-Tax requests. This is the first round for the calendar year 2023. Mr. Payne said, "We met last week, the committee met, and they are going to bring to you their recommendations. Keep in mind these are recommendations although the council can do as they please, but you've set aside $35,000 to be expended. Mr. James Cooper came forward and said he is the chairperson of the H-Tax Committee. Mr. Cooper said he will give a brief background on how they came up with the numbers for the H-Tax distribution. The City of Darlington proposes a 2% hospitality tax on the sale of all prepared means and beverages to advance local economic development. The revenues must be used for the following purposes: tourism related buildings including but not limited to civic centers, coliseums and aquariums, tourism related cultural, recreational or historical facilities and land acquisition; waterway access and renourishment, highways, roads, streets, bridges, boat ramps providing access to tourism destinations. Advertisements and promotions related to tourism development, water & sewer infrastructure to serve tourism related demand and the operation and maintenance of those items provided in, through, above including police, fire protection, emergency medical services and emergency preparedness operations directly attended to those facilities. Mr. Cooper said, "So following these guidelines this is the recommendation that committee came up with". These are the committee members: …. Cavanaugh, Dr. Andy Cohen, Gloria Hines, Dean Sigmon, Mike Sprott, and Rujon Williams. Mr. Cooper said they had a total of eight applicants: First on the list was Darlington County Country Club. When reading and reviewing the rules we had to work from it was a unanimous decision for zero dollars for them; Darlington Downtown Revitalization per their application we recommend $500; Federated Organization of Darlington they recommended $4,000; Grand Old Post Office Foundation we recommended $5,000; Pilot Club of Darlington we recommended $10,000; Southeastern Blue Grass Association of Darlington we

recommended $5,000; the Terrence F. Carraway we recommended $9,000 and West End Heritage Foundation we recommended $1,500 with a total of $35,000 in total for distribution for the Hospitality Tax Fund. Councilman Milling said, “I would like to thank you and all members for your service”. Councilwoman Reed said, “I am extremely appreciative. He is a resident of ward 2 as well as Ms. Hines and the way that you all are working and distributing the money is very complimentary”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “I’ve got a question, So, why did the Grand Old Post Office……the Bluegrass Association, isn’t that a part of the Grand Old Post Office”? Mr. Cooper said the way it was explained to us, those are two different entities; one is the building and the other is an organization that has their functions inside of the building”. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “Who is over the Bluegrass Association”? Mr. Cooper said, “I don’t have their name, but I have the packet with me”. Mr. Payne said, “Rob Jordan”. Mr. Cooper said, “The Bluegrass Association has concerts there throughout the year and they had four last year if I’m not mistaken, that generated, and that does fit the criteria for bringing in tourism because they gave a list of people from various parts of the eastern seaboard that came to those concerts”. Mayor Boyd asked, “Was there a reason for not giving anything to the country Club for the golf tournament”? Mr. Cooper said, “When we wanted to ask some questions they did not have a representative if I’m not mistaken, but when we looked at the information that they gave in the packet they said it was for equipment but that was the same thing they asked for last year. So, was it to maintain the equipment or was it to purchase the equipment? He said, “And they have one function. So, is it to buy the equipment for them to use all over the facility or is it just for that function? So, we didn’t see where that had a direct impact or the amount of impact that they had on the hospitality for the City of Darlington. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “So why did the Pilot Club go from $5,000 to $10,000 and the Center went from $5,000 to $4,000. Why did the Pilot Club need to go to $10,000 and reduce the Center”? Mr. Cooper said, “We are not looking at it as a reduction. We are looking at the input that’s coming into the city that they are giving their hospitality dollars so, that’s the guidelines we have to award the money or the recommendation on. The Pilot Club, they have the Sweet Potato Festival which they had a long list of meeting the requirements of bringing in tourism dollars and other entities into the City and they are having new and added other things and showed an itemized list on how that money was going to be spent and allocated to increase more input in bringing tourism into the City of Darlington”. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “So each one of these entities brought you a breakdown and showed you how they spent the money last year”? Mr. Cooper said, “I’m just talking about the Pilot Club when you asked me. I’m just talking about the Pilot Club. So, I’m saying the Pilot Club….Councilwoman Baccus interrupted and said so they brought you a breakdown showing you how the money was spent last year. Mr. Cooper said, “Well, they showed us a breakdown on how that additional would be allocated because they are adding new things to it. So that’s how they got their increase.  Councilwoman Baccus said, “So, each one of these, every year, at the end of the year…when the next year come in, are they required to bring you a breakdown showing you where the money is going or how the money was spent”? Mr. Cooper said, “We do want some type of breakdown…..we do try to make sure we get a breakdown on understanding how they are allocating the funds because as it says in the documentation that we were given, it has to show where the funds are being spent so that we can prove that they are giving an impact into the City of Darlington. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the recommendations from the City of Darlington Grants Committee for the year 2023.**

**Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** Mayor Boyd thanked the committee for their time and effort.

**Williamson Park Committee Appointment – Lee Andrews, Parks & Recreation Director**
Mr. Lee Andrews was not able to be at the meeting, so Brantley Jett was present to present. Mr. Jett said the Williamson Park Committee has nominated and approved Mr. Adam Houle who lives at 113 Woods Street. He is a graduate of Francis Marion University, and he is a professor. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Adam Houle to serve as a member of the Williamson Park Committee. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation – Mayor Curtis Boyd**
Mayor Boyd read the proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclaiming the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

**Fair Housing Month Resolution – John Payne, City Manager**
Mr. Payne said one of the requirements that we have for certain grants is to designate April as fair Housing Month. Mr. Payne read the Fair Housing Resolution proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the Fair Housing Month Resolution. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

**Update on emergency Sewer Repairs, S. Main Street – John Payne, City Manager**
Mr. Payne said, “I wanted to give the city council an update of what’s going on. If you’ve driven around Darlington in the last week or so you’ll notice that it’s a little more difficult to get around, but what we’re doing is going to make it better for the city later on. Sewer collection transmission line collapsed at S. Main & Lee Streets at the end of March. It’s estimated that the lines are eighty (80) years old. A manhole at this location accepts the sewer main from Lee Street and these lines carry approximately 50% of the sewer from the southside of Darlington to East Broad Street where it flows to a lift station to where it is pumped to the wastewater treatment facility. Several layers of old cement, roadbed and asphalt first had to be removed before repairs could be made. After the roadbed was removed city employees discovered a large void about seventy feet (70’) long created by the broken sewer main. A total of 90 feet of new 10-inch sewer line was installed. Crews arrived yesterday April 3rd and discovered a new sink hole in the same area on Lee Street. An 8-inch sewer main had also collapsed at the manhole. Last night another 30 feet of pipe was installed. These emergency repairs have been fully funded by the city. The total sewer line repaired in this area is approximately one hundred twenty feet (120’). Further down on Lee Street we have two more sinkholes. Plans are in place to have these repaired soon, hopefully within the next week. Councilwoman Baccus said, “I have a question. Actually, I have an issue. And personally, it has nothing to do with Alex, but I have a question for the city manager because I texted him earlier today with an issue and he refused to answer the question”. Mr. Payne said, “I have not gotten a text from you today”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “Over on Jordan Street the cherry picker took the power out on a

senior citizen's house. They went to pick up the trash and ripped the power lines down. I sent the city manager a text, I sent Milling a text…. Mr. Payne said, "No ma'am you did not. I do not have a text from you". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Why do you keep interrupting me? Are you special needs or something"? Mr. Payne said, "I don't have a text from you". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Stop interrupting me". Mr. Payne said, "Please tell the truth". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I sent you a text". Mr. Payne said, "I did not get it. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Anyway the cherry picker ripped the powerlines, cable line off the senior citizen's house. This happened around 9:30 or so this morning. I sent a text to the city manager around 4 o'clock or something like that". She asked Councilwoman Reed if it was around that time. Councilman Milling said, "I've got 4:52". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Elaine even called him about the same issue around 4 o'clock and I sent it to you too Milling, right"? Councilman Milling said, "I've got 4:52". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I sent you a text. I sent him a text too asking him if the light company cannot get to this senior citizen's house….one of them is 89 and one of them is 90. All day they've had no power, no phones and if the power company cannot get to them to fix their lights tonight, will the city put them in a hotel". No response from the city manager. Now when sewer backed up at somebody's house in North Darlington they took your money and hired a cleaning company to go vacuum that sewer up because it was an emergency, but now you've got two senior citizens sitting there with no power and you got a city manager that don't want to help them. Who did nothing. Did not even reply to help them and he is sitting there telling that bald faced lie that he did not get a text". I can show you on my phone, Elaine phone and Milling phone because I text Elaine, I text him, I text Millings and I text the city attorney. So, you're lying". Mr. Payne said, "Mayor, I have not received a text from Ms. Baccus. I have not received a phone call. I got a call from Elaine Reed because Ms. Baccus would not call me". He said, I found out about this issue from Alex because he called me to make me aware of it. I have been told that it should be fixed tonight. The wire was low hanging, and the cherry picker went through, and it was an accident and it snatched everything off the wall. We immediately sent an electrician over there. They've done the woodwork. as I understand"….Mr. Payne asked Alex to give an update. He said, but I have not received a text from Ms. Baccus. Alex said it did happen about 9:30 this morning when the cherry picker pulled it off. I immediately called and started getting everybody informed with the city. I called Chuck Kelly, and he went around there, and he had to completely upgrade the service because it couldn't go back the way it was because it was old. He said Sheila went around there around 3:30 or 4 o'clock and did an inspection and released it to Duke Energy. Alex said he started calling Duke Energy to find out what the status was. They were tied up on an outage in Hartsville, but the supervisor was going to get a technician to Darlington to go ahead and get the power on it. Alex said about 5:00 or so, he sent me a text to say the guy was on the way. It will probably take a couple of hours because they've got to pull a few lines and everything else. Alex said he should have power back on it tonight. He said they told me this morning as long as it got inspected today, they would have power back on it tonight before they went home. Councilwoman Baccus said, "And I am fine with that. As long as they can get the power back on and those senior citizens don't have to sit in the dark all night in a hot house, I'm ok with it. But the respect of the city manager should have…He should have at least contacted the citizens and said I'm sorry this happened to you. I am sorry we made a mistake. I'm sorry we ripped the power off of your house. But because it's in South Darlington he has no decency. Mr. Payne said, "Mr. Mayor the last text I got from Ms. Baccus

was on Saturday and it said, “Where is the packets. Where is the packets. Again, where is the packets. Maybe you should ask Millings. Where is the packets”. That’s the last text I’ve gotten from Ms. Baccus”. Mayor Boyd said, “Alright, it’s being taken care of. Councilwoman Baccus said, he’s lying. I can show you on my phone you got a text. Mr. Payne said, “I wish you would”. Councilwoman Baccus said, I will.

**Executive session**

**Mayor Boyd said we have an executive session to receive legal advice dealing with matters covered by attorney client privilege, including a potential legal claim. The council may act following the executive session.**

**Councilman John Milling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:44 PM. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus, and Mayor Pro Tem Segars all approved the motion.** *(Mayor Boyd recused himself because of a conflict of interest. Mayor Boyd turned the meeting over to Mayor Pro Tem John Segars and he left the meeting before executive session started and said he would not be coming back into the meeting).*

***5 Minute Break***

**Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to end the executive session at 7:11 pm. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of ending the executive session.**

***Back In Session***

**Reminder**

Tuesday May 2, 2023 - Regular Meeting of Darlington City Council 6:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, the council adjourned at 7:13 P.M. Councilpersons Baccus, Milling and Mayor Pro Tem Segars voted in favor of the adjournment.**

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Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Clerk & Treasurer