CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, John Segars, John Milling and Sheila Baccus. Also, present: Ms. Merry Morgan.

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for tonight's special council meeting on Tuesday August 22, 2023. Councilman Howard Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

October 11, 2023
Mr. Mayor and Council:
In 2018 under prior Council and Mayor Hines, the City of Darlington engaged in a project to improve storm drainage in Southwest Darlington. What started out as a ditch project of less than $500,000 ballooned into a major stormwater project just shy of $3,000,000 and was completed in mid-2019. About one year ago City staff reported to me that serious problems developed in the project that was barely 3 years old. I enlisted the services of Steven Moore, a respected forensic engineer from Charlotte, North Carolina who performed an analysis of the project. He and our legal counsel, Nick Nicholson, are here this evening to report to you their findings to date and make recommendations. It is of particular importance to note that the City of Darlington issued a 20-year revenue bond in the amount of $2,417,000 on this project, and as of June 30, 2023, we still have a balance due of $1.985M. During the current fiscal year, the City of Darlington will make a bond payment through the Stormwater Fund, which is paid for by all customers, of $181,315. This revenue bond matures in 15 years, on May 1, 2038. Upon finding out about the failure of the stormwater project, I had two options: (1) do nothing and make city customers pay for the future repairs or (2) engage a forensic engineer and legal counsel to determine which parties are liable for the failure and make them pay for repairs. I chose option 2. The bottom line is that we want the City of Darlington to be made whole with the complete repair of the Southwest Stormwater Drainage Project, and I will continue to work with Mr. Moore and Mr. Nicholson to do so.
John S. Payne, Darlington City Manager

Adjourn

Councilman John Milling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm. Councilman Nettles seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the adjournment.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer