CITY OF DARLINGTON
BUDGET WORK SESSION
HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
WEDNESDAY JUNE 7, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons Elaine Reed, John Segars, John Milling and Sheila Baccus. Also, present: Ms. Merry Morgan, Street & Sanitation Superintendent Alex Gainey, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Recreation Director, Mr. Lee Andrews, W&S Superintendent Mr. Charles Shugart, Codes Enforcement Officer Ms. Sheila Jones, Assistant Police Chief Michael Cook, Shawn Odom and several others not known by name.

Councilmen Bryant Gardner and Howard Nettles were not present at the meeting.

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order.

The invocation was led by Mayor Curtis Boyd followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS:

CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PROMOTIONS, ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC BUILDINGS – MR. JOHN PAYNE, CITY MANAGER

Mr. Payne went over Department 500 - Legislative Department. He said it's in line with last year's budget. In Department 530 – Legal - there was no change from last year. In the Hospitality Tax Fund budget, we are still averaging about $425,000 a year. He said the $35,000 difference on the line item between this year and last year is the $35,000 that is shown on the line item for interest is what we have earned off of the investment that we made with the State since last July. We are on track to bring in about $61,000 in interest but we don't know how much we're going to spend if this. I don't know what the interest rates are going to do so I wanted to be conservative and keep it at about $35,000. At the bottom of the page under debt service this is paying back the bonds that we've got. Department 801-non-Departmental. Mr. Payne said if you look under projected 2022-2023 you'll see the downtown development fund expense account for $300,000. He said that's the $300,000 that Representative Williams and Senator Malloy got us. He said we don't know if they are going to have any for this year. He said I don't know at this point so I'm afraid to budget anything. Line item 272-Special Contracts projected for this year is almost $51,000. That included the $16,350 for the wage and classification study that we're not going to have this year. Department 550 - Community Promotions. Mr. Payne read the names of the entities that will receive money from this line item. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Why are we giving $200 to the Chamber then you turn around and voted and gave them $10,000"? Mr. Payne said, "Y'all voted for a little over $12,000 for fireworks". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Correct, so why are they getting $200 too"? Mr. Payne said, "They've always done it, and nobody has ever told me to stop. It is probably the same reason we're giving the cemetery $200. Councilwoman Baccus said, "No, it's not. She said the

cemetery used to get way more than that. It's not what we always used to do. She said we set up that program and that committee so we would not be doing double jeopardy." Mr. Payne said I don't think $200 is comparable with fireworks". Councilwoman Baccus said, "That has nothing to do with it. The point is ……. Mayor Boyd said, "Is the city being part of the Chamber." Mr. Payne said, "It may be dues." Councilwoman Baccus said, "This has nothing to do with dues. This is what we said …. we would give donations to each one of these committees / organizations. That was the purpose of us setting up that committee saying that we would not be giving individuals monies twice or a certain amount or whatever, so now you want to give the Chamber $200 and then turn around and give them $10,000 again next year". Mr. Payne said, "$12,000". Councilman Milling asked, "Does anyone know what the $200 is for"? Mayor Boyd said, "I'm assuming this $200 is probably for a Chamber fee". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Assuming is not an answer". Mayor Boyd said, "That's the answer I gave you." Mr. Payne said they also allow the council members to go to their functions as well. Councilwoman Baccus said, "And they got $12,000". Mr. Payne said, "No ma'am, it's different. That's for fireworks." Councilwoman Baccus said if somebody else on this list came and said I need $500, the first thing you're gonna holla and say is I've already donated this amount of money to you. You can't come back and ask for money again. That was the purpose of setting up that committee. So, now you're doing something totally different from before." Mayor Boyd said we didn't donate $12,000 to the Chamber we paid for the fireworks". Councilwoman Baccus said, "It's the same thing; it's the Chamber". Councilman Milling said, "Let's find out what the $200 is for and if it's not really for anything other than slush money, maybe we'll take the $200 out". Councilwoman Reed asked why we're not giving anything to the Free Clinic. Mr. Payne said there is $200 in the line item for the Free Clinic. Councilwoman Reed said, "And then the cemetery, do we give something else"? Councilwoman Baccus said, "The cemetery was originally at $900, but compliments of this council, it ended up at $200 because they wanted to give it all to Williamson Park". Councilwoman Reed asked, "Do you know what happened ….. we reduced what we were designating to the cemetery"? Mr. Payne said, "It hasn't been reduced, it's still the same $200 as last year". Mr. Payne said in Department 570 – Finance / Administrative as he mentioned last night everybody in the city has gotten an increase. He said all of the line items are pretty much in line where they were. Mr. Payne said Asset Technology Group who does our technology has gone up and it's reflected in the projected numbers. Mr. Payne said he increased line item 264 because the ladies have shown an interest in going to more training. He said everything else, other than the salaries pretty much stayed the same. Councilwoman Reed asked about the line item for professional services and what that includes. Mr. Payne said part of that is accounting fees and the audit. Those are captured in that line item. Mr. Payne went over Department 580 – Public Buildings, which covers the janitor's salary, the city hall building and the admin building down the street. He said everything is in line with last year's budget except for the increase that was given for the custodian's salary.

CODES/INSPECTIONS – MS. SHEILA JONES

Ms. Sheila Jones said salaries are going up a little to compensate for the raises from the study. The line item for postage is going up a little for all of the violation letters that are being sent out. The advertising line item will increase a little because we have to post those public notices in the paper. Line item 385 - Machines & equipment will increase because she needs a new

computer. The line item for employee training will increase a little because she has to continue to get the training so she can maintain her certification. Councilwoman Baccus asked Sheila what line item 272 - Special Contracts is for. Sheila said that's where demolition and lot cleaning comes from. She said in July or August I will come to council to put forward the properties that have been condemned and the owners have not decided to demo them themselves or fix them. She said there's six houses already so that will take up about $25,000-$30,000 of that then there's lot cleaning. Sheila said, "There are three more houses that I looked at today that I need to add to that and send a condemnation letter too. So, that's why I'm thinking I will push it to August so that we can get through that 30-day period because the condemnation notice gives them 30 days to appeal. She said that will be about nine more houses plus the two commercial buildings that we have that haven't come down because they keep changing hands. I do want to pursue that one especially on Main Street (the old Hunter's Exxon building), but I am going to need to get estimates to find out if that's going to be a considerable amount of money. Councilwoman Reed asked, "So the delay is because of what"? Sheila said because it keeps being sold at tax sales and it keeps being redeemed. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "What's the other one". Sheila said, "On Grove Street behind Andrews Barber Shop, the old apartments." Councilwoman Reed asked, "So once it's redeemed does that time period have to start all over"? Sheila said, "What happens is, when it gets sold at the tax sale, we have to wait 12 months. If it doesn't get redeemed then it gets changed to a new owner then it has to start all over again. I have to send the notice back out. If it does get redeemed and it maintains the same owner, then it remains.

PARKS AND RECREATION – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews said his departments cover 700, 725 & 750. He said the salaries in his budget increased as well. He said some of his guys were grossly underpaid. Mr. Payne said there were some employees, because they were so far below, they are getting 15%-20% increases. Mr. Andrews said everything else is pretty much the same as the projections are. He said line item 286 has been reduced to $23,000. Mr. Andrews said his budget is staying the same except for that and salaries. Councilwoman Red asked, "Does this budget include painting Baldwin Gym". Lee said, "At this time it does not. He said we've gotten estimates like we were asked to do, and those estimates came in near the $30,000 range to paint the building. Mr. Andrews said, "What I'd like to do at a later date is ask for hospitality money since we do so much there with renting it out and bringing teams in from outside of Darlington." Councilman Milling asked, "Do we know any more about our plans for the baseball field because it's a question I get asked"? Mr. Andrews said, "As soon as we can go public with the plans, but I don't think we are at liberty to say what that plan is at this point and time, but there is a plan. Mr. Payne said, "Judge, it's being negotiated now." Mr. Andrews said, "And it's going to be a lot better than the price tag that we had before, but we're looking at partnering with somebody." In Department 725 – Parks, Mr. Andrews said the contract for Williamson Park increased from $11,000 to $16,000. He said that's where they take out for the park superintendent and the helper that works there. He said the cost had gone up and the $11,000 wasn't covering everything that they were using it for as far as their work, gas, and other things. Mr. Andrews said in Department 750 – Registration, everything is still the same as last year". Councilman Segars said, "If and when the ballfields come online that will probably be in the next budget year as far as new equipment". Mr.

Andrews said, “Yes sir.” Councilwoman Baccus asked, “Lee why don’t you have anything on here for your vehicles as far as replacing some of your vehicles that’s in need of being replaced”? Mr. Andrews said, “We usually replace out of what’s in there for vehicle expense. He said we don’t travel as much as other departments. He said we try to save by either inheriting stuff….and our vehicles right now…. We’ve got one that is in need of being fixed or being replaced. Councilwoman Baccus said, “That van that we rode on to Sumter need to be something”. Mr. Andrews said, “You’re speaking of the bus. It’s not in this budget.” Councilwomen Baccus and Reed asked, “Why aren’t you asking for something”. Mr. Andrews said, “We’ve got vehicles through the county right now that we are able to use for things such as their camp and things like that.” He said right now they are not at the point that they need a city bus along with the county bus. Councilwoman Reed asked, “Any plans for renovations or expansions for Stanley”? Mr. Andrews said, “I would love to expand Stanley. He said we’ve talked about it a lot in-house, but I haven’t brought it forward yet just because I want to move on with the other things that we have on the burner right now. He said, “Yes, I would love to expand Stanley. I would love to make it a community center and a basketball court.” Ms. Jannie Lathan said, “Mayor, I have a question. For the recreation staff salaries, does the county pay their salaries”? Mr. Andrews said, “I’m glad she asked that question because that’s a great question. Mr. Andrews said the staff in Darlington are me, our secretary Ms. Tonya Gee, Brantley Jett and we are all paid by the county. He said Cisco Reed is being paid by the city as well as all of the maintenance workers.”

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT – CHARLES SHUGART

Mr. Shugart said he is very excited about the years 2023-2024 and he is really proud of what was accomplished in the year 2022-2023. He said they completed new water lines on the east side of Cross Street to bring pressure to those folks. They put in a new water line around the courthouse with your help and the cooperation of the county partnering with them. They put new sewer lines on D Avenue that collapsed. There was an emergency repair done on S. Main Street down to Lee Street. And then further down on Lee Street they did some more work to complete on Lee Street. They completed a $1.83 million dollar project that renovated four pump stations including Joe Louis, Grove Hill, the old wastewater treatment plant, and Altel pump station along with some force mains and gravity sewer on Gandy & Third Streets. He said we started a $1.463 million dollar project for Allen Street pump station renovation and gravity sewer on Farm Street. Mr. Shugart said, “We started another project for $650,000 on Old Florence Road and a force main on Allen Street. He said they replaced the force main that runs under B.A. Gary School and runs up Kirven Street. He said that the project eliminates that pump station at Bowen Manor and installs gravity sewer from Bowen Manor to D Avenue and they are going to put in a storm drain there across D Avenue. Councilwoman Reed said, “You’re not saying something about the Allen Street project being joined with Bowen Manor”? Mr. Shugart said there are two projects with the name Allen Street in it and it makes it a little confusing. He said one is called Allen Street Force Main Old Florence Road Sewer Rehabilitation Project. The other project is called the Allen Street Pump Station\Farm Street Gravity Sewer Project. Mr. Shugart said since he has been here we have gotten about $8.3 million in grant money to complete sewer projects. Mr. Shugart said almost every line item that he has is over budget. He said like the folks told them last night things in the area have gone up over 80%. Councilwoman

Reed asked Mr. Shugart to tell her again about the grants. Mr. Shugart went over what he just previously said. He said they have a $1 million CDBG grant for E. Broad Street and the rest of S. Main Street that they didn't do with the emergency project we just completed. He said that should go out for a bid somewhere in late July. Mr. Shugart told Councilwoman Reed that this is the CDBG grant that she helped them secure with the questionnaires. Mr. Shugart said, "To complete the gravity sewer on E. Broad Street, the city started a project before I got here that was an emergency project; and after I got here I finished the punch list and a couple of other items, and we closed out that grant." Mr. Shugart said, "The rest of that project is the rest of that line on E. Broad Street and that wasn't enough for a CDBG grant. We needed a little bit more, so we looked for other lines to replace and we found some on S. Main Street, but they collapsed before we got the grant money, so we had to ask for that emergency project in place sometime over the winter and we're still working on that because it continuing down Lee Street. He said we hoped to do the rest of Lee Street ourselves, but we just don't have the time. We asked another contractor to give us a price on the rest of Lee Street along with the three different contractors that we have in town. He said I will be back to you all to see about that, probably next month." Mr. Shugart said we have three other grants that should go to bid somewhere in the fall. One is a $564,000 project to install a pump station on Highway 34. It will install a pump station on Highway 34 across from Black Creek at McLeod in their front yard. He said they sold them a piece of property for $5 to install a pump station there and they are going to bore underneath the creek. He said they have a gravity sewer line that crosses Black Creek so they will eliminate that gravity line and install a pump station on McLeod side and bore a line up under the creek and come out on the other side and go to a manhole through the Cashua Ferry pump station. He said we have another grant in the amount of $699,465 to renovate some things at the wastewater treatment plant. They are going to install a dump station for our vac truck, and we might possibly install a pump station for septic tank trucks. Mr. Shugart said I'd like to do that because it brings in revenue, but we've got to be able to monitor it and I don't know how it's going to actually work yet or if we can get that in place with that project. He said we don't have a place to dump the vac truck right now whenever they have it full of sewer. He said they have to back it up to a manhole and dump it into the manhole. He said they are going to build a place to actually dump the vac truck. Mr. Shugart said they are also going to build a grit chamber, which is something that Darlington has never had, and most wastewater treatment plants do have. It's a place where sand and grit will be removed prior to getting into the treatment plant and prior to getting into the pumps at the old wastewater treatment plant. Councilwoman Reed asked, "How do we do that now"? Mr. Shugart said, "We don't. It collects inside the aeration basins at the new wastewater treatment plant. It circulates through the pumps, eats the pumps up and goes down to the new wastewater treatment plant, and collects there and has since the treatment plant was built. He said we have another grant for $1,647,215 to renovate, hopefully eight pump stations and they are going to make a generic pump station, so they don't have to warehouse out so many different parts for so many different pump stations. Councilwoman Reed said, "As the gentleman last night was giving his report he alluded to the fact that this department had brought in so much and I want it to kind of be able to do that because I was under the same impression that a lot of it had then started when you got here so I needed to know what that is". She said there's a lot of focus on this department and we need to be clear about what we're doing. Councilwoman Reed said, I want to know …. I

want us to at least be working and you said you are about a plan to correct Darlington. I'd like to know that we are working toward a solution that in the next 20 years these pipes that we are putting in here now won't be a problem for whoever is serving on council. She said somebody won't come in blind as you said you were …. You understood that we were in trouble and this, that and the other, but you didn't know the extent of the neglect and what had to be done. Councilwoman Reed said I'd like to see during my administration some sort of plan to address that because there has been a lot of focus here and there is a lot of problems in Darlington and even with the professionals that came in and did a study on it has outlined how bad the situation is". Mr. Shugart said one thing that we need to do, and we will do is we really need to separate water and sewer into two different divisions. They are now separated in divisions, but we've got the same people that with a small crew rush over here to repair something and then rush over there to fix something or patch something and we do that all day all week all year, weekends, holidays, night, and day. He said we need a sewer crew that's doing actual sewer maintenance at sewer pump stations (preventive maintenance and regular scheduled maintenance). That's never been done in Darlington. We need to pump out our pump stations, do inspections on our pumps, and we need to inspect electronics. We have been doing that now since I've been here but remember most of those almost three hundred deficiencies that were found by DHEC four months before I arrived, I abated them, but I abated them as quickly as I could because I had to. I had to keep us from getting fined and in trouble." Most of those items are patched and they could blow at any time and some of them have. They are on diesel pumps on Limit Street, at the old Bi-lo pump station and at Bowen Manor right now. Councilwoman Baccus said on this report in revenue it says the city made $221,000 on just fees (reconnect fees and penalties) off citizens. She was looking at line item 4525 & 4538. Mr. Shugart said somebody named that reconnect fee before I got here. It should be called delinquent account fee. Mayor Boyd said, "There are a number of people out there that need to be educated to understand that and I've tried to talk to them, but they pay their bills every two months and then they are always getting a late fee." Mayor Boyd said anywhere that you go and pretty much any type of bill that you get, if you don't pay it on time you get a late fee. Mr. Shugart said, "Last year we decided to go to the meters that we are able to cut off and on from mouse click and we're installing a few of those now on our services that we cut off and on the most." He said those aren't always people that are delinquent. They are usually the least expensive rental in town. He said at some point, sooner or later that system will let us be just like this. If you don't pay this, it will quit working. That is what that system will allow us to do. Whenever you don't pay the bill, it just cuts off. He said it doesn't cut off all the way unless you want it to cut off all the way. He said you can tell it to cut off all the way and end somebody's account and whenever somebody new moves in they can cut it on all the way. But when it's delinquent and it cuts off the way your phone cuts off when you don't pay the bill, it allows you to still have a trickle of water so that you can get a glass of water and take some medication and you won't die. You can probably flush the toilet four or five times a day but you're not gonna take a shower with the kind of water that's coming out of there. He said the system that we purchased, when we upgraded our system allows us to do that. At some point, all of our accounts are going to be just like this; when you don't pay the bill, it's off. Mr. Shugart and Council discussed the 15% penalties that are charged in the water department and the $50 fee that's charged after the second month's bill. Shawn Odom asked Mr. Shugart if a person missed paying their water bill for two months how will they pay that

$50”? Shawn asked, why can’t you lower it a little bit more. These are the fees that were set up prior to my arrival. He said it’s the same fees that the county charges and other folks charge the same amount. Mr. Shugart said, “I didn’t make this decision.” Shawn said since you’re in here now can’t you change it? Mr. Shugart said they didn’t change it. It can be changed. I did not make these penalties. I don’t charge them anything. I’m not the one that made these decisions. These decisions were made prior to my arrival. I’m just supporting and doing the work that they told me I had to do.” Several people are talking at the same time) Ms. Lathan said I asked for and received copies of the budget, but the water and sewer department …. their budget …. Can someone tell me what the actual expenditures have been for the water and sewer department through the end of April? She said she has that for every other department, and we have projections for May and June as well. Ms. Lathan said, “I asked this question because for months, I know over the span of at least a year, citizens have been asking for and I personally have asked for the balance on our water and sewer department to see how much our expenditures are. And the reason why is you look at these penalties, recycling fees, and the average income for the entire City of Darlington we are low to moderate income; the whole city is. So, citizens at large are having difficulty paying their water bills. That’s what we see over $200,000 almost consistently now for where people can’t pay their water bill on time. Ms. Jannie said, “So, I would ask that the mayor and council give some consideration to at least lowering that $50 penalty”. She said we talk about the rates having to go up 75% but we pay more for our water and sewer rates here in Darlington are higher than they are in Hartsville”. Mr. Shugart and Mayor Boyd said, No they’re not. (Several people are talking at the same time) Mayor Boyd said comments are over. Ms. Lathan asked, is this not a public meeting? She said what you guys try to do is you’re not being honest with the citizens of Darlington. Mayor Boyd said, “Don’t talk to me and the city Council about not being honest. Ms. Lathan said, “Here’s the things that show the City of Darlington is paying more than the City of Hartsville.” Mayor Boyd said, “I have asked you to stop ok” Mayor Boyd asked, “do I have a motion to adjourn? Councilwoman Baccus said, “No because I didn’t finish asking my questions”. Shawn Odom said, Mr. Mayor you interrupted her….Mayor Boyd said, “Do I need to ask you all to leave? I allowed you to talk but you kept continuing on and on.” Councilwoman Baccus said, “I still have a couple of questions so I guess Payne will have to ask them. Councilwoman Baccus said in line item 105 we are paying $100,000 for temporary service. Why are we paying so much for temporary services? This is the only department that is paying $100,000 for temporary employees. Mr. Payne said, “We have done that so that we don’t have to hire so many permanent employees. What we have found is some employees just don’t work out digging around in sewer. We hire people, we try them out. Some of them, if they work out, we will hire them.” Mr. Payne said those agencies charge a premium. They charge whatever the person is getting paid. It’s probably another 20 to 25%. We don’t bring them on staff because we save on payroll, taxes, retirement, health insurance, and everything else. Councilwoman Baccus asked what line item 272 is for - Special Contracts because it went up $31,000. Mr. Payne said, “I will have to ask Mr. Shugart that.” Councilwoman Baccus said, “He should have stayed in here and answered the questions”. Mayor Boyd said, “No, I dismissed him.” Councilman Milling asked, “Is Mr. Shugart simply outside”? Mayor Boyd said, “I dismissed him.” Councilwoman Baccus said, my next question is about line item 380 - vehicle purchases; $80,000 for vehicles. What vehicles are we purchasing”? Mr. Payne said they need trucks. Councilwoman Baccus asked, “How many trucks

are we looking at buying"? Mr. Payne said probably two. Councilwoman Baccus asked if we are buying new trucks or used trucks? Mr. Payne said, "We haven't looked at it yet. We don't know. We'll see what we get the best bang for our buck. He said I would hope that it would be good used ones. He said these are probably used because a brand-new truck I'll run you $50,000-$70,000". Councilwoman Reed asked, "How many trucks? Mr. Payne said it's my understanding that we will need two. He said Mr. Shugart's Explorer is on its last wheel. He doesn't even drive it anymore. Councilwoman Baccus asked about line item 385 - Machines & Equipment. She said it went up $28,000. Mr. Payne said he will have to ask Mr. Shugart. Councilwoman Reed said, "We are faced with these questions because folks do not understand and the ones that do come and ask this and get this kind of treatment …. Just give us some answers. People are frustrated and it may be expressed at some of the meetings but that's what we're going to have to endure here and give them some answers because that's what I was trying to tell you last night. This is what I'm faced with, and I want to be able to answer them intelligently." Mr. Payne said, "I'll have an answer for you at the second and final reading. Mr. Payne said the question that was asked earlier about what the $200 was for. I found out it is for membership dues. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "What was the final amount of the increase for the fire department"? Mr. Payne said, "I talked to the Chief this morning, and I have added $28,000 to their payroll". Councilman Milling asked what it would take to give the police department some additional funding? Councilman Milling said, "These are questions I'm just throwing out to see where we are. When is the last time since we've had a millage increase? Mr. Payne said, "Long before I got here. It's been two or three years at least." Mayor Boyd said, "We haven't done a millage increase since I've been here." Councilwoman Baccus said, "Based on this report, the salary increase for the water department is $62,550 and then we cut the fire department $65,000". Mr. Payne said, "No, ma'am. I've said it over and over. Everybody has gotten a raise. Some raises are more than others as a percentage, but everyone has gotten a raise. He said some people got 2% raises and some people got 20% raises". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Based on the report last night the fire department was reduced $65,000". Mr. Payne said that has been adjusted. (Councilwoman Baccus & Mr. Payne was discussing back and forth about the fire department budget) Councilwoman Reed had questions about the fire department overtime. Councilman Milling wanted to know if the $28,000 would be for $1.00 more per hour for the firemen. Mr. Payne said that has been set aside for overtime that was discussed. Councilman Milling said, "For informational purposes, do we have the opportunity …. Is it appropriate and proper for water and sewer funds in that department to get put into" ……Mr. Payne interrupted and said they have been transferred in the past. Councilwoman Baccus said, "When we had our auditors in here, the auditor said last year the water department made half $1 million. She said that foolishness those people came in here with last night was a bunch of foolishness." Mr. Payne said, "No ma'am, it wasn't." (Councilwoman Baccus is talking while Payne is speaking) He said you are confusing a fiscal year and a calendar year. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Y'all trying to bluff the citizens". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Pay attention citizens, it's an election year". Mayor Boyd said, when you worked on the project over there in your ward, Ms. Elaine to my understanding there was about $1 million that the city had in reserve. And if you listen to what the man said the other day, you need to have money in reserve to fix all this other stuff. Mayor Boyd said, right this second, when I became mayor, we couldn't borrow any money, and we had no money in reserve. The only reason we have money

in reserve right now is the government gave us some ARP money and all we hear is everybody wants us to give that away. He said we have that money set aside, so that when grants do come in, we have money to back up and be able to get those grants that he talked about. The water department has to be working to have money put to the side in reserve. He said we're not in business to make money, but we are in business to maintain what we've got. Ms. Lathan attempted to speak, and Mayor Boyd said no more comments. Councilwoman Baccus said, "When we went into the end of the year, we had $400,000 available and you blew the whole $400,000 paving streets and that's when we ended up with zero borrowing power". Mayor Boyd said, "We didn't pay $400,000 paving streets". Mr. Payne said, "Let me make a comment because there was an incorrect comment made a moment ago that's crucial to the argument. He said our audit is on the fiscal year July 1st to June 30th. He said based on that and the testimony of our auditor, we had a little over a half million dollars in reserves as of June 30th of last year. The gentleman last night looked at it on a calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. You cannot compare apples to oranges.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman John Milling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the adjournment.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer