CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, City Manager John Payne, Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, John Segars John Milling and Angela McRavin. Also, present: Mr. Charles Shugart, Ms. Sheila Jones, Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Steve Abbott, Jannie Lathan, Shawn Odom, Anna DeWitt, and several others were in attendance.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

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

NEW BUSINESS

a-Discussion and Hiring Procedures for Interim City Manager

Councilwoman McRavin asked, "So how did you all do this the last time"? Mayor Boyd said, last time it happened abruptly and so we didn't have a chance to try and hire anybody, so we put Gloria Pridgen as Interim last time." Councilwoman McRavin said, "So, process wise what are you all thinking for our process in making certain that we have a job description that meets our needs"? How soon are we planning on posting? Or are you thinking of having someone as an interim for a while? Councilman Milling said, "Having gone through it previously I would like to find an interim (if we can afford to have an interim) ….My understanding is that there are individuals the Municipal Association can tell us about who are oftentimes retired city and county administrators who can come in and serve in the capacity. I would like for us to get those names and maybe resumes and for the council to consider an interim and at the same time while we're working with the interim go ahead and start posting for a full-time permanent person. Councilman Milling said, I would like to have a committee of two to be the ones who contact the Municipal Association and get the names and resumes. He said that committee of two (He told Councilwoman McRavin he would like for her, and the mayor serve as that committee of two and bring that information back to the council. And then all of the council make a decision about the person to be chosen as an interim. Mayor Boyd said his thought was to post out and look for an interim and at the same time we'll be taking applications for a full-time person. In the next two weeks try to see if we can check with the Municipal Association and open it to the public and see if there's anybody else that may have retired from someplace else who can come in and we can interview them. Mayor Boyd said, "Whoever we decide to put in as interim would know that then and are going to give us a time frame to find the right person to fill the full-time position." Councilwoman McRavin said, "So, you want to post an interim as well as ….. Mayor Boyd said, "I would say post it and check with the Municipal Association also." Councilwoman

Baccus said, “I called the Municipal Association one day last week and asked about an interim based on the information that was said in our last meeting as far as whether Gloria could be the interim or not. The information from the Municipal Association was clear that Gloria could be the interim. It has nothing to do with her job and it’s not illegal for her to be the interim. Councilwoman Baccus said, “My question would be why not use somebody that we already have in house. Councilman Milling said, “One of the reasons I made my suggestion as to how we would do it was last time at the meeting Gloria said she wasn’t interested in serving and if she’s not interested in serving we’ll need to go somewhere else. Mayor Boyd said it’s a lot on one person and for her to do that job and her job. If we get to the point where we don’t have anybody like we did last time, then that’s what we may have to do. Right now, we can open it up to the public and ask the Municipal Association to see what we’ve got. Councilman Gardner said he spoke with Mr. Barrineau at the Municipal Association, and he gave him a couple of names, so they have a list of people right off hand that we could go to, to do this on a temporary basis. Councilwoman McRavin said, “From what I understand I guess there is a company who does that.” Councilman Gardner said, “she gave me two or three options.” Councilwoman McRavin said, “A consulting practice and that’s what they do as well as someone who has their own firm who does that as well. She said I think posting it out for an interim will take too long. I think we could use that firm who would provide someone or this other person (those names that you provided) and see if one of them would be willing and if we could put that in our budget. If Ms. Pridgen is going to be willing to take on a full position of somebody else on top of her duties…. I said, the reason why I said that. I knew how it was before. Everything was dumped on me. If I had to do everything, then no I wouldn’t be able to do it. But if I got the help that I need, if Cheryl is willing to step up and do my duties, then I could do. But no, I’m not going to take on three positions because I’m already doing two. Mayor Boyd said, if we get to that position and we can’t find anybody that we’re satisfied with, then we may have to shift things around so that you can do that, and someone is helping you. Mr. Payne said if everyone look under their agenda they will see a handout which was given to him by our auditor. He said this comes from the American Institute of Public Accountants, under this form of government, it would be unwise and, it would be wrong to ask the Clerk/Treasurer to also be the Interim City Manager because of internal controls. He said you have to have separation of duties and you run the chance of having a finding in your audit next and this shows that. I said, our duties are separated. I don’t write the checks; I sign the checks. Mr. Payne said, “I’m just telling you what the auditors told me today.” Councilwoman Baccus said, “And I think what she just said was she would relieve her duties to Cheryl, and she would step up to the city manager’s duty so that would eliminate that problem. Councilwoman McRavin asked, “is anyone opposed to us finding out and calling one of those agencies to find out how much this will cost us and see if this is something any of the people are willing to come to our town to act as an interim. Mayor Boyd said, “I think we should pursue that first without trying to take the “apple cart and dumping it upside down and shifting everybody’s positions around, but if it comes to that point then we can shift things around to where take so much off Gloria and have somebody else do her job. Councilman Milling said, “My suggestion was that you (Councilwoman McRavin) and the mayor work with the Municipal Association and making contact with these people and entities and feel them out. He said a two-person committee would be good because everybody would realize that things are being done in the open. I don’t think a seven-person committee would be any good because

we would all be the ones making contact and that might be more detrimental than helpful in getting somebody to come. Mayor Boyd said, “I think we should go ahead and publicize for a full-time position and while you’re out there you can publicize that you’re looking for an interim.” Councilman Milling said, “I think if we do the contact thing we may end up finding somebody or knowing that we will or will not be able to find somebody over the next couple of weeks. If we post something we usually post it for 30 days and so that would put us the last two or three days of March and we might find ourselves without an interim whereas if we go ahead and try something early we will then find out whether or not we’ve got somebody who can come or whether we will have to post it. Councilman Milling said, “If we have to post an interim as well as a full time then we might have to take a look at some adjustments in what Cheryl and Gloria and anybody else might have to do. Councilwoman Baccus said, “So, have we already posted? Are you saying we need to post probably this week or next week that we’re looking for a city manager? I think it already needs to be posted” Mayor Boyd said, “I think the sooner we can get it out, we need to get it out.” Councilman Milling said, “I think the reason it hasn’t been posted is because it’s councils’ decision as to how we want to do things.” Councilman Milling said, “My proposal would be that we go ahead and post for a full-time city manager.” Mayor Boyd asked, “And date it for 30 days”? Councilman Milling asked how many days it was posted for last time. Councilman Gardner said, “I don’t want a 30-day requirement. Just leave it open until we’re satisfied. (Council discussed how often they would look at what applications have been submitted) Councilwoman McRavin said, “I haven’t seen a job description, but I would think we would want to revisit the job description before we do a posting. Councilman Gardner said, “that’s what he was going to bring up. He said pull up the old job description and see if there’s anything we won’t to change. Ms. Sheila Jones told him she could forward that to him. Mayor Boyd said if she forwards that to us then we can decide between now and Friday if there’s anything that we want to change or add and that way on Monday we can go ahead and get it posted. Councilwoman McRavin said in the same vein of things, I know there are some jobs that have already been posted, but I’ve worked many places before, and I’ve found that a good practice is outgoing person that we know is leaving should not be hiring for key positions on their way out the door. Who’s to say the successor wants those people plus that means you have a whole group of people here who are new and haven’t been trained that a successor has to deal with. Councilwoman McRavin said, “I would like for us to consider a hiring freeze so that any positions that we have a this point now so any positions we are looking for because he’s not the person dealing with them. She said some of these positions we haven’t had filled anyway. The new person that comes in should have an opportunity in who’s hired. Councilman Milling asked if she’s talking about the interim or the permanent person. Councilwoman McRavin said, “The permanent person.” Councilman Milling said, “We may have to make some exceptions on how the police and fire department hires. Councilwoman McRavin said, “No, not with police and fire department.” Councilman Milling said, “It all goes under the city administrator.” Councilwoman McRavin said, “But those people who report directly to the city manager. There’s a communications person and some others that are out there and those are the things I’m referring to. I don’t want to hold up a police officer being hired or a firefighter, but I think there’s some other things that we kind of want to hold off on. Councilman Milling said, “We may want the streets and sanitation director be hired by the permanent person.” Councilwoman McRavin said, “That’s what I’m talking about. Or that new position, the communications liaison or

however it's listed. Those are the people that I'm referring to that that the successor should be able to say …. Councilman Gardner said, "I see a perspective with the street department. Councilwoman McRavin said, "The communications person is a new position, and they would be coming in with pretty much no guidance because when he's gone we wouldn't have anyone to really say what the duties are and how to do things. I feel that's a position we can wait on." Mr. Payne said, "I can tell you I'm getting some decent applications. If you're going to say "No" we're going to wait another, thirty, sixty or ninety days, you could potentially lose some good applicants." Councilwoman McRavin said when you think about the time for the interviewing process, and you interview people by that time you're talking about two weeks before you make an offer so we're looking at mid-March. So, you make an offer, and the person won't start until ….if they are a decent person they will want to give their current employer another two weeks, so he's out the door. So, what's the purpose in hiring this person if he's not going to be here to see them through? Mayor Boyd asked, "Who would the communications person answer to, and Mr. Payne said the city manager." Councilwoman Baccus said, "We've gone this long without a communications person, I don't see why it' pressing now. Why is it a big deal now"? Councilman Gardner said, "It's not. I'm fine with that. "I'm just saying, we've been complaining about communication for a period of time now." Councilman Milling said, "If you were able to hire somebody as an interim with experience, they could probably handle the assignment of duties and being sure that person knew what their responsibilities were and would monitor them during that time frame. I don't know whether that person would come in as a contract person like the city manager has a contract or whether they would remain somebody who is an employee at will and if it did not work out, they could be treated appropriately. We might want to allow the interim to make some decisions with the advice and consent of the council. Councilwoman McRavin said, "I'm fine with an interim doing that. I just don't feel the current manager needs to be making decisions for the successor. She said we can make a motion and do a vote on that." Councilman Gardner asked, "A motion to hiring the interim"? Councilwoman McRavin said, "Well not hiring an interim, but ceasing how our current ….. Councilman Milling asked, "you want a motion for a hiring freeze until we have hired an interim city manager except for first responders and Councilwoman McRavin said, "Yes." Councilman Gardner said, "that's not on the agenda." Councilwoman McRavin said, "Well, it actually it falls under the discussion and hiring of the interim city manager." Councilman Gardner said, "It's a totally different topic. We can get (inaudible) Mayor Boyd said, "My opinion is if you've got somebody he wants to interview, go ahead, and interview them and as Mr. Milling has said and the next person coming interim or whoever else doesn't like them can ….. (inaudible), but we've got positions that need to be filled. Councilman Gardner said, "I've got no problem with him hiring ….Mayor Boyd said, "I have no problem with him hiring … and if the next one doesn't like then they can just fire him." Mayor Boyd said we need to make a motion to advertise for a full-time position and then seek an interim and with the Municipal Association and see what we can find." Councilman Milling asked if all of the job details are in the advertisement? He asked, as far as job subscriptions are concerned are the candidates given the full job description at the time they file to fill the position. I told Councilman Milling that all of the resumes and the job description were sent to the Municipal Association. Councilwoman McRavin said, "My understanding is the Municipal Association can assist us with writing a job description, with filtering through; because it is my understanding they filtered through those for you all last time. They send you qualified

applicants that they feel would best meet the duties and at that point it's up to us to do the interview. They are not going to recommend anyone for us, even for an interim, and tell us who to go with, they would just give us a list of people and it's up to us to decide what we want to do. When we were talking about hiring, we need to see a job description before our next council meeting so that we can all review it and see if there's anything we need to add and forward everything to the municipal Association for them to do a proper job description and then we post the job accordingly. Mayor Boyd said we've already got a proper one out there, but if you want to add or adjust it then we can do that. Councilwoman McRavin said, yes, see if there's any adjustments we need to make. Mayor Boyd said once we do that then we can decide on Tuesday. Everybody can go ahead and send in what they want to add or adjust and then on Tuesday we can agree to send that out. Mayor said, "That way on Tuesday or Wednesday we can get it out to the Municipal Association and then go public." Councilman Milling said, "Would we like to have not only the job description we used the last time but see if the Municipal Association has job descriptions in addition to the one we have so that we can compare our job description to other municipalities. He said maybe compare our job description with Newberry, Hartsville, or Sumter which may be helpful in helping us develop a job description to go out. He said if you all could, while checking on candidates for interim, ask the Municipal Association to send some job descriptions from similar communities that you all could then email out and then we'd have a chance to look at it before we get here on Tuesday of next week.

b-Fire Department Budget Request

Chief Cavanaugh provided the council with a copy of the budget which showed his 2023/2024 proposed expenses and the 2024/2025 budget request. Chief Cavanaugh said the items in blue are for equipment that they need every ten years. He said turnout gear has to be replaced, harnesses and ladder belts. He said most of the equipment they wear has to be replaced every 5 to 10 years. Chief Cavanaugh said the biggest thing he has in his budget is for radios. He said it's not looking very good for the FEMA grant to replace the radios. He said the city manager is working on something that will hopefully get them through. Chief Cavanaugh said he has $80,000 in capital outlay because right now they are driving a 1997 Suburban and a 2006 Avalanche and if possible, he would like to replace those. Chief Cavanaugh said eventually they are going to need a new fire station. When the fire trucks back in they have a space of about an inch and a half and their concrete floor is four inches. The station was built in the 50's and trucks now require 10" to 12" of concrete especially for the ladder. When they were doing construction, when they were doing the roads, the walls were cracking ….. so, we are getting close. In the next few years, we are going to have to figure out something to do. Councilman Milling asked if he had any idea what could be done with the area that's being occupied as a fire station. Chief Cavanaugh said, "When the engineers came in, at the time when Mr. Garland was here, the engineer gave him two choices: repair the entire building; go in and completely gut it out or move us out. At that time, we were looking at $3.5 million dollars to build a fire station. I also spoke with some of the people working with the master plan and when they saw the station they said we need to get a new station. Chief Cavanaugh said as far as everyday budget items we're pretty much staying in line. Chief Cavanaugh continued to go over line items explaining some of the large increases and answering any questions council members may have had. Mayor Boyd said, "You've always said you had nowhere to bring money in but is there not a way

….you go to this fire .. Chianti's and two or three big ones that you've been to .. a house fire or whatever. They have insurance on it. Is there no way to collect for your labor, work, and time and effort from that insurance policy"? Chief Cavanaugh said there is a cost recovery plan that we put in place when Chief Washington was here. The only problem is your insurance has only $500 built in for the fire department to have. We can't go after them and say are used $2,000 In turnout gear and expect to get that. The insurance company leaves you $500 but they do not have to pay it. Chief Cavanaugh said, "We do use the cost recovery account and so far they have built the training center on Washington Street and at the present time they are about 3/4 complete with no money out of the city's general fund". Mayor Boyd asked, "Do we have to bill something to go after that"? Chief Cavanaugh said, "The company that we use takes 12% or 13% but they do all of the legwork. The company that we use has a lot of retired insurance brokers, so they know how to speak the language and they know how to get the money that we get out of it. We have recouped about $15,000 since we started the process". Mayor Boyd asked, "Are we consistently inspecting businesses on a regular basis and keeping a record"? Chief Cavanaugh said, "As far as I am aware they are being completed." Mayor Boyd asked, "Is it documented"? Chief Cavanaugh said, "It should be because they wouldn't have gotten their business license if …. Mayor Boyd said, "I have three locations in Florence, and they just show up every year, but I don't know if that's being done here. I feel that the right person … if my building burned down, and it was because something was missed and I come back and say it wasn't inspected, nobody inspected it, is the city liable for that when we really should have gone in and inspected it on a regular basis." Chief Cavanaugh asked Mayor Boyd how often they come around in Florence because we do it every year. Mayor Boyd said they come around every year. Ms. Sheila Jones said Charles has already started doing inspections, but they work together on this. Chief Cavanaugh said the only other money they get is from the fire district that the County of Darlington collects for us. He said they even thought about trying to get the County to do a penny sales tax to help with emergency services. If they could get them to do that it would help the police and the fire. Councilman Gardner asked if they could get a map or some way to delineate the services that we provide to the County. Chief Cavanaugh said it's on the actual district map and he has one. Councilman Milling asked Chief Cavanaugh about a couple more of his line items. He asked again about the debt retirement and interest. Councilman Milling said when you're trying to build your budget I want to be sure that you know everything that's in there so that you're putting it together correctly. If there's any question about it get with Gloria and Mr. Payne and be sure when you next appear before us we're confident that you know what you're talking about. Mr. Payne said, "Generally, all of the debt within any of the departments those numbers are given to us by the auditors and the accountant. Councilman Milling said we still need to find out from the auditor. I think a department head ought to know what's coming out of a line item. I told Councilman Milling I would find out and let Chief Cavanaugh know. Mayor Boyd told Chief Cavanaugh between now and the time he comes back to change the 7% (he said it's actually 7.5%) to 10% in salaries.

Open Discussion of Projects Mayor Boyd said we asked everybody to come up with two things they would like to discuss today.

Mayor Boyd said, "The street signs (the white historical signs) and any other street sign we need to make sure that every street sign is visibly ,,, if it needs to be repainted or rebuilt. A lot of

them are faded. Get a proposal out and find out what it will take to see what signs need to be redone, replaced and repainted. Mayor Boyd said he would like to actually start putting homes in Darlington. We don't have the money to start a full development but go into a neighborhood and build at least one house and the council can decide where in town you want to put it, which ward, which spot, and build a house with $100,000 - $300,000 in a line item. If that house cost $150,000 and we build it, council will decide what they want it to look like and if we have $150,000 in it, we will turn around and sell it for $150,000 and put our money back in the line item and reproduce that again in another neighborhood or the same neighborhood or where everybody decides". He said right now we don't have a lot of homes for people to buy. We have a lot of empty lots that need to be cleaned up. He said his proposal would be to start with one and see if it's going to work. Angela asked if we are still responsible for the street signs that are on streets owned by SCDOT. Mayor Boyd said we asked about replacing some of the green signs the other day and they said it's our responsibility. He said his understanding was in times past that the city painted the white signs. He said he doesn't know the final ruling. Just like the sidewalks, we are responsible for cutting it and keeping it clean. Councilman Gardner said he would like to reach out to DOT to see if they have any long-term plans that they can communicate with us about whether they would start fixing some of those issues. Mayor Boyd said, "Before, they said they would do it in conjunction with us and then they turned around and South Main Street was already done, and Pearl Street was already done when DOT did the road. Councilman Gardner said, "One thing we could look into if we are going to get serious about sidewalks is there's a machine for grinding that we can get to grind off the trip hazards. (Council continued to discuss signs). Councilwoman Baccus said, "I spoke with DOT, and I spoke with the County. Before Mr. Payne got here those signs, when they were down, you had to report it to Howard and Howard would tell Alex and Alex would order the signs and they would be put up by the street and sanitation department. That's been a problem in the past two years, so it's the city's responsibility to replace those signs. Mayor Boyd said we'll get somebody to give us a price on painting the white signs. (the police officers can check signs while out patrolling)

Councilwoman Baccus said we need a small park down South Main Street and we need better lighting in South Darlington. Councilman Milling said, "It shouldn't be limited to any particular location in the city. If we're looking for dark spots we need to be looking throughout the city where lighting is inadequate." Mayor Boyd said the officers can note the dark areas when they are out patrolling.

Councilwoman McRavin said, "I would like something incorporated for where we have to do an ordinance or whatever we need in order to make it mandatory for our new city manager and council, for all of us to participate, not just participate but do at least 16 hours of training a year. I think it would benefit each of us. They offer training and not everyone's done basic training or completed advanced training. After you've done the advanced training, there are additional courses that they offer throughout the year. I would like to see a forum for the entire city maybe a few times a year. Everyone can't make a council meeting the first Tuesday at 6 o'clock but maybe twice a year have a public forum on a Saturday at one of the gyms and we talk about our vision for the city and what we plan on doing and give them an opportunity to tell us what they

want to see. We need to make sure we are actually listening to the people and that we are providing the services that they are in need of and not just what we think they need. We will be able to hear the people and listen and find out what they are in need of, then we can better serve them and it's easier to let them know what ….it gives us an opportunity to tell them what we're planning and hopefully get them on board with what we're doing so that we can have the support. She said it works both ways. We need their support for projects and for things that we're doing, and they also want to feel supported by us. If we can open that line of communication and do that …I'm not asking for once a month but a couple of times a year. Councilman Gardner asked Councilwoman McRavin where she got 16 hours training. She said, "The Municipal Association." Councilman Gardner asked, "What does that number represent"? Councilwoman McRavin said, "Two eight-hour classes." Mayor Boyd said he would suggest May and September to have a forum.

Councilman Gardner said, "The Hampton Street Park and the splash that we're building, I'd like to look into seeing how much it would cost to do some general landscaping there and just to kind of clean it up. Councilman Milling talked about potentially doing a shed at Hampton Street. He said, let him talk to some landscape architects and see what the basic cost parameters are." Mayor Boyd asked Councilman Gardner if he could reach out to see if he can find somebody. Councilman Gardner said, I guess I could. He asked the council if they knew of any landscape architects. He said he can ask around at his church because they just used one. He said I'll call Lee Andrews.

Councilman Segars said, "I would like to put an emphasis on our gateways into the city to make sure they are properly maintained landscape wise and cleaned up and presentable because that's the first thing people see when they come into town. He's said we've got some poorly patched streets with potholes or from cuts and repairs that need to be addressed. I know we can't get the railroad company to do anything with Washington Street, but it is awful when you're going across that railroad track. Mayor Boyd said, "I agree with you, but I also disagree. I feel like I can ask, but I think the council needs to push to ask. I feel like Kevin as the City Attorney should be able to contact them strongly or encourage them strongly and see if he can have them do something about it. Councilman Segars said I didn't mean for us to fix it. Mayor Boyd said, "No, but for our City Attorney to contact the railroad and tell them this issue needs to be taken care of." Councilman Gardner said, I think we need to reach out to DOT and also to our Representative Robert Williams, and Senator Gerald Malloy to help us out in some way. Mayor Boyd said, "I think it's past our point and the City Attorney needs to pursue that." Councilman Segars said to follow up on what Ms. McRavin said, "As far as this training is concerned, I think (I don't know for a fact), but I think the Municipal Association offers a service where they can come in …. because we've done this before on a Saturday which would be a lot more economically feasible than us taking those courses that they provide at the conventions. I think this would be a lot more economical if we could get them to come and train us here. Councilwoman McRavin said, "That works too. I don't care how we do it as long as we do it." Mayor Boyd said, "As far as the gateways when I talked with Bill today, one of his suggestions with the master plan was that parks and recreation should really be split. He said Lee is not doing his job because he has too many things to focus on … he needs to focus on the ballfields

for recreation and then you've got all the parks through town ….it's harder for them to maintain …. and a lot of them are maintained to a certain point. But just like Hampton Street Park and Terrence Caraway Park …There's a lot of money invested in those, but they need to be manicured more. There is a lot of money invested and given to us by Genesis for gateways, but then twice a year we go out and fix all of them, but they are not constantly maintained. You almost need another crew that focuses on making sure the city looks the way it's supposed to look. Councilman Gardner said to follow up on what Councilman Segars said, I would like to look into the cost of lighting the Square. He said we previously talked about this before you became Mayor. We talked about going with the accents of the building; the architecture at the very top of them, a light that traces that. You can have it different colors for different holidays. I think a more economical option to brighten it up is … I think lights really changed the ambience of a place and it would just be at our entrances. Mayor Boyd said, "I think you would have a quicker and better chance of lighting Cashua Street like they did the street in Hartsville where they have the poles on the side of the road, and you don't have to ask anybody. When you put the poles up, you put the lights across the street and light that street up. Putting lights around all of your buildings would be great too, but you're going to have to make sure you get everybody's permission. If you can't get a person's permission then you'll have a spot that's empty." Councilman Gardner said we can call the lighting companies, get a cost, and come back with a quote. Councilman Gardner said like you have in Lamar during Christmas Time or College Park in Hartsville where they have the lights Zigzagging across the road we could do that at all four entrances.

Councilman Milling said, "When we were having our meetings with the community in connection with the Renaissance project, (at least at the table where I was), there were a number of people who were concerned about safety in their neighborhoods and I don't know whether we track criminal activity to know the number of incidents at a specific location so that we have an overall plan or knowledge about what areas seem to have a higher crime rate and what the nature of those crimes are. My thought is, if we can do something like that then we might be able to take the "thin" police force that we have and dedicate them in areas where it appears that additional assistance is needed, and with an increase in police presence it may end up helping the people in the area feel safer. And it may also end up because of somebody being there, reducing the opportunity for a crime to occur. Councilman Milling said, "We have department heads, we have a city manager, but we don't really have a central system of where to report the potholes, or the cuts, so that once it is reported something is generated to the department that is responsible so that a work order can be put in. I would like to see some processes put in place. Mr. Payne said, "When I first started, the mayor asked me to create a work order system, and I worked through Asset Technology Group, and we actually had that …. Councilman Milling said, "If we got it, the council has not benefited from it." Mr. Payne said, "I sent it out to council several times, but nobody ever used it, so I got tired of paying for it so …. Councilman Milling said, "I understand what you were talking about, the methodology for reporting, but is there or not …. Councilman Gardner said, "Sorry to interrupt you Judge, but you can do Google sheets or forms and set up the parameters on there. You can have it sent to the city manager and the different departments and then you can have it to tabulate it where there is specific action items that we always deal with" …Councilman Milling said, "If we can do

something like that, and maybe we can get Asset Technology to come in and give us an hours training on exactly how the system operates". Mayor Boyd said, "It's really simple. We did a Google spreadsheet for that a while back and it just fell to the side." Mr. Payne said, "I can have it revived if you would like to use it, but nobody ever used it, and we were just spending money for nothing." Councilman Gardner said, "I don't think we need to use Asset Technology and we can (as a group) make the Google form." Councilman Milling said, "I think as a process that might help us answer questions that citizens have." Councilwoman Baccus said, "If we had a system in place where we were functioning as a council with computers, instead of all of this paper that we're getting every month, then that system would also allow for us to know everything that's going on. If something is sent out to our laptops or tablets tying all that together, we would know something happened on the street. We are the only municipality around that's using paper still; Hartsville, Florence, .. all of them are using computers." Councilman Gardner said, "I agree." Councilman Milling said, "That's something we may need to revisit as we are going forward and trying to address some issues with the renaissance plan." Councilwoman McRavin asked, "Can this process be expanded beyond just the council"? Councilwoman Baccus said, "Councilman Milling is saying if somebody sends something to the city that says there's a pothole on this street, not only would the city manager know, but the department heads would also know, and we would know." Councilwoman McRavin said, "What I'm asking is not just us, I'm talking about employees as well." Councilman Gardner said, "By going a little further on that, that we go and look at the whole city going digital."

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman John Segars, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of adjourning the meeting.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer