CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM/COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
TUESDAY JUNE 4, 2024 - AT 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, interim City Manager Bill Taylor, Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Gardner. Also present was Mr. Will Johnson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Pastor Kendall Williams, Robert McRae, Trey Nickelson, Mrs. Tonya Flowers, Ernestine Lyde, Rosa Hudson, Shawn Odom, Maxie Hunter, Levon Rambo, Brantley Jett, Steve Abbott, Hunter Thomas, Merry Morgan Smith.

INVOCATION Pastor Kendall Williams

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Mayor Boyd said the agenda needs to be amended to add approval of the minutes for May 28, 2024. **Councilwoman McRavin made a motion to amend the agenda to include the approval of minutes for the May 28, 2024, workshop. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Segars, Gardner and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**
Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting on May 7, 2024, Councilwoman, Sheila Baccus seconded the motion councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.
Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the May 21, 2024, minutes of special council meeting and budget work session. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. council persons, McRavin, Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman McRavin made a motion to approve the meeting notes from the May 28, 2024, Budget Work Session. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

CITIZENS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL (5 minutes per person thirty total minutes maximum) * Neither personal attacks nor disruptive behavior are permitted. *

Tonya Flowers said in the past three years she opened an Italian Ice truck. She asked “Were you aware that we as a food truck pay $50 for every game in every location here in Darlington set up through the recreation department. Tonya said last year it was $40 and she has counted her receipts and for a vendor fee. She said she paid almost $1,000 last year to set up for the games. Her next question was whose decision it was to raise the fee. Tonya wanted to know how did they came to that decision to raise the fee for the food trucks? She said she registers her truck every year and it is inspected by the fire marshal. She pays her 2% hospitality tax fee

every month. She pays SCDOR every month and she pay IRS every month. Tonya says she just recently hired one employee out of Darlington. Tonya said she also wants to know where this money is going. She asked if there is an ordinance or some sort of guideline other than from the fire marshal or from DHEC how the food trucks are operated here in Darlington because she is having an issue with how they are set up at certain spots. Tonya said, when I first started, the first issue that we had was they were too close to one another, so she had to move her truck, which was no problem. This year the problem was everybody was selling the same thing. Last year I was the only food truck other than another business that was from out of town. Tonya said now it's at the point that when we sign up, they tell us I can't sell xyz because the next person is selling xyz. Well, when I get there the next person there is selling xyz. When that person gets there, there's somebody coming after them selling what that second person was supposed to be selling. Is that fair to me"? Is that fair to the second person that's supposed to be selling what I was initially supposed to be selling from the beginning. who is the person in charge that I need to call or talk to going forward so I don't have to come before city Council with this foolishness because my time is very valuable and so is yours. We as citizens and people in position, we need to do better here in Darlington. Tonya said there was an incident where they had a tournament on Blue Street, and she signed up for it and they told her they had an Italian Ice truck that was coming. She said there were too many of them there so she said she would forfeit her money. She said the person told her she couldn't forfeit her money and may the best product win and everybody was selling the same thing. Tonya said I never got my money back. She said on Monday when she signed up to go to the ballfield, they said they were booked. She said people started calling her asking where she was because there were no food trucks there. She said I ended up going and ended up paying $50 for one hour.

Robert McRae said he lives on Carol Drive and he's next door to two campers that have been abandoned for over twelve or thirteen years and are in very bad shape. He said he has pictures for those who would like to see them. Mr. McRae said he's thankful to the police department who responded to a petition that the neighborhood signed because some people were going in and out of the campers for some reason and as a result of police presence, they stopped that. He said he met with the owner who was at his lot, and he told him that he was going to talk to the highway department to see who owned the title to that. After that, he was going to go to the magistrate and have it listed. Mr. McRae said that was told to him in October 2023 and here it is June …that the campers would be out by the end of January. Mr. McRae asked that these campers please be removed. Mr. McRae showed Council pictures of the abandoned campers and thanked them for talking with him. Mayor Boyd said, we'll take care of it.

Trey Nickelson said he's here today as a part of the organization of the Juneteenth Community Celebration. He said they have been having this event for three years. They originally started this event over in Hartsville with different community members that live in Hartsville and one of their community members, Ms. Nicole Gibson, actually resides in Darlington. Trey Nickelson said this is the first year that they are having this event in Darlington which will be on the Square. He said hopefully you are able to join us next Friday June 14, 2024, from 6pm - 8pm on the Square. The goal is to let this event be a great event for adding on to Darlington which will bring a lot of tourism and a lot of national artists. The second day of the event will go back to

Hartsville. Trey Nickelson said several organizations support their event such as Genesis Healthcare, Carolina Pines, Regional Medical Center, Molina Healthcare, Coker University, BlueCross BlueShield, Purpose to Live Ministry, SPC Credit Union and Young & Young Funeral Home. Trey Nickelson said those organizations believe in this event that has been going on for three years so he's asking the city for a donation of at least $1500 to help with the cost of having this event this year. he said next year he can come back and provide video proof show the attendance and how this event has been growing. He said you can go on YouTube, type in "Juneteenth community celebration Hartsville" and actually see a recap that shows everything that they provided. Trey said the main goal is having the community come together as one and also educating a lot of individuals about Juneteenth. He said a lot of people don't know that June is known as African American music month. This is a free event and hopefully every one of you can come out and show support so you can see the difference of what we have been doing in Hartsville and actually growing Darlington.

Levon Rambo said he's the owner of Pub on The Square and he just recently bought the ice cream shop on the Square. Mr. Rambo said he has a vagrant problem with a bunch of homeless people. The police department has done a great job of trying to get rid of them. Mr. Rambo said the second problem is with the renters that stay in the apartments. They are steady parking in front of the businesses and it's all day long. He said one of them got three tickets yesterday and the same renter got another ticket today. Mr. Rambo said, what I am trying to figure out is if you all can write up a law telling them that they are supposed to park in the back and if they are found parking in the front more than twice and they have been warned, we have them towed. He said right now they can't do that. The only thing they can do is write them a ticket, but the tickets aren't enough. He said a lot of cities do that and don't know why we can't. He said it's starting to be a real nuisance. Mr. Rambo said, "I'm asking to see if you all can figure out how to write up an ordinance so the city can do their job.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation on Juneteenth Day of Observance

Mayor Boyd started reading the ordinance, but Councilwoman McRavin asked if everyone of African American descent would come up to the front like we typically do. Councilwoman Elaine Reed read the proclamation and a picture was taken of the group.

First Reading on Ordinance No. 2024-07 (2024-2025 Budgets in Title Only)

Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve the first reading on ordinance number, 20 24–07 (2024-2025 Budget in Title Only). Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority Update - Mr. Will Johnson Mr. Will Johnson, Outreach Coordinator for PDRTA, came before Council to give an update. Mr. Johnson said their mission statement remains the same. He said originally, they were doing mostly all work force routes, and they did Medicaid work for a long time, but now they don't do anymore of the Medicaid work or anything like that. Mr. Johnson said PDRTA is the first RTA in the state which

is an agreement between the six counties of the Pee Dee - Darlington. Chesterfield, Marlboro, Marion, Dillon, and Florence Counties. They are the third largest RTA in the country behind Chicago and New York. He said there are new services they've done in three of their counties- Chesterfield County, Darlington County and Florence County. They will be starting a new route in Pageland on June 17th called Pageland Express. Mr. Johnson said the DART ridership through April is up 26% from last year. The DART-FLO Commuter ridership is up 76% from last year. He said one of their visions to achieve service-accessibility-opportunity is to be able to offer more service because when more service becomes more accessible to ride. And if there is more accessibility to riding the bus, it opens the door for more opportunities for our residents. Mr. Johnson said they are getting a transit study that will do an entire system review as well as economic impact analysis, accessibility analysis. They will also look at outreach opportunities, engagement opportunities, as well as bus stop locations. He said some of the things they are doing in other counties right now, in Florence and Dillon, is providing sole workforce trips. They partner with Harbor Freight, Pepsi, and Ruiz Foods in Florence and they are able to provide bus routes that will get workers from their homes to their jobs and back. He said in Darlington County they have the "Key to Career" program that the school district is running and PDRTA has been a huge partner of that as they provide all the transportation for that program. Mr. Johnson said that program is a paid Internship experience for students that are looking to get out of the classroom for half a day. He said whether they are juniors or seniors, whether they are looking to get into law, health care, industry, or manufacturing, this provides them access to all of that. PDRTA will pick them up from the school around lunchtime and then they will take them to that place of employment to allow them to work a few hours and then they will take them back to the school. The last page of Mr. Johnson's handout included contact information for him and Mr. Don Strickland. Update on Vacant Buildings Ordinance - Sheila Jones, Building & Codes Enforcement Officer Sheila said after the last council meeting, she went over some things and council wanted to change when they had to register their property. It was 30 days and they changed it to 45 days so it would give a landlord time to flip their property and get it ready to re-rent. (Mr. Bill said It will be on next month's agenda for First Reading.)

Consideration for Establishing Monthly Work Sessions for City Council Mayor Boyd said we already have work sessions lined up through June so we're looking at work sessions for July-December. Councilwoman Reed said, I already have set schedules that fall on Tuesdays as well. She said to consider scheduling the work sessions as needed. Councilman Milling said, "I would go along with Elaine. If we have a need to meet, I will propose we set up a meeting, but I don't know that we want to tie the council into having by ordinance a requirement that we meet twice a month. He said it ties up law enforcement and other employees of the city. Councilman Milling said, "When we've got something to cover, I'm all for it, but if we don't have anything in particular to cover, I think we can generally figure it out after a council meeting as to whether we need to meet or not meet rather than mandating a meeting by an ordinance". Councilwoman McRavin said, "We're not trying to make an ordinance. She said we did six …but no ordinance. She said when we initially did this in January or February, we only did it for the first six months and it was the third Tuesday of the month." Councilwoman McRavin said, "What I would propose is you schedule the meeting for whatever day we're going to have it? It doesn't mean you have to have it. If we cover everything in our council meeting on our first Tuesday, then we

don't have to have the meeting, you can cancel it. She said the school board and some of the other municipalities do that when they already have it listed and if they don't need it, they just cancel it. She said it would help with planning." McRavin said if something comes up and we need to discuss it there's not all of a sudden, a special meeting that we're trying to put together and let the citizens know about. She said that is my opinion of how we best need to address this because right now we don't have anything scheduled beyond this month and we have very pressing issues such as finding a permanent city manager and zoning concerns. Unfortunately, all of that can't be done in one meeting because one meeting a month isn't enough to handle all the city business. She said she needs a schedule ahead of time. Councilwoman Baccus said, "As well as the issues that citizens brought to us today, they need to be discussed and addressed. That's her point in saying we need to have a work session or meeting in place." Councilman Milling asked, "When we talk about work sessions is that going to be a work session where we talk about matters or is this going to be an additional City Council meeting with an agenda where we vote on items? How are we going to handle it"? Councilwoman Reed said, "Just like what is said. A work session." Councilman Milling said, "There are issues that you mentioned that need to be addressed such as what Ms. Flowers brought up and what Mr. Rambo brought up. Are we going to vote on those types of things? Is it going to be a meeting where votes are going to be taken or is it going to be a meeting where we are discussing things." Councilwoman McRavin asked Mr. Taylor, if we schedule these as a work session and there's something that needs to be addressed are we able to put those items on the agenda that we can take action or is it something we can only have a discussion on? Mr. Taylor said, "Typically it will be a work session where there's discussion, but if there's something that you see that would need a vote of council, you have a right to call a "special meeting." And you can have it as part of that, but I've seen oftentimes it's very beneficial to at least discuss issues in a work session and decide whether to put it on the next agenda to vote in. Councilman Milling said, "So having the work session, and then having whatever we decide needs to go forward with a vote we would put that on the next regular scheduled meeting agenda. Mr. Bill said, "Or a "special called meeting." Councilman Gardner said, "I'm fine either way. It sounds like when we have something to bring up, we can bring it up to the council and schedule a meeting. He said we don't have to have an open meeting for what ifs. That just doesn't seem productive." Councilwoman McRavin said, "It's not saying we have to have a meeting …. you're putting in there … so if you have something that needs to be addressed, we already know the time and date for us to do it. Councilman Gardner said, "We are still putting it on the agenda every month. Councilwoman McRavin said, "Yes and if you don't need it, you would say "meeting canceled." Councilman Gardner said, "But then we're potentially just leading the public on saying we're going to have a meeting month on and month out and we may not even have these meetings. He said, "I don't want to meet just to meet." Councilwoman McRavin said, "If you don't need it then you don't meet." The council continued to discuss whether to meet or not meet and whether to schedule the work session dates. Mayor Boyd said we have work sessions scheduled for this month. In July we have the regular council meeting and then the council will be out of town for the annual meeting. Mayor Boyd suggested starting back in September as a documented meeting. (Council members continued discussing possible work session dates). Council members decided they will have a work session on July 29th. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to have a work session on July 29, 2024. Councilwoman McRavin**

seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Baccus, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilpersons Gardner and Segars voted against the motion.

Executive Session Pursuant to South Carolina code 30 – 4–70 (b) as follows: Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangement, discussion of a proposed sale or purchase of property, receipt of legal advice, settlement of legal claims or discussions of the public agency's position in adversary situations.

Councilman Milling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:00 PM councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Baccus, Reed, Gardner, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Milling made a motion to end the executive session at 7:55 PM. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of ending the executive session.

REMINDERS

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 10 AM Budget Work Session
Juneteenth Holiday Wednesday, June 19 city offices will be closed.
Tuesday, July 9, 2024, regular meeting of Darlington City Council 6:00 PM
MASC annual meeting July 18 - 21 at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville, South Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. Councilwoman, Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Segars, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer