CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 1, 2024
6:00 pm

The Regular Meeting of Darlington City Council was held October 1, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Courtroom of City Hall at 400 Pearl Street.

Present at the meeting: Mayor Curtis Boyd, Councilpersons John Segars, Shelia Baccus, Elaine Reed, Angela McRavin, John Milling and Bryant Gardner. Gloria Pridgen and Lacie Weatherford.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Boyd.

Prayer

Prayer was led by Mr. Mark Face with the First Church of God.
Gracious Heavenly Father, please help our council to live at peace with everyone when it is necessary. Give them the boldness to stand up for what is right, honorable and true. Help them to bring peace and restoration. In a world filled with so much conflict, let us live a life that cultivates unity. Help our counsel to be loving and encouraging to others. Fill them with the Holy Spirit of God and empower them. I believe you make all things new, and you desire a world marked by grace and mercy. So, God embark the knowledge and wisdom to each one of these members. As they begin tonight's business and protect our citizens of Darlington, our City Council, all our first responders and their family members and Father, I just ask this in your wonderful son's name, Jesus Christ. Amen. Amen and Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Boyd.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 3, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Bloyd wanted more information added to the minutes.

Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session with the correction of the time to go to executive session be changed from 5:06 pm to 6:06 pm on September 10, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McRavin. All in favor.

Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on September 25, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor.

Mayor Boyd made the motion to amend the agenda to place L.) Proclamation for 80th Anniversary of Pee Dee Consistory No.197 – Councilwoman Baccus and M.) Darlington County African American Museum - Ms. Jannie Harriot, Executive Director at the top of the agenda under new business. Seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor.

Citizens Wishing To Appear Before Council

Ms. Tchalla Douglas

Ms. Douglas wanted to know what the process is that the city follows before the demolition of a homeowners property? She asked that the process be laid out for her because she can't find it on the website and she is curious to know what the process is. Councilman Gardner advised her that she need to speak with Ms. Shelia Jones in reference to the process. Ms. Douglas wanted to know if it wasn't on the website was it in writing somewhere. Councilman Gardner said it was in writing and Ms. Jones would have that information. Ms. Douglas explains to council that the reason she is bringing this up is that she had property demoed last Friday. Ms. Douglas said "They originally received the certified letter that was originally sent when we purchased the property through auction in 2022, I signed for that letter in January 2023, that is when I spoke with someone in that office. I have not received any letter since then. How I found that my property was being demoed was because I got a phone call 8:00 Friday morning because we had a for sale sign in the yard that I recently put out there about 2-3 weeks ago, which I have pictures to prove. That gentleman called asking how much did we want to sell the property for that morning

that it was being demoed, which I thought was interesting. So then I told, you know, I told him my price. And he said huh, for just the property? I said yes, what do you mean there's a house on there that can be renovated and then he said no ma'am, they're tearing your house down. I said, say what? So, then I called my sister, who was in Darlington at the time she beat me to the property, she spoke to the gentleman that was on the excavator at the time and he got off. She then came up here and spoke to whomever in the office about it. That's when the lady was saying that the letters came out this and that the third. I was on the speakerphone on my way up here and I kept saying we never received those letters certified. Yes, I spoke to her after the first certified and was told oh, yeah, ok because I called about it and said we got people looking at it and still trying to decide what we're going to do with it. So then by that time I made it up here and she gave us copies of the letters that were mailed that I never received. So, then I went back to the property by that time, the gentleman was on the telephone and off of the equipment and I had a conversation with him. He was telling me they bided on the job, he won the bid, so that's why he's tearing it down. So, then I said, OK, well, I'm going to the Council meeting because I want to know why. I'm not going to dispute that It needed to be torn down or it didn't, but my point is, you took that away from me when you just tore it down. I was not warned that it was going to be torn down. So now you're going to try to charge me $6000 to pay the gentleman who tore it down. If it was going to be where it needed to be torn down, then OK, tear it down, tear it down, and let's say I got the letters. My husband could have torn it down for me for free. That's my whole point. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know what the address was. Ms. Dougals stated 204 Lee Street. Mayor Boyd said that they would get her contact information and get back with her or point her in the right direction. He wanted to remind everybody and council and others, that It's not that we don't want to talk back to you, but we don't have all the information to talk back and forth and know what the issue is. That's why we ask that you just direct stuff to us as comments.

Mr. Steve Hoffman

Mr. Steve Hoffman came before council in reference to Friendship Street. He said that he does not live in the city but he has to access Friendship Street to get to his property. He said there use to be and old dump down there and people

will still go dump things back there. He said that back in April of 2024 some hotel doing refurbishing took a bunch of old stuff and dumped it. He said he called Darlington County and Darlington City to come out. He said a city representative showed up and said he would have to rent some equipment to get it cleaned up. He stated that was back in April, here we are beginning of October and it's still all down there. He stated that the other issue is we can't get anybody down there to service anything on that street when we call City, City says it doesn't belong to the city, you got to call the county, call the county and the county says it belongs to the city. I've looked at the map, Friendship lies in the city. It goes about two feet to five feet in on our property located in the city. Also there's a fire hydrant there that was broke off 7 years ago that is leaking. Water has been leaking water for seven years, according to all the people that live by it. The result of the water and garbage (he shows them pictures. They used to fill up the ditch, but when Georgia Pacific did their construction back there, they filled in the ditch and never dug it back up. So now it fills in. We tried to get that taken care of but Georgia Pacific just shrugs their shoulders. We have a problem with potholes. I mean when you hear the school buses go by, they're just getting beat to death. Three school buses go by there twice a day. People continuously come out and dump their home appliances there, living room furniture and everything that you can think of. He said he has also inquired about getting a lighted pole on that road to help prevent people from coming down and dumping. Mayor Boyd said that they will be on it first thing in the morning, then said actually tonight.

Polly Hubbard

Ms. Polly Hubbard just want to thank Council, the mayor and everyone, the city, the workers, the Water department. I've lived in Darlington all my life and I love Darlington and I'm seeing progress. She stated that she admired the Mayor for taking the bull by the horns and making sure things are getting done. She also thanked Mr. Shugart with the water department for the funds that he has brought in to be able to enable us to do the kind of stuff repairing things, like on East Broad Street.

Judy Langley and Christa Abbott

Ms. Langley stated that they were delighted to be here, and we have some fantastic news. This year, the 41st Annual Sweet Potato Festival, we have 138 vendors signed up taking up 177 spaces I have met with the Police

Department on two different occasions. I just cannot say enough kind words about them, about them meeting with us and trying to orchestrate this so that traffic will flow in and out, they are wonderful. It's been very exciting, but now people are still calling, and we are full. We put on Facebook we're full, we cannot take anymore. We cannot process anymore and get them on a map and get the police to approve it, but we are very excited to have that many people coming to Darlington, we've gotten a lot of sponsors. I know that when Bill Taylor was interim mayor that I came up and I knew that since the tax accommodation was not available for us, I said, well, we need you to be a sponsor, so I left that packet and I don't know where we stand on getting any help here. So that's for y'all to answer later and let us know where that is. I also wanted to let you know that I developed a separate map for Chuck Kelley, our electrician, whom we pay to go check the outlets round the square. John Payne said that we have to pay somebody to go check and make sure they're all working, so the pilot club pays that. She also stated that John Payne had said if anything needs repairing, let them know and they would handle it. I've spoken with Gloria about this today, but Chuck Kelly could not complete his check today on all the all the electric outlets. I just asked him to check where we need the electricity, where I highlighted on the map for him to see. He's already found 21 by Mexican Grill and one over in front of the old BC Moore building. Those that are not working and we're having to then go back and reassign where vendors go so they can get electricity. It's just an issue, but Chuck Kelly promised me that he would have the check done tomorrow and so I will get that. We're excited to promote Darlington and we hope that you will consider supporting us. Thank you for helping us with these little issues that we're having, we're very excited. Thank you for your support.

Mr. Adrian

Mr. Adrian said that he would like to read a statement and hold all comments until he was done. He said that he recently went through a event with his city trying to beg for resources and it turned into more. He pointed to council and said it also involves you and all of y'all. So I'd like to say this I feel wronged by my city. Mayor Boyd asks him not to point out anyone. He then states that he feels he was wronged by his city for asking for trash bags and wants an investigation completed. He then states he wanted to comment on

Councilwoman Baccus's comments from last meeting. Mayor Boyd said that I have asked you not to name drop. He stated you will not be able to do that tonight or any other night. Mayor Boyd thanks him and Mr. Adrien walks off mumbling words and then leaves the court room.

Don Blakney

Mr. Don Blakney wanted to remind council that he came six months ago and asked the Council to look at Bacote Street and Magnolia Street, where the tree roots are coming up out the ground and two cars cannot come down the same side of the road. He also stated that from Lee Street to Limit Street and both sides of A,B,C and D on that side they are rolled and partially paved. He stated that this is dangerous.

Ms. Janie Lathan

Ms. Lathan thanked council for the opportunity to speak this evening. First, I want to thank you, Councilman Gardner, for at least answering the young lady's question that meant a lot. I know to me because, like many other residents, we've come before Council and we've made a number of comments and personally I feel like often times they're left on deaf ears. Over a year ago. Councilwoman Backus, other Council members, myself, other residents have asked that the public Works director provide us with monthly revenue and expenses so that the citizens would have visibility for how much our water and sewer is costing. I noticed on the agenda this evening that there's a discussion about raising our rates again. I don't think that's too much to ask, so if you guys would please consider having the director as part of his monthly report to the citizens. After all, it is our money. And after all this new discussion about raising our water bill again, and I can tell you, I've had a discussion with one resident who was so perplexed she didn't know if she should pay her utility, she should pay her electric bill or her water bill for fear of getting her water cut off. The demographics of the city of Darlington collectively are low to moderate incomes. So as you consider your work sessions, perhaps you can do a deeper dive into how much money the city really has and making wise decisions on how our money is spent, because it seems as though when funds run short, the first go to is to increase our water and sewer rates and on behalf of all of the citizens, especially ones that are low to moderate, I

ask that you share some empathy. You sound judgment in terms of how you're spending our money. Please. I also notice on the agenda for the purchase of some property. I would hope that we don't purchase any more property until we at least sell the property that we already purchased for over $600,000 that's just sitting there. Not sure if that was the wisest decision, but you guys represent us. You are spending our money. Please help us. We cannot go through another rate increase on our water and sewer. Also, we're told that there's low funds within the water and sewer budget. Yet the previous city manager gave the director of Public Works a $50,000 increase that most of you guys knew nothing about. When his limit was clearly $5000. So, I asked again that you guys look into that, I don't know where our lawyer is he often. It used to attend, but if the lawyer can't touch base display it, perhaps our Solicitors Office can because we cannot just have people giving our money away and we have to question the legality of that as well. Thank you.

Ms. Amanada Watts

Ms. Watts stated that she was just here as a concerned and yet really hopeful citizen. The City of Darlington is a beautiful place. Right now where we're starting to get growth again, we're starting to see positive changes and I want to continue to seeing these positive changes like we've got new businesses growing, families moving back to Darlington and we're bringing young families and young money back, which is a positive thing. My biggest concern about Darlington, though, is there's the saying in Darlington "It's better to ask for forgiveness than it is to ask for permission whenever it comes to remodeling homes". If it comes to upgrading buildings, if it comes to purchasing property, it becomes a hassle to be able to change the windows in your own home, or to be able to purchase a historic building downtown and get it upgraded so, but that is you guys' job and luckily we're here so that we can make life easier so people can upgrade properties that they can upgrade their personal homes, their businesses. Also, I have noticed a lot since being back that Darlington has very much an eye mentality versus a weak mentality. It's hard to change that right, it's 2024. Let's move forward if Darlington was not built by individuals, right? It was built by the community through movements, through changes, through discussions, through citizens taking to the streets even. Darlington has made it through it all, but none of it has been done by an individual. It had

to be done by every single one of us working together, no matter what. And now's the time. It is the time. And I just wanted to, I'm not, going to take up all 5 minutes, but I just wanted to sit here and say that I have hope and I have faith that we can go for it. We can make these changes. But I'm asking that we work together to do it every single, solitary one of us needs to work together. To make changes, are we all gonna get along? Absolutely not. But it's important if we want things to keep moving forward, we have got to work together. And I'm happy to see it starting. All right. That's it. Thank you, guys. Continue the amazing work and yeah, we'll see you later.
All right. Thank you

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation for 80th Anniversary of Pee Dee Consistory No.197 – Councilwoman Baccus

Councilwoman Reed reads:

Whereas the PD consistory #197 ancient and accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry under the authority of the United States Supreme Council of the Sovereign Inspector General of the 33rd and the last degree of the Prince Paul affiliation is celebrating that 80th anniversary. And whereas the PD consistent story number 197 has held fast, this mission statement to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and emulating the principles of brotherly law, tolerance, charity And truth, while actively embracing high social, moral and spiritual values, including friendship, compassion, and dedication to God, family and country. And whereas. Their contributions throughout the community, from donations, sponsorship and scholarship have aided area young citizens advance their academic education through universities and leadership program. Since the consistory was established in 1944. And whereas the Scottish right of Free Basin rate PD Conservatory number 197 has made an undeniable mark on the City of Darlington by living out their creed, human progress is our cause. Liberty of thought, our supreme wish, freedom of conscience, our mission and guarantee of equal rights to all people, anywhere, and ultimate goal. The mayor and Council, on behalf of its citizen Doug, does hereby proclaim the 26th day of October and the year 2024 Scottish Rite freemasonry PD And Consistory number 197 Day.

Ms. Jannie Harriot the Executive Director of the African American Museum

Ms. Harriott stated that the Darlington County African American Museum, is a nonprofit 501C3 organization established to restore 131 through 133 Pearl Street for the African American Museum in Darlington. We've received funding from the state of South Carolina. I have sent out to you a packet that gives the names of the board of Director. There it gives pictures of the current conditions of the building. The proposed exterior, what it's going to look like and a schedule of activities for the demolition and restoration. On October 15th at 11:00 AM we'll have a press conference to announce the restoration as well followed by a reception which will be at, I think, the old marketplace 103 Pearl Street. October 15th, 11:00 am you're all invited to attend. I didn't put my contact information in the presentation, but please be sure to know that you can contact me at 843-332-3589. I will entertain any questions from Council. Councilman Gardner stated that he appreciated a lady from Hartsville coming to our town to help beautify it. Ms. Harriot gives thanks to Robin Williams She stated that he has been a constant supporter of projects that she worked on. She stated that of course we need everybody's support. And as we progress on the project because it's not, please understand this is not something that's going to happen next week or next month. The demolition, as you see the schedule, we have to get funding. So, we are hoping that by June 19. 2025 we can open the door to the 1st 3000 square feet that will be restored. We think this will be a enhancement for the City of Darlington and it will do lots to restore that property. We're looking at additional properties if we can get funding and we're also looking at preserving the history of African Americans for not just the City of Darlington but for the County of Darlington.

Christmas Lights Downtown and in Mary Sue Wells Park – Mayor Boyd

Mayor Boyd said if you're not familiar with where that is, that is the Wells Park across from Nicks BBQ that we have been working on for a number of years, tidied up and looking good. I have had a few lights down there over the years. We met with our Councilman Gardner and Councilwoman McRavin and agreed to try to do something for Christmas. We are trying to figure out what we can do down there. We came across this company that

is a. A sole company that will come in at no additional charge and direct us on where to put the lights. He said that there's a couple different plans that we could use. You can start small, or you start big. We've got power down there. We need additional power to spread throughout the park. We would like to try to see if we can do one of these projects here for lighting up that area for children for Christmas and have a Santa and sleigh down there. Councilwoman McRavin thinks it looks great, but she stated that we have to look at the budget and see what we can afford. We know we don't have infinite funds. So, we do have to be mindful of that and maybe it's something we do in phases. You do something small within our budget and next year we take the next 12 months so we actually go out and get some sponsors, ask our local businesses and corporations for their participation so they can sponsor and provide some funding so that we can make this happen. I don't think we have unfortunately, the money to do that this year. Although we would like to do it, it doesn't mean that it can't happen, it just will not happen right now at this moment. We have so many pressing issues that I don't see how we really can afford all of this at this point, but it doesn't mean that this time next year we won't be able to do that with sponsorship. We have great business and corporations here. Everyone from Georgia Pacific to Bristol Oil and the racetrack. We can ask them to partner with us and to help offset some of those costs. I think we'll have to do a scaled back version this year, a very scale back version this year, but we can do something that's nice. You know, we can just totally blow things out of the water next year. Councilwoman Reed agrees we should do something to spruce up Darlington, but can we do something feasible? Council discussed budget concerns and the Cities financial crunch they are in. Ms. Pridgen reminds council that they have to be mindful of spending Hospitality funds with all the bonds and payments coming due. Councilwoman McRavin said we need to plan these for these types of purchases. She said that we don't want to burden

Our people with something that is not really a necessity. Council agrees they need to do something but not as much quoted for. Motion by Councilman Gardner that we approve the bid for $16,590.00 and to also include $5,000 for electricity, costs to be split between Hunters budget and hospitality tax. Seconded by Councilman Reed. Council Segars and Mayor Boyd in favor. Councilman Milling, Councilwoman Reed, Councilwoman Baccus and Councilwoman McRavin voted no.

Update/Status report on Blue Street Ballfields – Lee Andrews

Mr. Andrews stated that the face of Blue Street has changed. He stated right now, it's 75% of the recreation league fields have been completed. So, what they're doing now is they're pouring the floors for the dugout. The fencing after that will be finished and put up. They are working hard on the high school. Back stops and concessions stand, and in that area, they're getting that up. They've got the floor poured, they've got the footers poured for our concession area, which is on the same side as the 9th grade campus. They have half of the retention pond built down toward where the WIA buildings were. All in all the recreation fields are on schedule. We will play ball in the spring, and I was told that twice today the tennis court area, which is on the same side as our concession area is still in the mix, but it is very wet right now. They're going to start that grading process hopefully next week. They're going to get rid of the mobile units and stuff that are on the opposite side of the complex, which is near the high school parking lot that will be done in the next week or two. The baseball field, the High school baseball field is scheduled to be sited next week. They are planning to pour at least 2 fields of dugouts tomorrow and once those fields are poured and the concrete cures, they'll finish the fencing there. So, we'll see. You'll be able to see exactly what is coming about. They still have a good way to go, but they have done a lot of work. Helene did not slow them down, so matter of fact, it helped them out because they could see where the drainage issues were and if you rode by the ball field last week, it looked like a lake. They pumped that water out and they've regraded that area. Lights they thought might be a problem, not the lights themselves, but the poles. They were being told that they might not get here. The poles themselves till the end of January, but they were told matter of fact, they got a phone call while we were talking today, they'll be delivered in October, beginning of November, so the lights will be able to go up on time. It's in good shape right now, like I said, today they're 75% through with our side. It looks like it's going to be the same, same footprint, but it's not the same ball fields. It's brand new everything and once they get the fencing in, we're going to start working on in fields. Everything should be ready for the season. There will be plenty of parking at this park. Mr. Andrews stated that we got 7 ballfields, we get five of our old ones we did lose the Lions League Field 1, but we get use of the high school softball field and the high school

baseball field to play our programs on when their season is done. The high school parking lot is paved. Then there'll be one parking lot that is down toward the tennis court that's going to be a grass parking lot to begin with. The other side where we have a field in the high school fields are that will be paved parking. There'll be two paved parking areas and then some grass parking. Councilwomen McRavin wanted to know were the tennis courts going to happen out there now. Mr. Andrews said that they are still up in the air. Still looking for money. She stated that last night at the meeting at the legislative meeting the senator said that the $1,000,000 that we requested is on the way, the check had been written, so it was our 5 million plus his million. So, we're sort of 6,000,000 in. Mayor Boyd said 6 and a half million. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know what the county was paying. Mayor Boyd said 1.45 million. Mr. Andrews said its the same lease that we had before, except it's a little more stern. It's the same partnership we've had for 45 years. We haven't changed anything. They had use of it before, we had use of their stuff before. Nothing has changed other than the writing that's in that contract. Councilwoman Reed wanted to know why we were paying 5 million and don't own it? Mr. Andrews said that this was this was presented to council and voted on by Council and approved by Council, so I can't answer that question. Ms. McRavin wanted to now was he still going to use food trucks or go back to concession stands? Mr. Andrews stated that he will be using both but more mainly using the food trucks.

Purchase of Property for Country Club Sewer Pump Station – Mr. Charles Shugart

Here tonight to ask you all to consider 3 items, the first of which is the purchase property at the Country Club where the Country Club pump station is located. I'm asking you to allow the current city manager to enter into a contract to purchase that property for $25,000.
He stated for us to get any grant money to do anything with it, we'll have to own the property where it is for us to rebuild the current system. We'll need to disturb more property out there, and we don't own it. After some discussion the property council decided to have Ms. Pridgen address the property owner for some negotiations for a lessor amount. They agreed they are not going to do anything with this subject now and move on to the next.

Change out Water Meters & Purchase of Fire Hydrants using Capital Improvement Fund – Charles Shugart

Mr. Shugart stated that council had approved to purchase some fire hydrants several city Council meetings ago. We have money in a capital improvement account with the South Carolina Secretary of State. I asked about how much money that was back when John Payne was here and he looked it up, told me he said it was $375,000. That's back in February of this year. Ms. Pridgen stated that it was now $385, 823. Mr. Shugart stated that what
we're asking is for the current city manager to acquire $300,000 worth of those funds and place them into the water departments budget to purchase fire hydrants with and to purchase new water meters. Council woman McRavin stated that "I know we need new water meters, and we talked about this. I read your e-mail. So, I have a question just of curiosity here, because I noticed when I was reading this you said that the city upgraded the system by installing the AMI which is the automated meter intelligence receiver but has not installed any AMI meters and that the approximate 3000 census water meters the warranty on those AMR census meters had expired around 2020. But then I got a little confused because it says that you want to buy 250 of the AMI's, but 250 of the AMR. Why are we not buying all of the AMI if we upgraded the system while we're? Buying the old ones if we're upgraded." Mr. Shugart said they are about $750 installed and the AMR's are about $350.00 installed. That's the worst case, but we don't need them for everybody. We don't need them for people that have never been turned off. We need them for the ones who get turned off and on. Mr. Shugart states with the funds requested we want to buy 50 of each and to go after it and change and to see what actual expenses we have after changing 100 meters and that should give us a pretty good idea of what it's going to take. He also stated that the water department and staff would be installing them. Mr. Shugart said that he didn't know of any water and sewer grants for this. After discussion of the subject. Motioned by Councilman Milling to approve the expenditure of $310,000 of the funds that are being held in the state for the purchase of new meters, other apparatus and labor, if necessary to install new water meters around

$257,000 and to include 53,000 for fire hydrants. Seconded by Councilwoman McRavin. All in favor.

Increase of Bulk Water Rates – Charles Shugart

You all have gone through several rate increases prior to my arrival and since my arrival we had one too. What we neglected to increase was the bulk water rate. This is water that we sell mostly to people paving streets. They come in and want to buy it. It's only used when someone asks about it. Our rates and we've already charging this $8.74 to people living outside the city for sewer services per gallon. Mr. Shugart thinks it is a good place to start at. Councilman Milling motion that we approve the increase in bulk water rates to be a $50 administration fee and $8.74 per 1000 gallons of water. He also asked while we are implementing this that you do further check with the municipalities of our size and see because we can change it again if we find we need to. Seconded by Councilman McRavin. All in favor.

Update/Status report of Splashpad – Shelia Jones

Ms. Jones stated the good news is we received word from Vortex and they will replace the pump that needs to be replaced in accordance with DHEC along with the flow meter at no charge to us. We're just going to take what's currently installed out and put in what is compliant they had. The engineer will be submitting with the changes that they're requiring back to DHEC so that we can get the permit to continue with the project. The costs are going to be to bring this project to completion, to include making the necessary changes to the bathrooms to make ADD compliant and compliant with the DHEC requirements, adding drain lines, emergency stops and different things. We have to replace some piping that was installed, which is going to require strategic cutting of the current concrete, replacing the piping and fencing, signs and different things, so plumbing and electrical get to get completed. Hopefully in the next week or two we'll get that permit from DHEC and be able to move forward. It's going to cost $112,174.19 to finish the project. Council Baccus said so, at completion of this project, a $250,000 splash pad will be at 500,000. Ms. Jones she not exactly sure but believes it's right around there. She stated that she did not know what the

initial costs were or what Council approved. I only know what it's going to cost to fix it. Ms. Jones said she is going to need $58,870 in order once we get the permit so that we can get the lines done and replaced. Once that goes in simultaneously, we can be doing the electrical and the plumbing while he's doing that they will be working in different areas. Once the plumbing, electrical and the lines get replaced and poured. Then we can start looking at the bathrooms being done, then the storage. She stated that the parking lot was approved for gravel but at the very least concrete parking, but we're going to have to at the very least concrete for the ADA accessible and then the concrete that goes all the way around the existing concession stand and bathroom concrete. It's going to have to go all the way around that for accessibility. Then in the spirit of ADA compliance, a sidewalk that will attach that concrete to two shelters so that our handicapped citizens are able to also enjoy the splash pad or at the very least being able to see their grandchildren or children, enjoy the splash. Councilwoman Baccus stated that if we would have submitted the proper paperwork to DHEC before this splash pad was installed, submitted the engineer designed to DHEC before the splash pad was installed, we wouldn't be in this mess. Councilman Gardner explains to Ms. Jones that he sat in her office and talked to her about this before any dirt was ever moved. So, I guess my question wasn't asked appropriately. Did the contractor install the splash pad, not the building, did he get a building permit? Did he get a permit from the City of Darlington? Ms. Jones said not till it had already started. It wasn't until I drove by and saw it being worked on for one thing. For another thing, building and codes doesn't have a swimming pool, code book, swimming pools is not something that is done through the building and codes department because that's not something that I regulate. That's something that DHEC regulates. It's not regulated by my department. I don't have code books with regards to how it's put in, what's put in. I don't do planning reviews over swimming pools and splash pads. That's something that is done through DHEC. The only reason that I had him pull a permit was to ensure that he did the other processes that should have been done, obtaining a business license and providing general liability insurance to the city to ensure that all of the contractors that he uses have their proper credentials with the city and because in the past projects have been done in the city without any documentation. When someone comes and says well when was this done? We have no idea when

it was done. We think maybe it was around here, but we're not exactly sure. So, I did do a permit only so that there's documentation that the city can go back and say when was this done and we can say this is when it was done but this but building and Codes Department does not regulate swimming pools on a commercial level, because that's done by DHEC. Councilwoman Baccus said so he illegally installed the splash pad basically. Ms. Jones said Well, I'm not going to say that he knowingly illegally install the splash pad. He has installed several splash pads in neighboring counties. The difference between the splash pad that he installed for other municipalities and other jurisdictions and ours is that all of those were single use splash pads our splash pad is a reclaim system and so he did not realize, and I believe nobody else that was involved in his hiring, realized that the difference between single use splash pads and reclaim splash pads. Councilwoman Reed believes that the questions that Councilman Gardner and Mayor Boyd are asking, they're outlining this it like you trying to put some kind of blame on that department. She said its time to move forward that they are now on the right track. Councilman Gardner wanted to clarify something. There is no blame. I got this e-mail halfway through the day. I spoke with her beforehand and we were both talking about how the city can do things better, how they can have done in the past. Mayor Boyd stated that he asked for the splash pad when we sat with Robert Williams and gave us $250,000 toward it. There was a discussion about possibly putting 2 out and we asked that we try to make one nice splash pad that would be really nice for the City of Darlington. Everybody agreed on that. When we finalized that I had no idea about how splash pad works. I'm not into the pool business or splash pad business or anything of that nature. Our first thoughts that we would put the pad at Hampton Street Park but Ms. Jones said that it was too small for the division for the setbacks and so forth that we couldn't put it there. So, then we came up with putting it at the Orange Sreet Park. So, nobody's blaming anybody. We're just trying to figure out what's going on. If the contractor did what he was supposed to do or not. If we had hired a Engineer there's no telling what that would have cost to design that out, so that would have been additional money if we if we had spent. We decide not to waste water and reclaim it. I have been accused of numbers of times of doing things illegal. Council voted on this. No one has done anything illegal if it's been done illegal it was done by all of the council. Nobody on Council has done

anything illegal because John has not done anything illegal, the contractor, I don't think, did anything illegal. Nobody knew that we were supposed to contact DHEC at the beginning. We didn't try to hide anything we voted on doing the splash pad for the City of Darlington to put stuff in for our children and have things for our children. Councilman Baccus stated that if council would have stayed out of it, if the city manager would have stayed out of it and turned the project over to codes, we wouldn't be in this mess. We should have let codes do her job, and they should have turned the project over to her, but they did everything behind her. She didn't know what was going on and that's why we're in this mess. Council discussed places we could pull the money from and how to fund the correction. Councilman Milling stated that we're going to have to carry this one forward until we actually can do something. We are not going to promise to pay somebody if we can't pay them.

Discussion of Possible Rate increase for Sanitation Fees- Lucas Reed

Mr. Reed said that he and the Mayor had talked about the increase in Sanitation Fees. Mayor Boyd stated all he wanted was information. Mr. Reed said at this current point in time, he requested that this get moved to an actual work session on the 22nd.

Purchase of Roll Carts – Lucas Reed

Mr. Reed came before council requesting the funds be released out of his budget for the purchased of roll carts. He said that when he came in April, they had 40 new carts, now they have 10. He stated that there was only one supplier that is contracted with the state and that is Amick. He stated that this is a yearly expense that is budgeted. These carts cost around $62 per cart. These carts will come out of line item 640-293, Capital Waste and Roll Carts. Motioned by Councilman Gardner to release funds in the amount of $19,722.11 for the purchased of new roll carts. Seconded by Councilwoman Baccus. All in favor

Update on Sale of Inoperable Vehicles – Lucas Reed

Mr. Reed stated that he had reached out to two government auction websites, and they were supposed to have came in last week. He said due

to the storm upstate they will not be able to come probably till later in the month. He said they had roughly 8 inoperable vehicles they hoped to sale and bring some money back into the city. He said they will also be cleaning that area up so it doesn't look like a junk yard behind the shop. Councilman Milling wanted to know the status of the cherry picker. He stated that in his neighborhood and down streets he sees debris everywhere and it steadily piling up. Mr. Reed explains that we still only have one running and it's running 6 days a week. The other one is currently sitting in Pamplico at AA Builders. They're supposed to have an answer for me by tomorrow on exactly what's wrong with it, and that's the one that we've taken up to Lexington twice and only got a couple of hours of use out of it before it shut down again. My next step is do a personnel change and move my personnel around to make sure it's not operator errors.
He said that the school district does an auction about twice a year and he hopes to see what they have available. He said he has his guys working as hard as he to get caught up. He said they have even resorted to doing the old school way with a pitchfork and a trailer.

Street Banner Designs – Hunter Thomas

Mr. Thomas said that the Beautician Board had come to them prior to purchase some new street banners which they approved. He just brought them the design to make sure they were ok with what the artist had come up with.

Conformation of Proposed Work Session Dates October 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 10 – Councilwoman Angela McRavin

Council discussed proposed work session dates.

Motioned by Councilwoman McRavin to have work session on October 22nd, November 19, and December beginning at 5:30 PM. Seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor.

Executive Session in accordance with S.C. Code 30-4-70 (a) which allows for a closed meeting for discussion of employment, appointment, compensation,

promotion. Demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, or the appointment to a person to a public body.
(b) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency. And all the adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim. Council may act on any issue discussed in executive session. Motion to enter executive session mt Councilman Gardner. Seconded by Councilman Segars. All in favor.

Motion to leave Executive Sesson by Councilman Gardner. Seconded by Councilman Segars. All in favor.

Motion to approve by Councilman Milling the sale of property to Adger Watkins. Seconded by Councilman Segars. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Gardner. Seconded by Councilman Segars. Al in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

Mayor, Curtis C. Boyd

Lacie Weatherford Secretary