CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING / PUBLIC FORUM
HELD IN THE OLD COUNCIL CHAMBERS
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, City Manager Lenessa Hawkins, Councilpersons Sheila Baccus, Angela McRavin, John Milling, John Segars, Elaine Reed. Also present was Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Hunter Thomas, Sean Odom.

Also present at the meeting was Ms. Sheniah Butler with TV15.

Councilman Bryant Gardner was not present at the meeting

Prayer led by Mayor Boyd followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Workshop Revenue from New Home Build - City Manager Lenessa

Ms. Hawkins gave the council a sheet with the business license fees for a general contractor building a $150,000 home and a $250,000 home. The business license fee for a $150,000 home is $436. The business license fee for a $250,000 home would be $636. Ms. Hawkins said when she asked for this information from the department heads, she asked them to look at a hundred and $150,000 house and a $250,000 house. She told the council they could go higher than that, but that's probably the mid-range that you would want to see. Councilman Milling said, I am a licensed contractor goes to build a house, and they've been issued a business license based upon their revenues that have been reported do they also pay this additional amount of $436 on a $150,000 house or is all that included as a part of their business license? I said if they already have a business license and they come in and they want to do a job that license would be good for the whole year to build as many properties as they want to, but when they come in the next year then they would report any additional. Councilman Milling said, "My question would be, if somebody is a licensed contractor, if they become licensed in the City of Darlington, would we then have these types of fees apply. I said yes, Councilman Milling said so these are in addition to their business license. I told Mr. Milling that this is for the business license. I then asked him if he was talking about the $436 license fee per house? Councilman Milling said, so somebody that's a contractor who's going to build $150,000 houses ….. I said the contractor would have to report the gross for however many houses he will be building. Mayor Boyd said that the fee would go up if he built more than one house. Councilman Milling said, if he's been building houses for the last three years as a licensed general contractor, these fees don't apply for this year. Councilman Segars said this is for one house built. Councilman Milling said, but if he builds two houses, it would still just be $436. If he built 10 houses it would be $436 this year, but it won't go up until the following year. He said If he builds 10 houses this year and only built five houses last year, then his business license fee goes up. He said these

figures really don't apply as far as our revenues are concerned, unless they are a brand-new contractor. Councilwoman Baccus said, if I understand what you're saying, Gloria annually if he builds houses that's $1 million one year then they are going to bill him …. I said if it's a new contractor that comes in, we are going to ask him for his gross for the entire job. Councilwoman Baccus asked, for the entire year? I said yes. If he comes in and has a particular project, he might not know about other jobs coming later on in the year. But if he comes and says I've got ten houses and the value of those 10 houses is going to be $1 million, we will base his business license fee on that $1 million. Councilman Milling said this would just be for new contractors, it would not be for existing contractors. I said yes this would just be for new contractors. The council continued to discuss the business fees for new builds. Councilwoman Reed asked about the cost of a license for $1 million which … I said $150,000 and $250,000 houses were the only two amounts that were spoken of at a prior meeting so that is why the city manager based the license fee on these two amounts. Ms. Hawkins said, an amount was not given to me. I'm saying and what I'm thinking is you want a $150,000-$250,000 house, you're not wanting a half million-dollar home. You wanted to have affordable homes for everyone that may be interested in a home, so I just picked those two to focus on. Councilman Milling said, I'm just trying to get it straight in my mind. Ms. Hawkins said we will clarify all of that. I'll get with the ladies in administration and we'll get the scenarios that you all spoke about this evening. Ms. Hawkins said she will stick with the fees for the $150,000 house. Ms. Hawkins said the water tap fee inside the city will be $1000 and the sewer tap would be $1600 for a $150,000 house. She said the fees from building & codes are as follows: the plat review, building permit and planning review, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits total $1474. She said without the business license fee the total is $4,074. Ms. Hawkins said $79.85 is the base fee (includes water, sewer, sanitation, W&S capital, street capital and stormwater) and it doesn't count any water usage. for the year that's $958.20. Councilman Milling asked, do we have any sense of what our cost I'm going to be, or will we have to hire any new people as we provide these services that would offset that $5000. Ms. Hawkins said, I have asked about that in the management team meeting and some said it would not. Some said it could possibly and need to be looked at but right now they are kind of mulling it over. Ms. Hawkins said, "I proposed maybe if three different subdivisions came in with about 3.2 people per home, give or take about 100 people per subdivision, can we handle that in police, fire, water, sewer, and sanitation? Mayor Boyd said, "the City of Darlington used to be close to 10,000 people and we're down to 6000 people. The fire department is the same size as it's always been. the way I see it is when the trash truck drives by my house and there's an empty lot and it goes to his house and there's two empty lots and goes to her house and three empty lots and go to her house …. there's six lots that should have had customers on it and they didn't make any money. He said it's the same thing with water. It's really not costing the city any additional compared to opening up a completely whole other neighborhood down the road. Councilman Milling said, there would be some incidental costs because you'll have more garbage that you're picking up so you've got fees that would have to be handled at the landfill. Mayor Boyd said, yes but that's pretty much it. Councilman Milling said, we're only talking about 100 to 150 homes at the most and it probably would not tilt the scales to require additional hiring but if we ended up getting a real growth spurt then it would probably require that we reinvestigate our investment. Ms. Hawkins said, they did not say right away, yes we did. They just kind of mulled it over to themselves, but I don't think that was a hot

button issue with being able to still provide the services. Councilwoman Baccus said, “My concern is, how is the sewer system going to handle this”? Ms. Hawkins said I have been assured they can handle it. They have located the sewer line, and it is available and is in good working order and is servicing other customers in that area. Councilwoman McRavin asked, “Do they know if the water pipes are the old terra cotta pipes or is it …. Ms. Hawkins said, “Because we, in “said area”, want to replace them, they will be all new in that area. Councilwoman McRavin said, “But it’s going to be tapping into the existing stuff that’s still old though which puts a burden …. Ms. Hawkins said, “I asked that question will it create a burden. Would it make the neighbors not work the way that it should, and I was assured that was not the case, in fact it would be better”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “I find that hard to believe”. Mayor Boyd said, “You’ve got to have spots where houses need to be put and the only way … as I talked to Ms. Hawkins the other day … we’ve got to get out of a $7 million budget. We've got to get into a $14-$15 million budget and the only way you’re going to do that is either two ways – either we raise everybody’s fees, or we put more people here. He said as you pass by and there’s empty lots it’s not putting that much more of a burden on anybody to infill these lots. Where Daniel Street is there’s a big section over there that can be filled with 30 or 40 homes. Mayor said every time you have a house that’s $80 a month for a water bill and we get 5% off of the light bill and cable bill. Mayor Boyd continued to discuss how much money a new house build could bring into the city and also make the neighborhood look better. Mayor Boyd said, “You’ve got two choices you can either say we are fine like we are and not grow or either grow Darlington back which is you need to put houses here. Mayor Boyd said, right this moment we can all walk, run, or drive around town and I can’t show you two places, I don’t think anybody is building a house and so I think you ought to be willing to court anybody that wants to come into town and build 40 houses … Councilwoman Baccus said, I don’t think anybody said they didn’t want the houses to come. I’m just questioning whether the sewer system can handle it or not. Mayor Boyd said, we are looking at right now, whether it’s worthwhile to give somebody an opportunity to basically go in business with them and help bring them here to build if it’s worth that. They will make sure all the lines are under a new ... everything that’s old there now will still have to be upgraded. councilman Milling asked, he is asking that we give him tap fees for sewer and water. Councilman Milling said, “If we give him …what was that total $700,000 or something”? Councilwoman McRavin said, “That’s what I’m trying to figure out. If it's $5,000 per home, what was the amount that he’s going to invest in our sewer … City Manager Hawkins said, “It would be more like $7,000 with the additional taxes that the mayor mentioned and franchise fees”. Mayor Boyd said, “The cost that it’s going to cost the contractor, he will have about $5,000 invested per house. He said if you estimate about $4,000-$5,000 is what he has credit toward every house and he would have to build 140 homes in Darlington to spend $700,000. Councilman Milling asked, “Is my memory correct that it was around $700,000 that was going to be the cost of the road…. (Mayor & Elaine both talking before Milling finished) Mayor said, “If he gives us $700,000 to build a road, I wouldn’t just say you’ve got $700,000 credit. He’s got to come back with professional bids showing it’s professionally done, and everything has gone through the paperwork correctly and then shows that he put the road in and spent x amount of dollars. Mayor Boyd said, “If the contractor says he’ll put half of the road in and spend $350,000, then he’ll have that much credit. and now we’ve got a road. If he builds one house and leaves, we’ve got a road”. Councilman Milling asked, “Are we talking about something specifically for

Daniel Street or are we talking about helping people in general"? Mayor Boyd said, "I would say, not just helping people in general, but somebody that's going to be coming …. Councilman Milling said, "I mean any contractor because …. Is what we're trying to develop is a policy that would be applied to any contractors coming in building homes"? Mayor Boyd said, "I would say so if you are willing to come in and build homes in Darlington. If somebody wants to build one home, then I would say no". Councilman Milling said, "If he's going to build infrastructure that cost $700,000, if that's the as-built cost, and he's looking for a credit for $700,000 he's going to have to build a ton of houses, or his 3-to-5-year period is going to expire after which he won't get anything. Mayor Boyd said, Again, "We haven't set him down. He's liable to say that's not what but $350,000 or $700,000 in a road until we know that he's going to build houses. Councilman Milling asked, Did the $700,000 include just the road or did it include water and sewer. Mayor Boyd said that was water and the water lines everything. Councilwoman Baccus said, and he's going to turn around and sell all of these houses at a profit. Councilman Milling said, certainly. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So what does he have to lose? He hasn't lost anything. We are footing the whole bill as far as the roads and sewer lines are concerned because he's selling his houses at a profit; so, he's not investing anything at the end of the day". Councilman Milling said, "He's putting his money upfront if I understand it. Mayor Boyd said he's putting in 40 houses for us to be able to make a minimum of $1,200 a year. Councilwoman Baccus said, "My point is, he is not selling these houses …he's selling at a profit. I'm pretty sure he's going to benefit from these houses, so why should we foot the whole bill of $700,000. Councilman Milling said, "He's going to foot the $700,000 initially and then we will give him credit back against that with tap fees of $2,600. So, we are having to carry him on that, but we're picking taxes and water & sewer fees outside of that. He said that's the reason I said that he's going to have a limited period of time in which he can get his credits. Councilwoman McRavin said, "In order for him to make that money back, that's a lot of houses in that particular area and he wouldn't be able to build enough to get his money back. And if he goes to a different part of town, and he selects another parcel of land that doesn't have adequate water and sewer, it's going to have to be developed too". Mayor Boyd said, "That's up to him". Mayor Boyd said he may or may not want to do it. We're saying if he puts it in ….and again, whatever we give him to that point, that's credit. He may leave a part of the credit and not get all his credit back and he is going to make money on the houses. But what is it benefiting us if he did it to where he had to get all his money back. He said $5,000 per house would be 140 houses. If he comes to Darlington and builds 140 houses at just $1,200 a year per house over a 50-year period and that house is going to be there so he's brought back into the City of Darlington $8.4 million". Councilwoman McRavin asked, "Do we need to look at this from a different perspective and not so much focus on … because if we're going to write policy for every contractor who comes in instead of focusing so much on Daniel Street maybe we need to look at that from the perspective of if they are putting in the water and sewer lines and they give us x number of dollars of investment, this is what we give them in return as opposed to trying to figure out that his road is going to cost $750,000. We can see if you were going to build 10 homes that we are going to automatically let you ride on these tap fees or we'll waive the tap fees or we'll waive the permit fees if you agree to build 10 homes, but they have to have a plan for 10 homes and they have to be built within a year or two years; because it seems like we're going to get all bogged down in just this road thing. Maybe it needs to be addressed from that perspective that we say,

"Anytime you make an investment of $1 million in our city, this is what we are going to give you". Councilwoman McRavin reiterated what she said earlier about offering certain incentives to get them and if they need anything additional (a road or something) then maybe that's something we need to look at on a case-by-case basis". Mayor Boyd said, "I agree with that, but the only thing is if he comes and says I'm going to build 10 houses and then you don't charge them a tax or anything for the first five and then he leaves. Mayor Boyd said, "Looking at this particular project …and again I think there needs to be a set thing for everybody, but looking at this particular project somebody just walked in and said I want to build 40 houses, but he's got to have a street in there. You put the street in there and we will give you credit and if he doesn't want to put the street in there because he's going to have to spend a lot more than what it's going to take him probably to get credit". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I don't even know how it got to this point, because when the man originally came to me, and we talked about it - all he asked for was the road to be opened where the fence was all he wanted to do was get from Brunson Street past the fence into that field where his lot is at. That is all he asked for and that was it and he was going to pick up from there and continue with the road. I don't understand why it's at this point because that is not what he came for". Councilwoman Baccus said, "He asked for simply that, and he was going to go from that point on with the road himself when he called me and asked me to bring this up. How we got from Brunson Street all the way to Jessamine Street doesn't make sense to me because that wasn't the original plan". Councilwoman McRavin said, "Well, it's also pipes. It's also sewer pipes". Mayor Boyd said, "He's come back in and he's trying to figure out …. He can build without building the road, but he can't build as many houses. Councilwoman Reed said, "This conversation since then, has changed dramatically (several members speaking at the same time) council continued to go back and forth in discussion on this issue). Councilwoman McRavin said, "All I want is a policy. I don't want us to do something just for Cook for this Daniel Street property and then the next person comes along, and we don't have …. Mayor intervened and said, "There's nothing wrong with doing something for Cook …. Holt Brothers came in and we made a policy for them that if they did this, then they would get some fees back, if they had so many employees and so forth. They wanted some additional funds, and I don't think they got all of that done so they didn't get anything. Mayor Boyd said, before we get much further on this, we need to look at him and do a policy just for him. I think it would be good for us to make a policy just for the general public and have Hunter publicize and announce it to the contractors. Then if you build within the next five years or whatever time frame that you put, there will be half fees or no fees on a certain size house anywhere in the City of Darlington. And if there are no fees at all, you're still going to make your money back after at least 2 to 3 years". Mayor Boyd said, "I suggest that we sit him down and see what he is willing to do, and we can negotiate from there. Councilwoman McRavin said, "We can look and see what type of policy places like Florence, Hartsville and Lake City might have had with giving incentives to people so we can have a guideline and develop a policy. The council kept going over the same discussion,Ways to promote Darlington

● Updates to Council –
City Manager Lenessa Hawkins told council she will give them verbal updates on things they asked her individually. She said she was asked about the status of the Masterplan. She said she checked with Ms. Jones, and it was accepted in the Fall of 2024. The only thing left to

complete all the changes in the zoning ordinance. You will be hearing that second reading on February 4 as it relates to the master plan status.
● Ms. Hawkins said earlier today she received a call from Ms. Beth Sealy with Aging. They are requesting a letter of support from the council with a grant that they are applying for, and the deadline is February 28th. They want to renovate the old YMCA at 123 Exchange Street, and they want to put a Senior Center there. They will be drafting a letter to the council, and it will appear on your next council meeting agenda.

Ms. Hawkins said the S.C. Office of Resiliency as a Mitigation Program. She said Ms. Sheila Jones was phoned earlier about the program. Ms. Hawkins said the County of Darlington joined the program. She said this program if you have had repeated weather events, flooding that has damage to your home, you can enter the program and be bought out. She said you can be in this program, and it can be air property. It does not have to be flooding. It could have been some other hazard that has created damage to the home over and again from different events. You have the ability to say, up until the close, to change your mind. She said we had four in Darlington. Only in Hartsville and Darlington are there forty properties that were identified and four of our residents applied. Three have decided not to continue with the program. One is still remaining in the program and has continued in the process. It's about a 12-month process. The South Carolina Office of Resiliency has decided that they would go and look again for additional properties. You won't be able to build anything else on that property, it would be like a forfeiture. Ms. Hawkins said the other item is, the property reverts to the County. Ms. Hawkins said they do buy out for up to $355,000. Some of it is money to move.

Ms. Hawkins said she asked to obtain the capital improvements plan for water and sewer. She said she needs to do some tweaking to it. She said she spoke with Mr. Morris and Mr. Boatwright about it. The form that it is in I only want to use it internally. It's not to be submitted with grants or anything until we get it into the form that I believe that it should be. She said she does have it, and she will send it out but it's only to be used for internal purposes only until she gets it into the right form.

Ms. Hawkins said we have spoken about a collaboration sheet. She said you do not have SharePoint, so I'm going to use my OneDrive to share this document. She said as I work to put the list together, you can use it to write out … as I work to put the list together, you will be able to see each council member and each one will have a tab in an excel spreadsheet. We will keep track of the status of your initiative, or request and you can see each other's at the same time. You can go in there and add it or either let me know and I'll add it. What I'm asking you to do is not delete because if that's something that interests me, I wouldn't want you to take it off and then we will update the status. Ms. Hawkins said we want to keep it not so busy, and you can use notes because there's a notes provision in excel. It is a living document for us to work together and that, so everybody's ideas are out there for every one of you all to see.

Ms. Hawkins said she met with Mr. Moody and Mr. Lynch from Asset Technology. She said the security that they have - that's what they are known for. She said if you have any problem with your technology, they are available to help not only you, but also the staff. Councilwoman

Baccus said, “At one time when I first came on council, we had tablets, and they never worked”. She said they were offered to them but that was it. She said, “I think we need new ones”. Councilwoman Baccus said, “You can check and see if we can use them”. Ms. Hawkins said, “I'll have them look at it and if you all want to do that … go back to your tablets, we can”. Councilwoman McRavin said, “Well, I did get one. This was ordered for me last year at the beginning of the year. Ms. Hawkins said, “If you have a device, if you would, drop it by here.

Ms. Hawkins said the next item is the Google Doc service request form and she will let Hunter talk about that. Hunter said, “What we are looking for is a Google form so people can visit our website, and they can type in a concern and then that concern gets emailed to specific directors and to our city manager. He said Google form is a great idea and it’s free, but our website service Beam & Hinge does offer the ability to go in there and create forms for us. He said we have a set amount of hours which is 20 hours within a quarter so they said that this project would take most of our hours so we would have to go a quarter without asking them for help for anything to do this, which I think is still the right way to go. And what happens is they all create these forms and then it can go to all of the directors, or it can just go to the city manager or just go to whoever individual ones. There was discussion about how to track and disperse the information/complaints to the proper department. Councilwoman McRavin asked, “Did you tell me that there was Google Docs and another service that offered these forms”? Hunter said, “Yes. When this was first brought to me it was just about Google, but I reached out to our website people to see what they could do, and they came up with another suggestion. He said right now we do have a Google address that I created, but I will only want to give her access to it because it controls a lot of other things too, such as our Google Analytics and everything else, so we can do it that way but I think it would be good to do it or something installed on the back end of our website. That way it automatically notifies the directors or the city manager whereas if I do a Google Doc I’m going to have to keep going back in and checking it or she’s going to have to keep checking it. Councilwoman McRavin said, so what you’re saying is instead of doing the free Google Docs you’re recommending this other …. Hunter said we need to look into both of them because the one on the website also has an IT aspect to it. We need to work with ATG on one section of it and they may want to do that, and they may not so I’m just saying, there are two options that we have right now. Hunter said there’s also a security aspect to this as well. If we forget the password or the email gets hacked, hopefully no one’s going to get into our website. He said more than one person will be able to get onto the website. Our website handlers will be able to do it. I will be able to do it. Ms. Hawkins will be able to do it, and then any new person that we give access to. Mayor Boyd said, “But the goal behind it is to keep a track record as I told Ms. Hawkins. There should be nobody commenting on this. Hunter said we also might want to discuss the timeline for this project. It would take up the majority of our hours for that quarter. If this is something we can wait a little bit longer. … Ms. Hawkins said, “I was thinking, maybe we should go ahead and do Google for a short time while they give us the one that’s integrated into the website just for graphic and user friendliness. I think that’s the way to go forward, but in the meantime, we could still do the Google Docs”. Hunter said, “Yeah, we can call it Beta or something like that”. Mayor Boyd said, “The other thing we discussed too was possibly …when Lisa left DDRA had, and they still have all the numbers. She used to come up and say Buildupdarlington.org and we got the digital sign, we’ve got the newsletter that he does

a great job with. You got Facebook that he's doing a great job with and then there's still a lot of people who don't see that. He said there is a big bank of numbers out there and then we don't come back and ask anybody to continue to add to that list, but DDRA owns that list. It was said that Hunter with a click of an email can post out there that our yard debris has changed, or we are having a cookout this weekend or whatever. Then she could then text that out to everybody and we could start that back because for a while we had a hard time getting into that but now, they've gotten back into it. That's a quick way to get it out to let everybody know we will be flushing the hydrants this weekend. Ms. Hawkins said, "I think we might be able to create our own. Mayor Boyd said we'll have to start back over because we can't pull those numbers in. We have to stop back over getting people to build with that list. I think we should have our own list too. But I think … again, as long as you've got permission we can go ahead and start theirs. He said DDR a is not like the Chamber. The Chamber is for Darlington County and the City whereas DDRA is solely for the City of Darlington. They are here just to help us. They are just an extension as a nonprofit group. They are here just for us, so they've got the list. Ms. Hawkins said, "There is also a value in having one for emergency notifications". McRavin said, "Before I inquired if we could start with the water department because this includes every household. Is it something that we can attach to the water bill asking them if they want to be a part of this text alert? Mayor Boyd said when Lisa was here every time she came up she would give the website buildupdarlington.org. He said, like you're saying, you can put that in the water bill, on Facebook page and on the city's website and ask people to click on it and we can continue to build that one up until we decide to get our own list. McRavin said, "What are you talking about the Google Docs and the stuff for the website you talked about also us needing a whole new website. She said is this something where if we spent money for them to create a form that it's going to be cost prohibitive for us to build this new website or strategically and financially, what's the best option for us? To get both? Hunter said, "We are a little way away from a new website we're going to have to get a quote and do all that but then it's going to take a little while for them to make it too. Mayor Boyd said, but the Google Docs, at worst if somebody tapped in, there's nothing for them to steal. Hunter said, no, we just wouldn't be able to get back into it. He said, "Well, actually it would hurt us because our Google Analytics, our YouTube channel would be …. Councilman McRavin said, "But you were saying you don't want to use Google Docs anyway, you want ATG to build it for us". Hunter said, "I think they are both great ideas. I'd like to see what our website could do first, but we'll do Google Docs in the meantime. Ms. Hawkins said, and it's not going to cost anymore. The bill has already been paid for. There is an allotment of 20 hours per quarter that we are going to use. Mayor Boyd said, "But you can test it with Google Docs and see how it works and see if you can start using it, then they can switch over to the other one. Hunter said, "So, with those 20 hours eight hours is for security, and they are projecting up to 11 hours to do this form so you're looking at 19 hours or so. He said it would be good to do the Google Doc to begin with and then maybe break this project up into two quarters. Ms. Hawkins explained the broadcast system to them. She said that's a way to get a lot of information out in a little bit of time. Ms. Hawkins said, "Hunter said this website might be $25,000-$30,000 and at that level we would have to have a procurement, but if this particular company that we use now has an alternative that makes sense, then we might consider that normally websites do take a lot of funds to redevelop. Hunter said, "And that's not just for the website it's for the support for the website. He said for example take Civic Plus … you can get a

website built cheaply for approximately $7,000, but they are going to have anything to do with the back end of it so then you still have to hire a company or either hire an internal IT person to be able to keep Russia out of our system and everything so it's more than just the website it's the level of expertise behind it as well.
Ms. Hawkins said there was a request that was made of you regarding meters. On March 26, 2024, there was a discussion and request for new meters. On April 9, 2024, there was a request for an insert valve ??? and it is a crucial piece of equipment so that we can do repairs to water lines without turning everybody off. During that particular meeting, Southern Corrosion contract was submitted to you and those figures what is $26,766.29 and Southern ?.. for $38,605. Then, in August of this past year, there was a discussion of water meters RT cable … for $11,980 and DHEC fees for $16,711. So, what's happening now is that there is a request to start replacing meters that were installed in 2013. The batteries that help you receive those meters have failed. It is the end of the life of the meter so those need to be replaced with some other meters that are bigger. Therefore, this is the request from???? All of the meters are going to be AMR. We have done some upgrades to the tower, and they can turn them off in the office right now. They can't turn them off. They can read them but that's about it. And unfortunately, it wasn't turnkey back then, but this is where we are now. We're going to move from AMI to AMR so they can turn off the meters from the office. Ms. Hawkins said, "The last cut off list was 300. The customer service folks are not able to do that by themselves and so all of the water and sewer are helping with that this past month. Councilwoman McRavin said, "So when I asked about those meters before because I think when he came in August or whenever it was, it was going to be two different types of meters. He said they were only going to use .. because the system had been upgraded and they could do it with the click of a button but for those other people who were on the old system, he wanted to replace it with those same old meters, and I was asking why we were using that, and he said because those people on frequent offenders. Mayor Boyd said, "It would be nice to have it on all of them, but we don't have enough money to buy them all. So, the ones that they're having to turn off more, that's where they would put the AMR. Ms. Hawkins said, "I think they are starting with them first. She said my expectation is that they will start with them first and then the entire system would be ??? Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Those meters that they bought in 2013 you were saying those meters are bad now"? Ms. Hawkins said, "The batteries that help them read that sends out the radio signal are failing in the field. Ms. Hawkins said, "And if you want further discussion, we can do that. She said that would come out of your capital improvement fund.

Event Reminders:
Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM Joint Meeting with Planning at the St. & Sanitation Department

Saturday, February 1, 2025 Public Forum at First Church of God Fellowship Hall from 10 AM to 12 noon

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 regular city Council meeting 6:00 PM

Councilwoman McRavin reminded everyone that on January 15th, 2025, from 9 AM to 11:30 AM will be Coffee at the COG

Councilwoman McRavin reminded everyone about Saturday, January 18, 2025, The City of Darlington along with MUSC is sponsoring the Health Fair from 10 AM to 2 PM at the A.W. Stanley Gym

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM

Chief Davis said on Saturday there will be a MLK

Councilwoman McRavin said they didn't decide how citizen comments are going to be handled. We need to put a plan in place of who's going to be handling that. Also, CARPS did that presentation and said they were looking for a location. We said we were gonna talk amongst ourselves about them possibly using one of the Exchange Street buildings as a place for their weekly meeting. Councilwoman Reed suggested the use of the conference room at the Administration Building. Councilwoman Baccus said, I thought it was said that we were going to let the city manager handle someone who came to council with a complaint, and then if she can't handle it, then she would give it back to us. Ms. Hawkins said she would love to do it.

Adjournment

Councilman John Milling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Councilwoman Angela McRavin seconded the motion. All approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

REMINDERS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman John Milling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Reed, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer