CITY OF DARLINGTON

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING & BUDGET WORK SESSION

HELD IN THE OLD COUNCIL CHAMBERS

400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025, AT 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, Councilpersons Shelia Baccus, Angela McRavin, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed, John Milling and John Segars. Also present, Lenessa Hawkins, City Manager, Celeste Dubose, Hunter Thomas, Chief James Davis, Sheila Bryant, Michael Morris, Jonathan Boatwright, Steve Abbott, Anna Dewitt and a Representative fromTV-15.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Mayor Boyd.

Mayor Boyd did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT BUDGET OVERVIEW – JONATHAN BOATWRIGHT/MICHAEL MORRIS

Mr. Morris said this is just a summary for T and C where we're anticipating increased cost as far as chemicals, the (O&M) of our treatment facilities, anything else that we've identified, or we feel like we're going to have a need for. It's just a brief summary of it. The biggest one is the increase for sewer line repair. If we're coming out from under these bypass pump rentals, we'll be able to do a lot more. Instead of having that line item tied up with pump rentals, we can actually start laying sewer pipes. Councilwoman McRavin said could you give us a moment to read I noticed there was some work being done out at the pump off of the bypass and Planet fitness. She said are you replacing that pump? Mr. Morris said that we are totally redoing that station new electrical pump, coating the wet wells and new valves. Councilwoman McRavin said so they will no longer have a temporary pump out there? Mr. Morris said no mam. Councilwoman Baccus asked so what is going on with that pump that's over on Southern Pine and Limit. Mr. Morris said that it is in the new grant that we applied for a RIA grant. He said that the station will be totally redone. Councilwoman Baccus said that she remembers when she talked with DHEC that it was a time limit on when that pump was supposed to be repaired or replaced. She said you are saying you applied for a grant, if you don't get the grant that means the pump is not going to get fixed. Mr. Morris said not necessarily. Councilwoman Baccus said because the original grant that we got originally the first time was supposed to solve that problem. We didn't get it done. Now you got the street blocked off and a hose running to the middle of the street pumping sewage because the pump is not working at all now. Mr. Morris said not the pump the force man collapsed. Councilwoman Baccus said so that's why you pumping it in the middle of the street. Mr. Morris said we

have a lay flat pipe going into the manhole. Mayor Boyd said that It's going into a manhole. It's not going into the street. Councilwoman Baccus said that the manhole is in the middle of the street. Mayor Boyd said that I just want to clarify that so the public can hear that it's not going into the street, it's going into a manhole. Councilwoman Reed said anyway, from what you're saying, when do you expect that to be corrected? Mr. Morris said very soon. He said that our plan is to go ahead, preempt it before we get approval for a grant or anything, and correct the spot that we found in the fourth main. That way we are no longer running the hose across the street. As far as the pump station that's still under work. Councilwoman Baccus said so based on what you just said, when are you planning on doing this? Mr. Morris said as soon as we can, Lee Street fell in and we had another collapse happen last week. We came in on Saturday to repair that one**. C**ouncilwoman Baccus said where was that. Mr. Morris said Hoole Street and South Williamson Park. That was a line that was not originally the city's, but it looks like in 2019 the city accepted it to the system. Mr. Morris asked do you want to go line by line**.** Councilwoman Baccus said so I'm curious, on this increase that you present here, when you're saying percentages, why is there not actual numbers there? So, we will have an idea of what you want. Mr. Morris said that the numbers are represented. Councilwoman Baccus said the numbers are over here. Mr. Morris said that this is just a summary. Councilwoman McRavin said so when you all do your cuts for repairs and I know you discussed this previously on whose line item and who was going to take that on, whose budget it going to come out of for the repair of the street and the asphalt. Councilwoman McRavin said I didn't see anything here. Mr. Morris said it normally comes out of sewer repair. If it's a sewer cut, that's the line item it has to come from. Councilwoman McRavin said so what line item, did I overlook that? Mr. Morris said it is line items 278, 279 and 280. Mayor Boyd asked is it under Sewer Treatment or Sewer Collection. Mr. Morris said collections. He said 280. Councilman Gardner said one thing I would like to ask about that is can you make like an Excel or do a spreadsheet so when we make a cut we can put them on there so every so often we can come back. Because I'm noticing some cuts that I don't know how, but we need to make sure we repair. Councilwoman McRavin said that 280 is Unemployment Insurance on both. Councilman Gardner said Sewer Line repair is 278. Councilwoman McRavin said No, I'm not talking about the sewer line itself. Mr. Morris said that's part of the repair. Councilwoman McRavin said Okay. So that $500,000 that's there, you've got a replacement if you have to do any repair through a sewer line. And that's also including the asphalt fee for the streets department to go on. Mr. Morris said most of the time you have to use a contractor to cut because the cuts are too wide. The hot box, you can't do a whole lane or like the entire center of the road. So that has to be contracted out. Councilwoman McRavin said so in this current fiscal year, how much did you all end up spending, having to do both retainers? Were you able to stay within budget last year? Mr. Morris said it's the first year since I've been here at this point in time, we are not over budget. Councilwoman McRavin said okay. Councilman Gardner said council do we want to flip through it together and go through line items together and have him answer any questions. Ms. Hawkins said that I would like to, before you move on, say that communication between the departments are improving. When they finish a cut on the sewer water side, they are going to let Streets and Sanitation leadership know in that department and they will address those cuts. That's what they're working on, that communication. Mayor Boyd said and then they'll send the bill. If it's a water cut, they'll send the bill for that**.** Ms. Hawkins said they will need to make sure they allocate it to the right budget because sewer needs to cover that complete job from beginning to end. Councilwoman McRavin said if it's too large for streets to do it, then you're saying that you will contract. Ms. Hawkins said they will know the difference. Councilwoman McRavin said that they will let streets look at it and streets will say no, too

much for us. Ms. Hawkins said Mr. Morris can tell how big that cut is. Mr. Morris said that the hot box can only go so far. Mayor Boyd said like Mr. Gardner was saying, there's some cuts, like for example, a bad one going down Cashua Street. It was the line, the six-inch line that you had a hard time trying to close in. It's been patched, but now it's still some spots now that after a while need the concrete put back in this budget year. He said like on South Main I know that Sam did those and we are getting ready to pave it. Mr. Morris said that should be covered on the Broad Street Project. Councilman Gardner said I can assume everything stays the same unless it says increase expected. Mr. Morris said yes sir. He said there was one item for Building Repair I reduced it by $3,000 and moved that $3,000 to Small Hand Tools. Councilman Milling said when you're talking about moving things around or talking about items in particular, are you talking about the 914C budget or the 914T budget? Mr. Morris said 914 C &T cross a lot. He said it's 914-228C page 3. He is explaining to them where to find the line-item number. Councilwoman McRavin said how frequently do you all have to go back in for training? I noticed looking at the professional services what is that for. Councilman Gardner asked which number she was talking about. Councilwoman McRavin said 265C. She said is that for training. Mr. Morris said no ma'am. Professional Services sometimes cover engineering for certain projects that's not with a grant. If we have to have an engineer, I think that's what that's supposed to be for. Councilwoman Reed said in the past, when they have that on there and I would question that that was something that was paid to Davis & Brown. Is that the case this time? Mr. Morris said as far as I know, with every bit of engineering we've had from them has went to grants. Ms. Hawkins said that we can find out the answers for you, if you would like a printout of that line item. Councilwoman McRavin said So that's the same thing on 914 T as well and 914C that professional services both for engineering on both of those correct. Mr. Morris said that we also have a contractor that comes in to help with certain things as well. Councilwoman Reed said so what's the point with special contracts? What's all that about? Why have it if you don't use it from what you just said. Mr. Morris said there's nothing in there. Councilwoman Reed said I know I'm saying what's the point in having it if you don't use it for what you just explained, you say that you contract with this one and you contract with that one under professional services, but then you've got special contracts. Mayor Boyd said sounds like a redundant line item. Ms. Hawkins said that is something that was once used before, if you see something that has no information in it, it was on your budget at one point. But you've since not budgeted anything for that line item but the item is still there. It still has history attached to it. The other way that this could come off is to make it inactive, but if it's something relatively new or hasn't been that long ago, you might not want to make it inactive because you needed to show up on your reports, but that is why you see a zero budget and a zero activity on there. Councilwoman McRavin said so the sewer beds seven of them have been redone. Mr. Morris said at the treatment plant three of them were redone and a corner of one. Councilwoman McRavin said okay, so that's all taken care of. Don't anticipate any additional expenses with any of that. Any of the others needing to be repaired anytime. Mr. Morris said eventually but not right now. Councilwoman McRavin said but not within the next year. She said the line that was done underneath Black Creek that's completed and everything is fine with that. So no other expenses there. Mr. Morris said that project has been completed and signed off. Ms. Hawkins said Mr. Morris, would you discuss what you would like to do this coming year as it relates to the if the resources are there, what you plan to do or would like to do. Mr. Morris said if the resources are there, we would like to get actual sewer employees. Right now, everybody we have does everything. And it would give us the ability to split the crew, so we could do a water leak and work on sewer at the same time because just like we're in the process of Lee Street, but the other collapse took precedence because of what was going on on Lee Street, not going on ground because we have a bypass set up. But anytime we have a huge water leak or anything, we have to pull off of that project and run over there and handle that. It gives us the ability to accomplish more. If funds were available. Councilman Gardner said that's the three employees at $150,000.00. Mr. Morris said that's what we would like to get to where would we actually have a sewer

side and a water side. Everybody will be cross trained so that we can utilize the team more effectively. Because you have to have so many people at a hole, you can't just have two guys in the 10-foot hole for safety reasons. Councilman Gardner said the six-inch bypass pump is that to take the place of some of the rental pumps that we have. Mr. Morris said that would be so if a newer station or whatever went down, we wouldn't have to call and rent a bypass pumps, while we're waiting on pumps to get repaired, things like that, we would actually be able to pull our own out there. Councilman Gardner asked do you know how much the rental is for those. Mr. Morris said around $2,500 a month. Councilwoman Baccus asked so do we own any of those pumps that's on the street now. Mr. Morris said no ma 'am. Councilwoman Baccus said that's not what we were told last year. Last year we were told that we own a couple of them. Councilwoman McRavin said so what you have in the budget, since you're talking about doing sewer and water lines, how many sewer lines are you anticipating you'd be able to do? How many new sewer lines have you calculated in here that you'd be able to do. Mr. Morris said right now we have three problem areas that we've identified. If we don't start becoming proactive. We're going to continue being reactive and we're going to wait for it to fall in and then we got to rush out there. It's a lot more cost effective once we've identified something to be able to go ahead and plan ahead and set up, rather than having to do everything emergency because it cost. Councilwoman Reed said so what's the problem? What have you've identified? I just want to write it down? Mr. Morris said the other half of Magnolia, we have a problem on Reservoir, Sycamore and all the ones that are shallow in depth. Councilwoman Reed said so Magnolia, Sycamore and Reservoir. She said Lee Street is not in there. Mr. Morris said that Lee Street kind of just happened to us. We didn't get a chance to identify it. We have already replaced a good portion on the street. Councilwoman Baccus said so have you all gone to look at that …..about fifteen years between Reed and Chestnut. Mr. Morris said I'm not aware of that is it stormwater. Councilwoman Reed said it is. She said however, it has caused all that flooding. They've had sewage problems earlier because Reid Street you know, you've had to have that blocked off there for a minute months ago. But all of it stems from not being able to identify that situation between Chestnut and Reid Street. Mr. Morris said it's in between the houses in the back. Councilwoman Baccus said it's destroying Ms. Byrd's house. Councilwoman Baccus said that line is running straight through her yard and it's flooding and destroying her property. She said it has been brought to Mr. Shugart's attention several times. Mayor Boyd said I think the issue is getting the right of way but check on that and see. Councilwoman Baccus said no it's not because they already had the right of way long time ago. This has already been gone over several times. They have not done anything about the problem. A hole over there now where the city dug, a hole is caving in front of this lady's yard right now where the sewer lines run. Councilman Gardner asked have the property owners signed off on the right of way. Councilwoman Baccus said that was done long before she got here. Mayor Boyd said to check it out. Councilwoman McRavin said so just so I'm clear so what you have in the budget you are planning to fix these three problem areas that you identified, is that right? Mr. Morris said we have to. Councilwoman McRavin said thank you for taking a proactive approach with this. Councilwoman Baccus said Magnolia Street it's been blocked off for at least a year. So what are you saying got to do. Mr. Morris said we replaced half of that sewer line it just hasn't been paved. The road is not blocked. Councilwoman Baccus said so what are you saying you need to do to Magnolia Street. Mr. Morris said the other half. Councilwoman Baccus said so you got to go down where those trees is growing into the street and busting up the street. That's what you are Referring to. Mr. Morris said yes ma'am, the plan is to get a waterline there as well but some of those trees are on other people's property. Councilwoman Baccus said she thinks the trees are on the right of way. Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Morris.

JONATHAN BOATWRIGHT

Mr. Boatwright said most of my budget is the same. I want to go over just a few items that have changed with any significance the first one being on salaries and wages. We're planning to pull everyone off of temp, anybody we have working for temp we're hiring in. We are going to try to do away with the temporary

services and just keep enough in there in case we have a need for somebody for like a week or two or something like that. We are about to hire two more employees after that, I'm still getting the numbers right for the salaries and wages, but that's an estimate. The $550,000 is an estimate right now but I will have you a solid number at the next meeting. Councilwoman Baccus asked how many people do you have on temp now that you are talking about hiring. Mr. Boatwright said I have about four of them right now. Councilwoman Reed said you would keep two full time and that's just the other two you're trying to hire full time. Ms. Hawkins said Mr. Boatwright would you tell them between sewer and water how many temps you have. Mr. Boatwright said it's five total but one is part-time and two were due to be hired now, then there's two more. Ms. Hawkins said plus you have full-time employees, how many do you have? Mr. Boatwright said there is seven full-time city employees. Councilwoman Reed said not temps. Mr. Boatwright said right, I think we are going to leave the one part time there. Ms. Hawkins said they have been working alongside you, learning on the jobs that you all have had. So they know water and sewer now, and they've been with you for a long time. So, they know how the department works. They get along with everyone. If you move out of the temp business, then you can possibly bring them on. Mr. Boatwright said one of these guys is one of the better customer service guys we've had yet. Councilwoman Reed said you have twelve, five temps and seven city employees. Councilwoman Baccus said so you said it's more cost effective to hire these folks as employees versus having them as temps, it's going to be cheaper that way. Mr. Boatwright said yes ma'am there's about a 42 to 45 percent markup on temp employees. It's almost doubled. So we are trying to do away with that. Councilman Segars said so what you are saying is you have to pay the temp service fee and it is higher than the employee rate. Mr. Boatwright said Yes Sir, whatever their wage is, it is plus 42%. Mr. Boatwright said vehicle insurance, that's the projected expenditure, so it went up $6000 but that's just based on what we spent so far this year. He said line item 220 Treatment Facilities, same thing that the major change there was the electric water and gas. And again, that's just the projected number. It's just a big increase in the budget. Councilwoman McRavin asked what's that increase about. Mr. Boatwright said I think a lot of it got to do with the shop we work out of and I think there was some coding issues going on with things not being coded to that line that should have been, but I'm not 100% sure that's what the problem was. Mrs. Charlotte and I are looking into that now. Councilwoman McRavin said okay. Mr. Boatwright said Building Repair down to line 228 almost at the bottom of the page we have several things in our shop need upgrade and updating so I increased that a pretty good amount. Councilwoman Reed said that's a lot. Mr. Boatwright said yes ma'am. Ms. Hawkins has got more insight on that also. Ms. Hawkins said I told them to signal me if they needed me. I went into the building. It's not what you expect. It has some type of installation. It looks like it had kind of a wet paper that was thrown up there and then rusty water ran through it. It is just not where you would want your employees to be working out of. That said, the plan is and Mr. Morris and Mr. Boatwright agree that we might be able to do it this way. That we put 50,000 in next year and work from January to June. Put another 50,000 the next year to finish it out. I thought they could do it for $50,000 and they said no ma'am, we could do some, but it wouldn't be completely what it needs to be. Instead of remodeling or renovating the shop, let's say it's the shop build a new building on the lot that would take care of their needs, a break area with a small kitchenette and refrigerator and an office where they can get on the computer and clock in. Space for a shower because sometimes they're in muck and mire. I'm just going to say that and they need to have a hot shower, so the cold shower is what we have now and then they have to hobble on something. I still don't understand why the floor is like that, but they would have locker rooms and have the ability to clean themselves and get clean and hygienic before leaving the shop, change their clothes, do whatever they need to do. And it will go a long way with morale, it is not heated. It's an old wide-open space and this way if we split it into two years, we can do it ourselves. They're willing to utilize those that have skills on the staff. And not have to contract it out unless we run into an issue, they are more than comfortable. Mr. Morris and Mr. Boatwright said that they could do it themselves little bit by little bit. And so with that, if you leave it just like that, no second phase and next year they're only going to be able to just kind of like sheet rock the inside of one side and build a wall but wouldn't be able to get it as far as it may need to be. I think we were kind of in agreement when we spoke about this, only that would be the way to do it. So we hope that y'all would agree, and that way you don't have to do any loans. Councilwoman Baccus said so you're saying if I understand what

you're saying, they're going to go in and redo some of the inside of that building or they going to just build another building on the outside. Ms. Hawkins said if you're not agreeable to the two phases. Councilwoman Baccus said I'm just trying to understand what they're doing. Ms. Hawkins said the recommendation is to build another building. Councilwoman Baccus said so it's cheaper to build another building then to buy one of those metal buildings and then insulate it and do what they need to do. Mr. Boatwright said that's what we're talking about. He said a regular metal building and finishing the inside. Councilwoman McRavin said line item 212 Contract O&M what's that. Mr. Boatwright said that was Davis & Brown, they do our water treatment also. Mr. Boatwright said Meter Parts and Supplies on the third page number 256 everything is going up there, all the brass meter fittings, all this is up, it's gone up at least 20%. A lot of what we can get is going up 20%. It's still a big lag in meter boxes and things like that. Price increases is the reason behind that budget increase. And if you move down to 258 there's nothing in meter replacement because at this time we're funding that out of the capital improvement, which is what that money was set back for from what I understand, so there's no money there right now. Councilwoman McRavin said so how many of the meters were already purchased? Because I know I remember they're being talked about AMR and two different types of meters, one that you could check from the office. Mr. Boatwright said I think we've ordered 50 of the what's called Ally Meters. The ones that can be turned off from the office and we probably replaced 75 we probably got 25 on the shelf and we probably replaced 75 of the IPearls, which are just a standard water meter, no communications as far as turning on and off. It still reads to the tower. It doesn't have a valve in it. Councilwoman McRavin said so you replaced 50. Mr. Boatwright said that we have 50 on the shelf. Yes, ma'am. We've probably done about 20 of the ally meters because those are like location specific, the IPears are just anywhere. Councilwoman McRavin asked how long does it take to replace one of those. Is that something that you all can do or do you have a contract. Mr. Boatwright said it's like a 45-minute job just taking one meter out and put one in, all the communications are all the same. Councilwoman McRavin said so the 50 that you have on the shelf, you have places that you need to put those. Mr. Boatwright said Yes ma'am. We are just waiting on meters in those locations to go bad and or go blank or whatever, then we will replace it. Councilwoman Reed said you got to look up and see where 117 Tallulah Street meter is because mine hasn't been replaced yet. It is broken in half. Mr. Boatwright said is that the house all the way at the end on the left. Councilwoman Reed said yes, is it on the list. Mr. Boatwright said yes, ma'am. Councilwoman McRavin said that the telephone line item 221 is more than doubled, what we got going on. Mr. Boatwright said yes ma'am, look, I got two question marks on my paper. We're looking into that now. Councilwoman Reed said so what about the telephone? Mr. Boatwright said I don't know what's going on. Ms. Hawkins said maybe an allocation issue or something or communication, if it needs to be split three ways or two ways. Councilwoman McRavin said so you're thinking that the phone for the sanitation and sewer something was in this too. Ms. Hawkins said that communication would be happening. Mr. Boatwright said on page 4 we put some money in safety, which was none in last year. Councilwoman McRavin said Professional services is Davis and Brown too, 265. Mr. Boatwright said I know more of it for sewer than I do for water. That's the tank maintenance, I think, and the contract with Southern Corrosion. And we have a bill we have to pay every year to DHEC. I think that's still under that line item for their services for them to come out and inspect us. It's like $14,000 or $15,000 a year, and a few others. Councilwoman McRavin asked if they are planning to paint our water tanks this year. Mr. Boatwright said I think it's in the fifth year of that contract they will paint both tanks. They were just painted in 2019. Councilwoman Baccus said what's Traffic Control Equipment. Mr. Boatwright said signs that say all road work ahead and men working cones. Councilwoman Baccus said why so much of those things are still on the street. Mr. Boatwright said I would assume they're directing traffic. Councilwoman Baccus said some are just on the side of the street. Mr. Boatwright said I am not going to say that we don't forget them and leave them out there. Some are ours and some are DOT. I know we got some on North Main Street. Sometimes I forget, it happens. Councilwoman Baccus said there's several of those signs down on E Avenue, D Avenue and Joe Louis. Mr. Boatwright said the diamond shaped signs. Councilwoman Baccus said diamond shape signs and regular signs, I don't know if all them are ours or DOT. Mayor Boyd said to make a note to pick all of them up. Mr. Boatwright said he will see if he can get them picked up tomorrow. Mayor Boyd said where we at with North

Main Street and the bottom of the hill where the old gas station is closed up. Mr. Boatwright said that's a contractor. You talking about the water leak down there. That was part of the North Main Bridge Project. So, it should still be under warranty. They put a new 2-inch line under the road right there, so they're on the hook for it. I have spoken with the contractor, and he was supposed to come Friday, 3 weeks ago and I called him one other time and I couldn't get him. I will reach out to him tomorrow or the next day and see what's going on. Mayor Boyd asked about the apartments at the bottom of the hill of Cashua Street. Mr. Boatwright said we are waiting on parts on that one. Some of the parts are almost impossible to get. There's a valve, so it's called a meter adapter valve. It's cut off valves brass and it's about six weekly time on that. Councilwoman Baccus asked so what's the status of the fire hydrants, are they finished? Mr. Boatwright said that they're not finished. We've replaced and repaired several of them. The collapse on Lee Street kind of took precedence over that situation. As soon as we finish up on Lee Street we'll start back on hydrants. Mayor Boyd said the one on Warley they did a good job but they need to come back and put some more dirt and pretty it up. Mr. Boatwright said we are just letting it settle right now. Councilman Milling said most any rain that the city receives water runs into the right-hand lane, going down Cashua Street towards the bottom of the hill and floods itself over into the left-hand lane. Sometimes it looks like it is just a matter of it needs to be the Vac trucks sent down there, but it's been that way for years it just hold water down there. Mayor Boyd asked is there a drain there where it holds the water. Councilman Milling said it looks like to me like that there's one drain that sits not in the level where water would drain into it that's on the city or the courthouse side. On the other side of the bridge, it's on the right-hand side and it just looks like it takes like 3 days. You know maybe not that long, but a day and a half, two days for the water to finally go into the drain. But there is a drain there. Councilman Bryant said I didn't think it made it to the drain. I thought it just got shot out by cars. Mayor Boyd said I don't think there's a drain there, I can't remember a drain being there. Councilman Milling said there is a drain on the far hand side, right near the refuel station. Mr. Boatwright said if there's a drain there that kind of goes back to what Mike said about hiring some more employees to help us where we can have somebody to go out there and maybe put the Vac truck on a route two times a week to empty catch basins and drains. Councilman Milling said well, if it isn't a drain there, there certainly needs to be one. Mr. Boatwright said I think that would be a DOT issue. Mayor Boyd said that DOT was out there today at Hardee's intersection. Mr. Boatwright said that drain there goes nowhere. They've been out there several times. They've had a Vac truck out there, but I think that drain has been cemented in or something because there's no outlet, there's a drain grate with a little small hole but there's no outlet there. Mayor Boyd said it use to drain so something just happened there, it never held water like that. Councilwoman McRavin said and the other storm water drainage issue is out on Blue Street right at the ball fields where the bus road and Lee has talked about. Is that something that you all didn't make certain that the line underneath is actually clear because when it rains, you know when you were supposed to have the ribbon cutting two weeks ago, it got cancelled because there was water all across the road there and it makes our side of the field is just total slosh. Mr. Boatwright said between Spring Street and North Main Street. Councilwoman McRavin said Spring and North Main right at the bus road so half of the retention line seems to be taking in water and the other half was as dry as a bone and water was all across the road from that bus road that access to that bus Road. She asked is that something you all were doing. Mr. Boatwright said that would be a DOT issue also. I don't think there's any actual storm drains on that side of the road on the bus side, I think it's just a ditch. Councilwoman McRavin said Lee said something about the pipe that runs underneath that, and they were supposed to check to see if you could get if it need to be cleaned out or something, is that something you all would do? Mr. Boatwright said that will still be DOT. We need to reach out to them. Councilman Milling said we got to figure out a way because saying that a problem is a DOT problem when it's affecting everybody who uses something in the city. We got to figure out a way to get DOT on top of it rather than just raising our hands and saying that's not our problem. Mr. Boatwright said we need to sit down with the DOT, the city does need to come to a hard agreement on the storm drain situation. Because I'm being told that we're supposed to maintain them, but their storm drains and if they break or something, then they come repair them. It's not a real clear line on who's responsible for what as far as storm drains are concerned. Councilwoman Baccus said when we first bought that Vac truck Street and Sanitation

was using that Vac truck to run around the city to clean out storm drains. Storm drains have not been cleaned out, since the water department had the Vac truck and that's been three years or more. Mr. Boatwright said that we've done a few, but we haven't done as many as we'd like to. Councilwoman Baccus said that truck was originally purchased for that purpose to clean those storm drains. That was originally what that truck was purchased to do and the Street and Sanitation Department was keeping it done until that smart prior city manager decided to give the truck to water and sewer and now the storm drains are backing up again. None of them are getting cleaned out cause the same problem is on E Avenue that whole drain is covered with leaves. When it rains the whole street is flooding out because the drainage cover is fill up with leaves. Councilman Milling said that you have that same problem where David Ead's office is on Cashual Street when it rains, that area right in there, it's just filled with water. Councilwoman Baccus said there should be a schedule where the Street and Sanitation have use to the Vac truck so they can do storm drains and clean out some of the storm drains. Mr. Boatwright said we would be glad to work that out. Mayor Boyd said they've been keeping up with the sweeper but it still needs to be on schedule especially in the bad areas. Councilman Bryant said especially when we get into the hurricane season, we know hurricanes coming, we need to make sure that we allocate the time and resources. Councilwoman Baccus said can you make sure the street and sanitation; have time they can use the Vac truck to vacuum out some of those storm drains. Councilwoman Reed said is it feasible for it to go back to that? Or you think it's more utilized with staying under the water rather than in that department rather than the street and sanitation. Mr. Boatwright said that it's not a need issue, it's more of a personnel issue. It's a CDL truck and currently myself and one other employee in my department are the only CDL drivers and the other employee is kind of my head sewer man, so this is what we got going on with Lee St, he's obligated to that he can't go out and clean storm drains right now because he's putting pipe down on Lee Street. That's what is keeping us. We kind of have a schedule put together for storm drains, but we just don't have the personnel to go out and do it at the time because we're dealing with collapses and you know, a leak here and there, but mostly sewer issues is what's keeping us from having the time to do that. Councilwoman Baccus said so if you out putting down a pipe per se at that time nobody is using the truck. Mr. Boatwright said no ma'am. Councilwoman Baccus said then at that time the street and sanitation could be using it to do storm drains. Mr. Boatwright said we can work it out, I got no issue with that. Councilwoman Baccus said I think they paid for half of that truck, it came out of the street and sanitation budget. Mayor Boyd said let's make sure we get somebody that is qualified. Councilwoman Baccus said that the street and sanitation are the original ones who had the qualified drivers. Councilwoman McRavin said so any of the employees you're planning to hire, are they CDL drivers. Mr. Boatwright said that I have one prospect, now the four that are currently temporary no, but I got one prospect for a CDL driver. They are impossible to find and impossible to keep when you get them. Councilwoman Reed said my grandson if you would pay him. Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Boatwright.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET OVERVIEW CHIEF JAMES DAVIS

Chief Davis gave out handouts to the council. Chief Davis said the biggest thing that the Police Department is in dire need of is vehicles we have not purchase vehicles I think in three years now. We are three vehicles short from wrecks, transmissions or old age. Chief Davis said two of our vehicles that are currently on the street should be taken off the street for safety reasons. Councilman Milling said how many miles a year do we put on a vehicle? Chief Davis said I would say on a patrol vehicle we put between 20,000 and 24,000. He said he can get back to you on that number. Mayor Boyd asked how many is hard miles. Chief Davis said that I tell them that the idle hours is what kills these cars. He said it's city miles, it's not Interstate miles. That is the biggest thing. If we decide to go with vehicles, how we obtain them is going to be a decision lease option or purchase outright. I have put both of them in here. Mayor Boyd asked if they're supposed to be a grant process. Chief Davis said if there are supposed to be a grant process, yes sir, it is supposed to be. Will we get it? I don't know. We have asked for some money for vehicles, but if I got both of them, I could still use it. Purchase of the vehicles, the cameras, the upfitting of the vehicle, that's where it starts getting expensive. Vehicles are about $54,000, upfit 7,500 and a camera with a five-year contract on it cost about $16,500. Councilwoman McRavin said you're just talking about cameras for the vehicle. Chief Davis said I am talking

about cameras in the vehicle. We already have the radios. A lot of the stuff we try to salvage off of other vehicles, radar units, radios and first aid kids. The leasing of five new vehicles would cost us $87,000 annually. Councilman Milling asked for how many years. Chief Davis said for five years. Councilman Gardner said you can purchase them outright for the amount of $54000 plus equipment. Chief Davis said you can purchase five vehicles outright for $385,000. If you take $54,000 and then the upfit is $7,500 and the camera is $16,452. Councilman Gardner said is that over five years divided out. Chief Davis said you can, but you will have to do that for the whole 16. Mayor Boyd said now are the lease ones ready to go. Chief Davis said yes. To lease the vehicles outfitted is $87,000 annually. To purchase the vehicles outfitted is $385,000. Councilman Milling said it looks like it will be about $50,000 more expensive to lease them for a five-year period. Chief Davis said that I hate to use the word assume, I'm assuming this with the lease that you get the percentage rate they would charge an average customer, I don't know if they would look at the city's debt income ratio. We have been in negotiations with the school district to try to get a little more money for our SRO's. We have broken it down to the last penny on what it cost us for SRO's to be over there and argue with the school. Thanks to Hartsville and the county, I think they're going to increase us some I do not know exactly what amount. I know that on my salary line that includes my SRO's, but I know the school district gives the city back a lot of money on that. Mayor Boyd said that you actually should break even on that. Chief Davis said the school district pays us for 190 days for each of those six officers, so they are a little bit maybe a dollar two under what we would pay them, we lose a little bit of money. To hear other cities and counties say it, it costs them $2.80 an hour for every hour that officer works in the school district, that's what it costs their city, that's how much money they say they lose. Mayor Boyd said so you're saying we're losing a dollar and something an hour, shouldn't be losing anything. Chief Davis said they are going to go up some. Mayor Boyd said I don't feel that we should be losing anything for an officer to work. Chief Davis said it would be how much of an increase do we get. We also spoke to them about our SRO's equipment. We're trying to get a little more for our SRO's equipment. Mayor Boyd said I don't understand, that doesn't make any sense I know Piggy Wiggly used to hire them. If I hired them or my business hired somebody, how would it be fair for me to have an officer sit in my business, have your officer that's fully armored, fully covered with a police car and they come sit in my business for less than what it cost the city. Chief Davis said we should not be losing money when you add up the insurance, the retirement, and you add up every nickel of it. If you go down the line items, some of them had some slight increases, some things that I think that the department will need. Some of them I think we were doing better than average on and I think we could come down on some of them, so I'm knocked a couple of those down. I didn't want to cut it drastically because sure as I cut it drastically that one scenario will come up where I need it. Postage it was a 600, I'm projected this year to only use 120 of the 600, but sure as I knock it down to 150 for next year, something will come up. I knocked postage down to 400. That's just an example of and I didn't want to shoot myself in the foot but that's an easy number. Chief Davis said if you are on page two my line items and you look across the top of It, you'll see that 25-26 what I'm requesting for the department. My 24-25 is what I predict. I projected the department will use 24-25 as of January 31st, that was January 31st and then my 24-25 budget, that's last year's budget. Councilwoman McRavin said when you talk about new vehicles, you're just talking about replacing vehicles for existing officers. Chief Davis said Yes, ma'am. Councilwoman McRavin asked how does your staff look now. Chief Davis said that I am currently five short. I project that to be more at least 6. Mayor Boyd said we just lost two. Councilwoman McRavin said even though when you're fully staffed, you are still for the size of our city short. Chief Davis said sure in my opinion, yes, ma'am, in other people's opinion I'm too heavy. I got too many people. In my opinion I'm short. Councilwoman McRavin said that I am talking patrol officers. Chief Davis said yes ma'am as compared to thirty-five years ago. Councilwoman McRavin said other cities outside would have more officers on beat during the shift than we do. Chief Daivs said yes ma'am. Councilwoman McRavin said so in an ideal world how many offices would you need, so that we can indeed keep our citizens safe. Chief Davis said I think with the officers we have citizens are safe in Darlington. I feel like we could provide a safer environment with anywhere from another additional four to eight officers that would put one to two extras on every shift. Now if an officer calls in sick, one goes on vacation. You don't have to take from this hand to get to this hand to put back in this hand to put back in this hand. Mayor Boyd said you never know

you could be an accident and then all of a sudden somebody calls in a burglary over here and somebody stole a car. Councilwoman McRavin said you got two officers on the shift and both of them tied up at an accident and somebody over here their house has got broken into. Chief Davis said my response time right now is a little under five minutes and that's one of reasons you got one working the wreck you got the other directing the traffic and then another call comes in no matter what it is telephone harassment, that's something that can wait, so we let it wait and now our response time just goes up because it can wait. It will wait rather than waking people up or calling for immediate assistance from another agency. Councilwoman McRavin said I see that your budget does not include overtime, which means if you short it off sets. Chief Davis said you would think if one person leaves the money from the person that's left that's no longer there we can use that to pay the overtime. But somehow another it always costs you more to work time and a half, then it would to work just once. Mayor Boyd asked how many SRO's do you have. Chief Davis said we currently have 6, but we're losing St. John's that's going to take us back to five. Mayor Boyd said is the County getting that. Chief Davis said they not getting one of my guys, not if I can help it. The St. John's school is closing so what am I going to do with that, I can either put them on the street or put them in animal control. Mayor Boyd asked he's not going into the new school? Chief Davis said not unless we make him go. Mayor Boyd asked who's covering the new school. Chief Davis said that the Couty will fill that position. He said that our officer is not going. Councilman Gardner said we had a Mutual Aid Agreement signed with the pervious sheriff; do we still have a Mutual Aid Agreement? Chief Davis said yes sir we do. We had to sign a new one with the new administration, but we do have one all the same words. It's just different names and different dates, but it's the same policies and they call for help we come and vice versa. Mayor Boyd asked how many hours SRO's work? Chief Davis said our road officers work eighty four hours every two weeks. School Officers work eighty five every two weeks. They work that extra 30 minutes at the school before and after school. When an SRO is out, you got to take somebody from somewhere else to put in whether it's somebody out of the office or somebody off of the street that's off and put them in that school. The school gets 190 days a year per our contract. But then after that it's over they come up with, we need them for summer school. They pay us for hours we work, I will give the school that. Mayor Boyd asked are they paying us still below? Chief Davis said yes. Mayor Boyd said what I just calculated you are still losing close to $10,000 a year just for the 190 days. He said that's just a quick minimum, it could be $20,000 or $30,000 more and you're losing a car. Mayor Boyd said I don't agree with that, do we have not have a way to say that we're either not going to do it or either charge larger fee or at least pay for them. Chief Davis said we have proposed several ways to like hey look if this SRO gets paid a dollar an hour and this one gets paid $2.00 an hour, that's what we bill the school for with their benefits. Well, if the $1.00 an hour officer is out and we have to fill in with a $2.00 an hour officer it gets complicated. Mayor Boyd said my understanding was if you put an officer in there that's making $20.00 an hour, are they covering his full cost? Chief Davis said If he stays there then we are still at that dollar short, as I explained. Mayor Boyd said that's what I said then we are still short, but they we are even short more if you put the $30 an hour person in you are more short. There should be an average calculated in there that this guy is not always going to be there so somewhere this guy's going to fill in. Chief Davis said I do believe the school is going to meet us or go beyond that. There were some good meetings. Mayor Boyd said this is what I tell people I don't care if I'm on camera or not we are the third tier the school, county, city, we are the low man on the totem pole. I am tired of being the lowest man on the totem pole. Somewhere I get tired of figuring out how to get you out there and how to get your men home. Same with the fire department, how to get those guys in and get those guys home. Same with the sewer guys get him out of that sewer line and get him back home. Same with the street guys get them back home. Recreation department out there with 9-million-dollar ball field trying to figure out if they are going to get a lawn mower. Somewhere it's got to change, so somewhere we got to say you got to pay this. That's my opinion, you can voice that opinion. I don't care. Chief Davis said I don't know exactly what we get from the school, but that'll offset that salary line some as it has in years past. If we go on down to the next highlighted thing will be 221. Some of my supervisors do not have city issued telephones and with the things that they are having to do with their personal phones, I highly disagree with. If a subject wants you to return a phone call taking pictures of victims injuries and if that is on my personal phone and it gets FOIA well then we have another problem. Line item

226 there is some software out that is quite expensive, but it helps us with budgeting and documenting our proofs with our Academy standards. It is only 9 standards, but in each standards there's like 27 topics in each standard that we have to show that we are in compliance with every year. That software would make it a lot easier on us providing proofs. It is quite expensive. Councilman Milling said Chief let me go back to something when you're talking with the school district about what to pay an SRO and the other related expenses. Are you entering into a contract with the school district or is the city after reviewing it entering into a contract. Chief Davis said the city, my numbers that I take over there come from Cheryl and Ms. Pridgen and then anything that the school district gives me this is all we can do how many days and I would take that to the City Manager. The City Manager signs off for the city. Councilman Milling said I have never recalled voting on an SRO contract and it sounds like it's several $100,000 that's being agreed to. City Council and mayor, who never voted on such a contract. So I'm just wondering whether we need to take a look at how we handle the SRO contracts. Mayor Boyd said I do think it needs to be looked at. We City council and the City Manager can only look and say well, you know we don't need to be losing money. Chief Davis said we certainly don't need to dig a hole for ourselves because the more people we send over there the deeper our hole gets. I understand your concern on that and that is a very good topic, but I don't want to bog it down that we don't agree on anything until the middle of September by then we have already approved our budget, they've already approved their budget. The school year has already started and we are just now getting the signatures on it. I don't know if she has a copy of the last one we signed but I will get her a copy. Mayor Boyd said that it's just April we got time. Councilman Milling said Ms. Hawkins we're just saying that they are SRO contracts that City Council has never voted on, never signed off on them or never seen them. So we are wondering if this isn't something that the city ought to have a little more input into and do some negotiating. Ms. Hawkins said this is with the school district. Chief Davis said I will have her a copy before close of business tomorrow. Mayor Boyd said if an officer works at the grocery store or in the church, or wherever else he's working where somebody else's paying him that's like security but he's in our car and in our uniform; are we losing money there. Chief Davis said well, I mean technically, yes, I mean the uniform, the equipment is deteriorating, but it's going to deteriorate whether they're working or not. Some of the jobs pay the city for the use of the vehicle. Mayor Boyd I'm saying, you know, and when I asked you before, we will pay officer $60,000, well an officer is not $60,000 if he grosses that, then you're consider adding his benefits and you're going to add in the car you get to add the stuff on the car and the camera and the uniform. So then what does that officer actually is costing us. For the officer to be there is actually just using round numbers $60,000 officer actually costing the city $100,000 a year; $100,000 a year divided by how many hours is going to be work and that's why the officer should be calculated to be workable. Chief Davis said to work a side job the only thing that he or she would be deducting from the city would be if they're in uniform. That's the use of that uniform and the duty belt, the vests and the boots. Mayor Boyd said but at the same time, the way I see it if that officer is a just to use a round number is a $20 hour officer and with all this stuff and everything completely calculated in, let's just say it's $20, then he shouldn't even be on the side because he's in our city car and in our city's uniform. We should be able to profit off of that somewhere. I mean, he should be able to sell it to that person at $25 or $30 an hour. So we're making enough to get him in to take care of him and additional funds because he still is working his 40 hours here, but then he's also moonlighting on the side in our car with our uniform, with our name on it, with our insurance on it and our responsibility on it, the city should be able to benefit somewhere off of that. Councilwoman McRavin said so is that moonlighting, is that something that was set up? You know you're talking about a security job that they are doing through the city that the city sent them to because it seems if that is an officer who is doing a security job almost like a private duty security and they are in a city vehicle with a city issue weapon, if something happens, the city is now liable, and if they're doing a private security job they don't need to be in a city uniform for us to be liable because if he fires that weapon then that's us even though he wasn't being paid by us, right, that's liability for us. Mayor Boyd said you could rent him out to a certain point but they need to pay us and then we pay him or something of that matter. Councilwoman McRavin said yes. Mayor Boyd said but again, if we normally pay him $20.00 an hour and this way it cost us with all this stuff and then he's going to work for this private company, it should be at least that much to cover him but it really should

be a little bit more because you know that's a way for that department to build revenue. Councilwoman McRavin said they would almost be like the temp service. Mayor Boyd said that the benefit from you hiring from that church or business hiring our guy compared to hire me as a security guy that's not allowed to have a gun or whatever else. They got another person that's more advanced that gets you to say got more authority, more trained than a security guard that's not allowed to carry a gun. We sort of become like a temp service. Chief Davis said there are services that do this, but just like the hiring temp services for the water or the street department. Let's just say that Mr. Garland's grocery store wants to hire an off-duty police officer in your brand-new grocery store he wants to hire off duty officer so he goes through our moonlighting company and pays them $50.00 an hour the officers are going to get $20.00 an hour. The officer isn't going to come, they will stay at the house. Mayor Boyd said that's fine that's what I'm saying but now if that officer wants to go over there for $50 an hour he's not going to be in your car, your uniform and he's not going to have the same authority, that's not the same look, so therefore they might not want to pay them $50 an hour. Again, it could be if his normal pay is $20 you're getting $50, it could be OK well, to do this extra side line job, we're going to kick you up to 30 and then we're still going to make a profit off of it too. The city is to help compensate, again, when I say a profit somewhere another you're never going to make a profit. We got to get some way to come back in here, so we can figure a way out to buy cars and buy cameras. Mayor Boyd said so additional funds need to be brought. That officer should never be out there and we are losing money on them. Councilwoman Baccus said so the events that the recreation department has if somebody rents that stadium, the recreation department is charging the events or whoever is renting for the events $45.00 an hour for the officer. So, my question is, if they're being charged $45 an hour for the officer is the money coming back to the Police Department or is the money going to the recreation department. Chief Davis said if I rent the football stadium from the Recreation Department and the Recreation Department says I have to have three officers there at $45.00 an hour, I only need an hour worth of security. I hand the recreation department at $45.00 the police officer gets that 45 as it is right now. Councilwoman Baccus said so he is getting more than he get paid salary an hour, that's what you're saying? Chief Davis said yes ma'am. Councilwoman McRavin asked are they working in a capacity as this private security or are they working in a capacity of a city police. Chief Daivs said at the football stadium over there it is, private security. Now when people start fighting they are going to have the authority to make that arrest on assault and batteries. But they're not looking for the drinking in public. They're not looking for the loud music. Once the guys on the street get a call for loud music or somebody left that facility and now it falls on the city. Councilwoman Baccus said but if they are over there on private security, they're using the police car, they're in uniform so are they really private security? They are using city stuff. They're not driving their own car and they're using city stuff. Chief Davis said that they are not on the clock and they are not getting worker's comp. Councilwoman Baccus said but they're using our equipment and our cars. Councilwoman McRavin said if they fire their weapons and something happens for some reason, they fire a city issued weapon the city is liable. Chief Davis said it will probably put us on the lawsuit paperwork but you have to ask somebody with a little more knowledge of it, I would say it didn't put them as much as you think it does because they're not acting on the city's behalf. They're not getting workman's comp. If they get hurt, they are on their own. If they slip and fall down the steps, that's on them. Councilwoman Reed said but, in your scenario, you're saying if the fight breaks out and if they're on the scene and then they call the city police, they still can react. Chief Davis said yes ma'am. Chief Davis and several council members have discussions among themselves. Councilman Milling said maybe we need to get the Municipal Association to offer some advice on how other communities are handling these types of things and what kind of, as you say not profit margin added to it but cost of doing business added to it because if you've got some additional funds that the city is making then that may be a revenue source that can be used to help put those 4 to 8 other officers out there. The entities that are using the police officers decide it becomes too expensive for them to do it then that's the decision they make, but it's not costing the city anything to put an officer there. It looks like something that needs some additional study. Councilwoman McRavin said because I'm just concerned about our liability issue and if they're working for us and that they would be covered, if something did happen and vice versa the city wouldn't be held liable for what they are doing off hours when they're not on our clock,

but still using everything that's ours. Councilman Milling said I know that Kevin is not here but I don't want the Insurance Reserve Fund to end up saying you are on your own. Chief Davis said they do ask us every year we have to do a questionnaire risk assessment do we have officers working off duty jobs, we do. Does the city do any schedule or anything, no we don't. They understand they don't have workman's comp. Mayor Boyd said what we need to ask is that affecting our insurance. Chief Davis said if I told you the city is scheduling, then they say the city is on the hook for even more. Councilman Milling said do they have a question that says are the off-duty officer showing up in city issued automobiles. Chief Davis said I don't believe there is a question that they asked about that, but I understand the question, yes, Sir. Mayor Boyd said the insurance could be lower if you said no to that. Councilwoman Reed said so it's to me is the same off duty and you live next door to me I called because I got an incident and an off-duty officer come and he did help me out? Mayor Boyd said that he is still always on duty. Councilwoman Reed said he is always on duty, right, but that's all I'm saying. but to me it is because of your off-duty time, suppose he's still working in the house. Councilwoman McRavin said it's not the same if money comes into play. Chief Davis said if I'm off duty and I'm working as a painter and I mess up somebody's wall or ruining their hardware wood floor, is there any chance that the city would be liable for any of that? But if I'm working off duty as a security person in your uniform in your car, using your equipment there is a possibility that you could be responsible for that. Mayor Boyd said the main thing is we need to check on that to make sure we are not losing money. Chief Davis said I agree. Chief Davis said radio dispatch that price is set by the county, I don't know where they come up with the numbers for that every year. I will put a number down there just anticipating. On my third page line item 397 that is the Lease Contract. Councilwoman McRavin said if you order, lease or purchase or whatever it is these five vehicles, are you replacing vehicles or you are adding to your fleet? Chief Davis said I would be replacing them. I have three vehicles that are missing, they've been totaled crashed out. Insurance companies have paid us for them. They are gone. They are in the scrap yard. I have two that if DOT or if the highway man come and look at it and he would be telling me it is an unsafe vehicle. Councilwoman McRavin said since three of them have been totaled you have some funds to at least replace those. Chief Davis said that I never got the check, the city has that money. Councilwoman McRavin said I'm saying that has there been money, so there are some funds somewhere in an account to help replace those because they were totaled. Councilman Milling said that has been previously spent. Councilwoman McRavin said the other two if they need to be replaced, you'd be able to potentially sell those so it will offset the cost. Chief Davis said don't get me wrong when I say they're unsafe, they are still road safe vehicles. They are holding us back because the way the police vehicle should be, it would not meet the standard of a high-speed response. Chief Davis said I will try to have that information to you by the close of business tomorrow. Mayor Boyd thanked Chief Davis.

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BUDGET OVERVIEW – HUNTER THOMAS

Mr. Thomas said if you go down to the fifth column, that's where all the changes have been made. If it's in purple that means it's more than it was last year. If it's green that means it's cheaper than it was last year. We will start with the PDRTA. Mr. Thomas said to Ms. Hawkins you might want to talk about this. Ms. Hawkins said yes, the mayor and I met with Mr. Strickland with PDRTA. PDRTA provides free transportation around the city and has connections to other parts of the Pee Dee area for those that may work hospitality at the beach or just need to go to school in the Florence area. When he met with us, he didn't directly ask us to increase it, but there are needs that continue to happen, you know, gas prices or just paying people and keeping up vehicles cost more each year. If you're agreeable, I asked Mr. Thomas since he felt his concert budget didn't need to be as robust as it was this year to move some of that money up to that line item. I can reach out to Mr. Strickland and said this is only as we're able to do, we will increase it this year, we don't know about next year. Mr. Thomas has assured me that he will highlight PDRTA is here and where people can ride for free. Mr. Thomas said he may do a little right along video. Mayor Boyd said so that everybody knows back there in the back that they ride for free in Darlington they don't ride for free every else. They do take them as far as the Battery Plant, he said they're asking them to be able to take them there. They will take them as far as I think Harbor Freight and so forth, they take them around a lot, it's way more than what I

realized. There's a lot of people that don't have transportation, it's making those people be able to work, giving them an opportunity to work, which if somebody's here in town and they got an opportunity to work, then when they come back here, they're not going to be taking up a crime because they do have a job and then they also are going to be spending that money back in town when they get back here because they are paying rent and being an active citizen. It's a good help for the citizens. Mr. Thomas said if you go to 221, I need a case for my phone. This is a very expensive phone, so we need to get a case for it that's about $60 or so. If you go all the way down to 279, the other operating expenses, last year we signed a contract with Beam and Hinge to manage the security of the back end of the website and help us with projects with that. That has gone down this year because they had an initiation fee to begin with. Artlist.io is a subscription that we had last year, that is what licenses all of our music, all of our graphics and digital assets. Events, last year when I was planning these events I asked around and I thought each concert was going to cost over 10,000 bucks or so. I found out this year it does not for the band that is. We can save a lot of money there by not doing that. I think the current concert that I'm doing right now is about $20,000 or so. We might incur a few more charges from that but it's certainly way less than $42,000. I don't think we'll need quite as much there, especially if we want to be lean and mean this year, so that would be great. He said line item 284 that's software this is kind of where one of the bigger projects is going to be on this upcoming year. We're looking at doing our own texting service right now we're relying on the DDRA to text things out for us, but I don't have any access to that. I don't know what goes out. I trust them, but I have no access to it, so we need to have our own texting service. That increases by about $5000 there. Mayor Boyd asked will that be a yearly charge. Mr. Thomas said it will be a yearly charge. I need to talk to Mailchimp right now that's our leading one because we already have digital newsletters through them, so I'm going to contact their sales department and see and they might give you a deal, might not. Mayor Boyd asked is it unlimited text. Mr. Thomas said it's not unlimited. We would have to be very kind of somewhat strategic on how we want to do it. We wouldn't use it for a road closure that didn't really affect traffic in a big way. Mayor Boyd asked for that $5000 how many times are you allowed. Mr. Thomas said it depends on what service, so it might be 100,000 text, it might be 50,000 text. You have to remember every text you send out it's going to be 5,000 or 6,000 thousand at one time potentially, so that adds up very quickly. Whenever you save your contacts the larger our group the more it cost and you can always add on to that. We had some others in mind that there were around 5,000 as well, 5,000 seems to be the average price for this kind of service. Mayor Boyd asked did he know who DDRA was using. Mr. Thomas said it was through their website. Councilwoman McRavin said so you are working on a list. Mr. Thomas said no, they will provide the list. Some services already provide a list, and then other times we can purchase lists and populate it. Then people can sign on if they want to. Councilwoman McRavin said you might end up sending it to someone who really don't live in the city or necessarily work in the city. Mr. Thomas said no, we can do it to a geographical area like my text my gov they said they found about 5,000 cell phones in the area. Some services can leave messages for people who don't have cell phones, but that's a much higher price, so you know, just some strategies that we need to consider internally. Mayor Boyd said the one DDRA was using you had to actually sign up for I don't know if it hit other people too or not it just hit the ones that you signed up for. Ms. Hawkins said can I add something to that conversation the Utility Billing may have an option for broadcasting or telephone eval we just haven't heard back, so that is being investigated and we have a few months before the new fiscal year. We will continue to look and see if we can find something that's you know the best fit. We don't have to do MailChimp. Right now Mailchimp may be the best interaction because he already uses it. And it's relatively new offering from them. It certainly can be higher than that several was higher than that. Mr. Thomas said what's kind of changed A little bit with 284 our website has a lot of I guess the easiest way to put it is apps that have yearly charges and it's like 30 bucks for one 160 for another and that was in a different line item somewhere else in the city that I'm going to now take over for that. I don't need a new camera, so that's 5,000 to 7,000 bucks saved there. Mayor Boyd said what is the cost of printing the sheet in the water bill, is it eight fifty each time. Mr. Thomas said I want to say seven fifty. Mayor Boyd said I know Ms. Hawkins we talked about this before doing the thing in the utility bill, have you looked in to getting that started. If you charge $150.00 and you put 10 people on the back it's $1500 so you have doubled your money. You have

paid for the sheet and doubled your money. Right now you are bringing nothing in and still sending that utility bill out and if you put ten on the back that's $1,500 and if you put another sheet in there you can put front and back, we can sell ads in the utility bill $150.00 is just a random number, but in $150.00 whatever where you're generating funds to come back into the city. Mr. Thomas said you can talk to Ms. Hawkins about that. Councilwoman McRavin asked is that's all for your budget. OK, so I have a question because last year the Christmas lights a portion of that came out of your budget. I don't see any mention here about Christmas lights and we know that there are costs associated with that with everything from the electric bill. Do we have any idea of how much that end up costing us. Councilman Gardner said I don't think anybody ever gave us an answer. Councilwoman McRavin said we need some sponsors. The city is struggling with funds, we need to find some sponsors so that we are not having to shoulder the burden of all of this, I'm just wondering how much this ended up costing us because between the cost of the lights and the equipment that you had to rent so when you're seeking sponsorship that we're asking for the right dollar amount and we're not just getting pennies when we actually need dollars. Mr. Thomas said I know we saved about 1,500 to 3,000 because we left some of the lights up, we got everything up that we didn't have to get a lift for, so we saved some money there with that. I don't know how much the electricity costs, that came out of the events. Mayor Boyd said Gloria should be able to find that out for us. Councilman Gardner said can we get an answer on that, I asked a few months ago. Ms. Hawkins said I think at that time we had not receive the bill. She said it had come in. I will get it. Councilwoman McRavin said for full cost for that, we need everything from the electric bill to the cost of the labor because there were employees that had to be paid. Councilman Gardner said they were getting paid either way. Councilwoman McRavin said some of them worked on the weekend. Councilwoman Reed said this was not overtime I understand Councilman Gardner said that's during their downtime so they're just doing maintenance and other stuff during that period of time. They said they're fine with the employee hours. Councilwoman McRavin said that still was a cost, just as to put the new electrical outlets in, ran electricity and you had to rent equipment. It has to come out of somebody's budget, but I haven't seen anybody come up here yet that say that they have Christmas lights in here. So I mean, if we don't budget for it, then we're going to be scrambling trying to figure out where it is so I just want to make certain that if we're going to do this that we put it in somebody's budget and that we put in an accurate amount. Mayor Boyd said you are cutting your budget from 207 to 181. Mr. Thomas said no if you see some TBA's in there, I don't have that information that's something that the front office would provide because I don't know retirement fund or payroll tax. Mayor Boyd said when you go back and represent look and see if there's some additional fees or what the rest of them can do for us. Look to see what the lights cost us and if we can budget some for the lights. Councilman Gardner said can we look at finding out how much it would cost to put a timer on those lights. They can put a timer on that electric box so they cut on and off. Ms. Hawkins said it wasn't done. Mr. Thomas said it was too late at that time. Everybody is talking at the same time. Councilman Milling said you got anybody else in your department or is it you just the one man. Mr. Thomas said I would love to have a marketing coordinator. He said I think you know this is the first ever budget for this department, so we might have a little way to go. Councilman Milling said I just saw something where you said that we were given a raise in July of 2024, and I didn't think there was any we to it. Mr. Thomas said I was talking about the whole city everyone got a 3% or 4%. Mayor Boyd said I have asked for this for a while on the water bill so we can go out and ask for sponsorships but that's the way to ask for sponsorships right there, and they get something back. So they're saying, hey, everybody in the world wants you to donate some money. Councilman Milling said if we're doing sponsorships, are we planning on putting up a billboard. Mayor Boyd said I'm saying instead of going out asking for sponsorship, you can sell an ad in the utility billing. Councilman Milling said if we were doing sponsorships for the lights, there's got to be a sign or something is there so the community can know who the sponsor is. Councilman Gardner said again my idea was every tree, if we could put a sponsorship under each tree and you could do it that way and we could get a ton of them for the Christmas lights. Mayor Boyd said you could sell this if you put your name in here for a year, you also get your name at the Christmas lights for X amount of dollars and calculate what it would be so that you're raising additional funds to stick a sign up out there what the cost of that would be just add that fee in there along with this and then they are getting

publicized. Councilwoman McRavin said so the sponsors that you got for your concert, or they just for the concert or did you secure them for anything that you did. Mr. Thomas said no just for those three concerts. Councilwoman McRavin said I asked that because we had title sponsors. Those are the people who paid the big dollars. They had their banners and any bit of information that you put out had their name and logo on it and they got that sponsorship. So that's why you know we've spoken before, and you know that sponsorship is just key because this stuff just cost us a great deal and it would help to offset if we could get sponsors for things like this as much as we can. Don't be afraid, don't just think about the big people that you know the Racetrack and Dixie. That Ford dealership that just got purchased, you know, I mean, the Chevrolet dealership that's sitting there, you know, just got purchased. They need to get their name out there when it used to be Burdett Chevrolet way back when they were a major sponsor for us and worked for years because they wanted to get their name out. I just say don't forget about those people, the car dealership or some other business because they have a budget for advertising, and they might be more than happy to say that every time they have an ad that you agree to give them an ad on our website that it's going to be there all the time and then they get recognition on a newsletter it has value and then we can come up with something with that value and ask them for that so that we can, you know, help with this and make your projects feel more significant. Mayor Boyd thanked Mr. Thomas.

Administration, Clerks of Court and Building Department Budget Overview – City Clerk-Treasurer Gloria Pridgen/City Manager Lenessa Hawkins

Ms. Hawkins said this is two things, one you ask me for revenues so we are going to address that. Ms. Hawkins gave out handouts. For some reason the copier does not staple but so many pages. Page one the items at the top just disregard those. That's just how this report is presented. I'm used to using the computer to process my budgets so I only have to do it one time and just go back and change where I need to. This top part that's the debt service. We will fill that in. We know what that should be. Before we start on the first page, let's go to page 2 at the bottom let me preface this with most of these I did not change either we're going to leave it as it is. If it seemed like that was not being used, I reduced it. Right now, the salaries and wages are as they are, and we'll decide later whether we can give a raise. There are some specific employees that I've been asked to look at and that have been brought to my attention that may need some type of adjustment in their grade so that will be coming, but for right now, salaries are as they were. You have heard from many of the department heads, I don't think not one missed asking for some type of increase. So, while you're looking at this that's going to be the same, I'm sure. Everyone in legislative y'all don't change, OK, you would have to do a change for the next sitting council but you couldn't do it for yourself. We left the travel expense the same. I did not know y'all traveled as much. But if you were to see your current it's about 13 grand and I was like, I didn't know that y'all had traveled that much. Councilman Milling asked where are you looking now. Ms. Hawkins said this is some of my notes right here. This is my pencil copy of the reports. So we are going to leave it at 10, but I'm going to take another look at all of these numbers and if we need to, we will adjust those. So, for the most part, all of these are the same. If you go down to postage, I just included 50 more dollars, but that might have to be a little bit more because postage has gone up again. I think there is a forecast that it will go up again. I think it's going up every six months, I'm not sure. I pay my bills online. I don't hardly put anything in the mail. But that did draw my attention, and I said I need to get me some forever stamps before they go up again. So, the postage is one item and then the next one is the telephone. This past year, we've already gone over that $10,050 that was there. It may be an issue about allocation, but we'll look at that like we said for the other groups departments. Go on down to the professional services, that is our legal staff, Mr. Etheridge, I left that as is. Mayor Boyd asked what page she was on. Ms. Hawkins said I'm still in the middle of Page 3, Legal on the right-hand side under the department. I just went through Municipal Court, that was the increase for the postage and for the telephone. Community Promotions Mr. Thomas has already given you that one. They're not reflected here. This is what I'm putting in. If you'll go down to the bottom where it says salaries and wages this is Admin again the salaries are the same. We will look at being able to do any increases. Now I'm on page 4 and let me point out what we've changed here postage, of course, we almost doubled it from 1600 to 3000. I think right

now it's about 2900. Dues I put an additional $1000 for my membership in the ICMA I'm not quite sure what it would be. It is a little bit lower for smaller cities, but I believe that should handle it. A little bit more in Telephone and Telegraph. We do use a managed service provider and we are paying per handset on the desk. So we're going to look at that and that also probably includes our mobile phones. So I just increased that about $200. Maintenance and Service, when I looked at maintenance and service in our current year to date it is extremely high. I'm not sure if there will be adjustments, but that's what I'm going to have to look at. So I just put 33,000, but we will take a deeper dive into that to see what's in there. The next change is down at employee training. I added additional $500 for employee training. There's 1234, we have a vacant position in Admin. so if that person were to be hired, they may or may not need any training. I haven't identified any training opportunities as of yet, and I probably won't do anything in this particular fiscal year but I hope to be able to take part next fiscal year, so I just increased that about 500. You go down to Social Security expense, I just rounded that up it that's a simple calculation. I'll be doing that later whenever we decide which way we want to go on salaries. Other operating Expenses, when I looked at that, that was more than 500 expended thus far. So, I just put an additional amount in there and I also would love to do something for employee morale, either some recognition. You do have a lot of folks that have worked for you for a long time, much like our Clerk & Treasurer, 45 years. There's a lot of folks that worked a long time and we need to kind of commemorate that. Those years of service and sometimes HR when you look at HR Wellness or encouraging wellness. Encouraging things like losing 10 or 15 lbs. could be a good boost to the body. Even Mayor Pro Tem Segers has told me his exercising helps him and being able to go to the gym at Fitness World has added to his life. We want to be able to do certain programs. I'm only going to ask for 500 right now, but we can try to find some fun things to do to recognize and to encourage wellness among our employees. The next change is I just kind of rounded up maintenance and service. It's probably one of those ones that, you know, we're almost about to spend out or over. So that was why that adjustment is there. Insurance the same. It's already over 6000, so I adjusted that there. Vehicle Insurance is the same thing, exactly $679. So we'll cover that. Retirement Fund payments, of course, that's going to have to go up as wages go up and the same with Social Security expense. Stop at Administration. It's Public Buildings now, I'm sorry, and we're down to other operating, I believe that there were some additional expenses unforeseen and it far exceeded the $500. The principal that's going to always be going up as your interest goes down when you're amortizing yourself. Councilman Milling said just one quick question about the middle of page 4 you've got the line items, other operating expenses and then the last item on page 4 is other operating expenses, but yet they're two different. Ms. Hawkins said yes, if you look at the right-hand side public buildings. I will get a better format for this, but the one report wouldn't print what I put in there. This is only report I could get to work. Councilman Milling said it's fine now that I know where we're going. I believe that is all I have for the rest. Mr. Reed was on the last agenda. I left him off this one and he is not with us this evening but we will get that. We will discuss that. I may have to call another meeting.

FY25-26 Revenue Forecast (First Pass) Overview – City Manager Hawkins

Now back to Page one Mr. Gardner had asked about revenues. This is what I call my first pass at revenues. I will need to reach out to the county for a report on our assessed evaluation I thought it was in our reports that we get when we receive our monthly checks or whenever Darlington sends those over, but it doesn't give me that information, so I will need that to calculate the loss and the other adjustments to our assessed evaluation and our tax mileage I have to have that number however. Councilman Gardner didn't they do a county wide reassessment. It only went up 15 grand. Ms. Hawkins said again, this is just a first pass. I could have put zero but I don't want to put zero. But we need much more. So that's just the number where I'm expecting that number to go up, but I don't know how much. So, I just put that number as a placeholder. I'm going to go back and ask them for the information I need to make the calculation and then we'll have a better figure there. The Telecommunications Tax is the same right now. I did increase the Fire District it has been rising over the last two years. Mayor Boyd, you had asked, what can we do to increase it? I had a conversation with Fire Chief Kavanaugh and Assistant Fire Chief Bailey the best way there is it was just an agreement that just moves you don't go back to the table. I don't say you can't, but they haven't. And the

way it was explained to me is that when there's an investment in houses that are going up or businesses that are being built in those areas where the tax district is a mile outside of our jurisdiction, that is what causes the increase, the taxes that are collected on that. So, every time a new home goes up in that mile outside of our district that's where the increases is on those. Mayor Boyd asked can we increase our area. He said according to Chief Kavanaugh we could go down Lawson Road or something like that's not in our area that we can extend the area out another two houses out another mile out. Ms. Hawkins said we didn't talk about that. I thought you wanted to change the rate. We can see if we can do that, ok expand it. Mayor Boyd said see if we can expand it out and increase the rate too. Councilman Gardner said I'd like to also add on top of that if we legally can cut it out. Ms. Hawkins said you don't want to provide it anymore. Councilman Gardner said I didn't say that, I said I want to know if we legally can. They're not paying anything in, but we're having to keep the trucks and everything else. I'm saying is we have our daily operating expenses and I just don't know. Mayor Boyd said the way I understand it is for the fire district, whatever it is they're saying a 100,000 but you're just using Mineral Springs Road, let's say it's not in the city limits but it's in our Fire District. We're collecting the tax money off of their houses whatever percentage that is. But yet it's not really costing us anything unless we have to go out there. So, if we extend it out further down Springville Road down Lawson Road still now we collect the money out of that tax base and it's not going to cost the city any additional funds unless we have to go out there and do a fire. Councilman Gardner said I completely agree, the only reason I would be interested in just to cut it off is because there's no incentive for them to come in to the city where, like right now they get our fire rate is like 3 but if we were to cut it off, the fire rate would be like a 7 or 8 and their insurance would be drastically more. Potentially more than the cost of them coming into the city. Mayor Boyd said I agree with that, if we cut it off I don't know If that would cause them all of sudden to want to come in or even be able to come in because I can't get this person over here until I get this one, this one, this one and this one might be screaming to get in here. Let's just use Darlington Chainsaw, for example they may be screaming to come in but yet if we don't get SPC Credit Union, which is the first one in line if they block it, then you can't get them over here. Again, so somewhere down the line we need to look at it because that hasn't been looked at since I've been here to see if there's an additional way to bring in additional funds. To make their expansion a little bit more coverage or either if it's better for us to do it as Mr. Gardner says, cut it off and say hey you know you need to come in. Because like I was asking, we need to go over rate increases for the outside, we've talked about it, we haven't gone over yet for the residents outside, people outside the city limits what would it cost if we did increase those. But you can look at It that way too the way he said it. Ms. Hawkins said Building Permits it's lagging behind last year's so I reduced it by $5000 I will look at it again before the proposed budget. Mayor Boyd said well, that's going to vary because that was probably high because of Genesis and the Courthouse had to pay and we did a lot of big projects so that's probably going to come down a little bit more. Ms. Hawkins said Court Fines there's no way to kind of anticipate that but it is lagging a little bit and I felt more comfortable being conservative with that line item. The SRO's, that's just what the agreement was and I think y'all were talking about that earlier. Mr. Milling was asking me about that agreement. Mayor Boyd said so just make sure you understand that we were saying we're losing money on those. Just use a make-believe number of our officer being paid $20.00 an hour. His total cost of his total expenses throughout the year is $20.00 an hour for his uniform, his car, and whatever else to have an officer on duty. And then we charge them less than $20 an hour. And then according to Chief Davis the $20.00 an hour officer that's always there, sometimes he's out and then I was saying you send a $30.00 an hour officer in there and then we're losing even more money because we only charge them for the $20.00 officer so it needs to be kind of calculated to see how many times that officers normally out and to where we're not at least not losing anything, but really should be able to make some profit on that. Ms. Hawkins said or at least break even. Mayor Boyd said that the city should not be losing any money. Ms. Hawkins said there were no donations this year so far, so I made that zero. Councilman Gardner said it should be like 20 to 30 that they've already announced with the ball fields. Mayor Boyd said I know we got 30 and then Nucor gave $1,000. I think he said all together close to 40 donations came in. Ms. Hawkins said but once we get it this year, they're not going to pay anymore because that's a multi-year deal. So, we still wouldn't budget 30, I can put the 2000 back unless he thinks there's going to be another push to

gain some more sponsorship. Councilman Gardner said when I was child that backfield was covered with signs and it needs to be. Once they come up with the fundraising plan, I would love for them to bring it to Council. More minds are better, so we can make sure that we are interested. With the ball fields we need to recruit, I mean that 40K for those donations can go back into the hospitality so the money can be reinvested or at least pay down some of the bonds. Ms. Hawkins said my purpose of that was to get the more and the ballfield outfitted. I think that came out of the bases not being there and was one of the first things. The reason why he and I talked about sponsorship so that they could have what they needed to do the Blue Street Ball Fields. It wasn't just to raise it. He was saying I need I need I need. I encouraged him to come up with a proposal so that we could see. I didn't expect as much. I'm really thrilled. I think that was a good opportunity. Mayor Boyd said as Mr. Gardner was saying about the backfield, but we need to put our name anywhere we can put it. If you could put a banner, a 4 by 6 banner on the back of that fence and the banner costs you $100 and you sell it for $200 for the year. You still made at least a $100. Come up with some number on there to where you're making above what you got in there. We need to fill that fence up with names and they're generating money, Hunter is generating money, the Police Department should not be losing money. So, all these holes need to be plugged. Ms. Hawkins said it's multi-tiered. Councilman Gardner said my father donated to the Police Department…… Ms. Hawkins said I have adjusted the Gym Rental Fees down as well as the Broker's Tax. Going by what we've got so far, that might change I think it's only a one-time deal, but I will double check these numbers. The Insurance Tax Program the same, the interest earned apparently we had a whole lot last year. That's not the case this year, but I will double check maybe there is something that I do know. The Rent that's the same. The Downtown Rental spaces we have had some that have not stayed the course so I moved that down by 3,000. The Franchise Agreements the same, the State Aid that is going to be part of the if I'm not mistaken the calculations that need to be done so I just rounded that down. Homestead Taxes again is part of the calculation. Manufacturers Exemption I expect it has been high the last two years and I expect it to be the same next year. The Merchants Inventory Tax is the same. Lost Property Tax Credit that's part of that calculation as well as the Lost Revenue Fund. Accommodation Tax expected to remain the same. I decreased the fees from utility billing doing the Setoff Debt Program that went down. Sanitation Fees we will talk about that I will have more of a calculation for that, but at least what we've gotten, this past year and this year, it should be around that same amount. Unless we do move forward with changing it and increasing the rates. You have heard Mr. Morris talk about the $2.50 he did present that to y'all. Mayor Boyd said we need to talk about it. Ms. Hawkins said ok, give me some feedback on that. We could do the same with Streets and Sanitation. I have not talked to Mr. Reed about that, but I am interested in doing something similar to that. The Fee in Lieu we have not gotten our receipt of that just yet so I'm leaving that the same right now. Mayor Boyd said that fluctuates. Ms. Hawkins said I haven't seen that, but I think there's some notes in the office. Mayor Boyd said some years it goes lower. Ms. Hawkins said Miscellaneous Revenue the same, I have no reason to believe it would change. Surplus Returns I brought that to 500. The Guards 20,000, the Williamson Park Fund is the same every year, and the Streets and Sanitation Capital is just a calculation of how many we have. The Water and Sewer that's going to be a calculation that we're going to work on. I Don't believe they mentioned that to you earlier. It will just be a calculation of our average customer base current. You all have discussed increasing that. Annual increase I have seen people do one, two or three percent every year automatically. It doesn't have to come back to you all, it just happens. That is one way to do it. Or you can look at it every year and decide based on what the expense is, what those rates should be. I know that the taxes you told me you went up as high as you could go the last time, so we're going to have to figure out, you know, which way we can go. We will be reviewing that. Mayor Boyd said is there a time limit on the taxes. Councilman Gardner said I think you have a couple of years. Mayor Boyd said you might want to put it up a little bit compared to what we did last time. Councilman Gardner said there is a time limit on it, and you can lose it if you don't. Councilwoman McRavin said what was it 5 years, it had not been raised in five and we were about to lose like 3 mills or something like that. Mayor Boyd said it would be better to kind of inch it up instead of doing like we did last time. Mayor Boyd said what Homestead Taxes were. Ms. Hawkins said It is for folks that have, if I'm not mistaken, they're like 65 and older, their rate is adjusted. Mayor Boyd said the Franchise Agreement is that from Duke Energy

and stuff like that. Ms. Hawkins said yes, gas and spectrum. Mayor Boyd said the radio tower where was that at. Ms. Hawkins said that would be water. Mayor Boyd said I think it's like forty something thousand a year. Ms. Hawkins said, do you remember the last time y'all talked to them about those rates. Mayor Boyd said that Howard had brought it up before wanting to sell it, because he was saying that it was basically was to supposed to go to 5G that it would go up even more. Ms. Hawkins said it should. Mayor Boyd said so again, there should be somewhere in there that needs to be looked at to see if we can go up on that or what the fee is on that because we definitely don't want to sell it but what can we go up on it. Is there a contract on it. Mayor Boyd said Fee In Lieu of Tax sometimes it drops. There is a big fluctuation in that from year to year. Mayor Boyd thanked City Manager Hawkins.

CHAMBER'S Request for Fireworks Donation - Mayor Boyd

Councilman Gardner asked if you could amend the agenda in the middle of a meeting or do you have to do it at the beginning. Mayor Boyd said at the beginning. Mayor Boyd said the item that Mr. Bryant was talking about was already on the agenda. Mayor Boyd said this is discussing the fireworks. Mayor Boyd said that they were asking for $15,000 but he thinks that we have been doing $12,000. Councilman Gardner said that I'm fine with $12,500. He said that he does not feel comfortable increasing, and I also don't want to cut if off six months or three to four months before they have to do it. He said he thinks that sometime between now and June or now and July or maybe right at July, we need to discuss what we're going to do long term in the future. I don't think three months before it happens that we need to just cut them off. Councilman Milling said do we know where we're getting the money from. Councilwoman Baccus said the same conversation came up last year discussing fireworks and now you come with the same thing saying we don't want to cut them off three months before. This conversation came up last year at the same time about these fireworks. Councilwoman Reed said I am all for the fireworks. I just think because this is a city thing, I know it's the Chamber who's sponsoring it but we should be participating, because we should be a part of it. Mayor Boyd said that Ms. Pridgen said we should be able to take it out of hospitality. Councilman Milling said we can cover our other expenses as well. Councilwoman Reed said she thought at one point the amount of 10,000 came up. I just want us to participate. I don't want us to not be a part of it. Councilwoman McRavin asked where the money was coming from. Mayor Boyd said hospitality.

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion for $12,500 for the Chamber's Request for Fireworks Donation for July 4th Event. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Baccus voted against the motion.

Discussion of Incentives for Housing Development – Mayor Boyd

Mayor Boyd said now for the discussion of the Senate of housing Development. He passed out a handout. Mayor Boyd said again, this is not a legal document, this is just a quick sheet of what I've been asking for and thinking about that we should try to offer. I would like to see it come into play by July. I agree with Mrs. McRavin that we have got on here about the agenda for the ordinance. Ordinances need to be put in place. We should be able to hopefully have that ready by next month in May. Then if we can get this kind of organized by July, I just put that number down July 1st of 2025, June 30th 2027 be able to have it to where Hunter goes down and promotes it that everyone knows that you can come to the City of Darlington you pay these fees once they do the housing closing on it for the HUD statement like Mrs. Bryant had said. Then they could get reimbursement back. I would suggest that if we do something like this that whatever fees that they do pay in, it's kind of earmarked and saved so that way when they do, the money has not being spent, it's ready to give back to them. But again, we've had six houses built in the last year. Ms. Hawkins asked the other day is there a demand for houses being built in Darlington? And my answer was no. But we need to make a demand for some form or fashion. This is just my suggestion, if you all got something better, let me know. We need to make a push. We got lots going on that we need to put more people into the city so that we have more revenue coming in. It is not going to cost us anymore for the Police Department and Fire

Department if they're inside this same central area without going further out. Our population has decreased I know it was 10,000 thousand to 8,000 people before now we less than 6,000. We need to bring that population back up. Councilman Bryant said we also have an aging population. Councilman Milling said I'm trying to be a part of the aging population. I want to continue to be a part of the aging population. Councilman Milling said once construction is complete and the closing process is finalized, the homeowner can submit the final closing statement to the City of Darlington. Are we talking about a contractor comes in, the contractor pays the fees. We are assuming that the contractor has built that into his or her cost for the construction of the house. Then after it is sold by the contractor the purchaser is the one who comes and how are they going to submit the verification. Mayor Boyd said if you build a house, and you will have to hire a contractor, so it needs to be figured out for sure exactly how you want to word it? If you build the house and I'm your contractor, I may pay these fees. Who gets the fees back? Does the contractor give the fee back or does it go back to the purchaser of the house? If Mr. Cook comes in and builds 40 houses, he gets the same guarantee, but he gets 40 times as much because he built 40 houses, so the money would go back to him I'm assuming. Councilman Milling said again is it the contract who's getting the rebate or is it the homeowner who's purchased from the contractor who's getting the rebate? Councilman Gardner said I think it would depend on who's building it originally. If we had somebody who's building 10 homes, I would like the language in there for that person who's building 10 homes to get the rebate. If it's a single entity, a single person who's building their home, then I would like that person to get the rebate. Mayor Boyd said we got to word it right. Councilman Milling said that was the question I had was to be sure that when we reached whatever agreement we reached that we're sure that the person we're trying to benefit is the one who actually gets it. Mayor Boyd said this needs to go to Kevin and then he can legally put it out correctly. Several people talking at the same time. Councilman Milling said let me throw this out if how about I'm just going to use a neighborhood not to suggest this is the neighborhood, but it's just probably reasonably well known you got the neighborhood that exist on Spring Street down to Mineral Springs that's between North and Spring Street, and it goes all the way. Now, if those people decide to annex, are we looking at trying to do anything to get people to come into the city limits who are not currently in the city limits to come in through annexation or are we just going to benefit the people who choose to build within our city. Councilman Gardner said I completely think of it separately and I like attacking that as well. Mayor Boyd said that's what I said that needs to be attacked separately. Councilman Gardner said because that would be like if you decide to come into the city, we won't charge you city taxes for five years or something. Councilman Milling said I don't know what we can and cannot charge, but I hope there's something we need to see if we could sweeten the pot for building in the city, let's sweeten the pot for coming into the city. Mayor Boyd said again this needs to be advertised by the city. Hunter can go out and say save $2, 000 to $5000, because if you go and build on one of the lots, we get everything rezone. We go through the zoning and then somebody picks up one of those lots. It may already have a tap on it, OK, so they don't have to have tap fee so you didn't save as much as if I went down the road and bought a piece of property and I got to put a tap on it so I may save 5,000, you only may save 3,000. So, if they go in there and there is already a water tap there, you don't have to pay for that well that person didn't save that much money. So we don't want to go out there and say save $5000. We can say you can save up to $5000 because each house is going to vary. You build a $180,000 house and somebody else builds a $90,000 and somebody builds a $300,000 house permit fees are going to vary too. But it's encouraging them to come in and build and advertise it out strongly. Mayor Boyd said like someone said before, what's going to make them want to move to Darlington. We want you to move to Darlington. There's lots of reasons to move to Darlington and we want to invite you to come to Darlington. This is the City Council saying Hey, come in here and we are going to help you move to Darlington. Councilman Gardner said the only thing else I thought about adding was what you brought up that setting up an account to deal with the paving but we just maybe need to set up a separate account for these funds. Somebody comes in, checks the box or the box maybe automatically gets checked these permits fees need to go in a fund. Mayor Boyd said put the money to the side and it's allocated ready for them when they are finished OK, when they don't finish it, they don't get it and then if they do finish it they do get it. It's just like Holt Brothers, I think when they moved in, I don't know if they've gotten that but I know that Lisa has

brought it to us before that if they do XYZ they get it, if they don't, they don't get it. If they finished the house and then they decided I want to rent it out. Well, then you don't get these, OK, but then if they say I'm going to sell it and it's sold as a home for residents to stay not rental, then they get fees back. So again, I know we're long tonight, but if you're fine I would like to give that to Kevin and then he can feed it back to us and then you all can still tweak it some more or shut it down. Councilman Milling said I would try it for a couple of years. Different members of the council talking. Mayor Boyd said we need to try something.

ZONING ORDINANCE DISCUSSION- SHEILA BRYANT

Mrs. Bryant said zoning ordinances there's three things that I think you guys wanted to discuss the mobile homes and my recommendation about its ability to be replaced if something happened to it. Mrs. Bryant gave out handouts. She said it's very simple, I think that we are a country of equity and if we're going to allow for citizens whose primary residence is a house and we have a citizen who's primary residence is a mobile home if something happens to that mobile home, they should be given the same amount of time which according to our ordinance as it is written. As it is written in the old one and the new one 120 days to remove and replace. I think that they should be allotted that same amount of time if It's a primary residence regardless. I think as a city we owe that to our citizens. Mayor Boyd said this is just not allowing new mobile homes in right? Mrs. Bryant said we're not changing whether new ones can come in, but if there's an existing one and something happens it needs to be repaired. They have 120 days, just like it is for anywhere else that's nonconforming to allow somebody to get a new home. Councilman Gardner said you used the word primary residence. Mrs. Bryant said primary residence I believe so. Councilwoman Baccus said if it catch on fire and burn down, they can bring a new one in 120 days. Mrs. Bryant said yes, they can. Councilwoman McRavin said can you put something like nothing over 20 years, you don't want something old. Mrs. Bryant said we already have that language. I think right now it's 1996. Councilwoman McRavin said can we take a year off because in 2030 you don't want somebody to say they can bring a 1996 mobile home in. Mayor Boyd said instead of saying the year can you say one that not more than 25 years old. Mrs. Bryant said yes, sure. Mayor Boyd said 1996 right now was 29 years. Councilman Gardner said it probably hasn't been changed in two decades. Councilwoman McRavin said some mobile home parks won't allow you to bring in anything over 2008. Different conversations going on. Councilman Gardner said do we want to say ten years. Mayor Boyd said I would say maybe fifteen years. Councilwoman McRavin said I would say 15 to 20. Councilman Bryant said 20 years is old. Councilman Segars I wouldn't go that far out. Ms. Hawkins said you have to recall now some had manufactured homes 20 years ago so the way that they are built has changed over time. That industry has kind of made better and better and better so you can't think of the 1969 ones you know, it's not the same. Councilwoman McRavin said they are wind rated. Councilwoman Reed said 20. Councilwoman Baccus said I agree with 20 I think that's fair. Mayor Boyd said we all agree with 20. Mrs. Bryant said the second one is in regards to the Development District adding the development district into our ordinance so that properties that are being annexed in that are on the outer perimeter of our jurisdiction can be annexed in as a development district, which means at a later date, as we do grow and something wants to be developed in it, it can come back and get it rezoned into what the Planning Commission and Council feels as though is appropriate for what is being done and what is currently in the area. It will allow us to put farm animals into that district instead of allowing it just to be in R10 in farms and ranches. It'll allow us to move everything into that, it will allow people to still annex in and keep their property as it is now. Mayor Boyd said that's basically just saying that what we've got right now can't be a farm animal, but again, if we go down to Mineral Springs Road and they already got a farm animal there. Mrs. Bryant said then they can keep their farm animals there. Councilwoman McRavin said so now, because they're allowed to have a certain number of chickens, but no roosters. Mrs. Bryant said correct. Then the way that the new proposed ordinance was written, it was written so that if something annexed in, if anything was R10, anything R10 now could have a farm and by farm it was defined as any animal, any anything. So we decided by the request of Mr. Milling to check out the Manning Ordinance and this is what we found. We can easily incorporate it into our proposed ordinance so that we can still annex in. We can take farms and farm animals out of R10 and put it into this

development district, so we'll still encourage people to be part of our city. Councilwoman McRavin said just so I'm clear, you're still saying we can still have chickens and ducks? Mrs. Bryant said you can still have the chickens and as long as you, as the ordinance that we previously amended, you can still do that. Councilman McRavin said this is not going to affect that. This is not going to affect this at all. Councilman Segars said is it a minimal size property. Mrs. Bryant said the DD District is intended to provide for large tracts of land located primarily on the fringe of urban growth where the predominant character of Urban Development has not been fully established, but where the current characteristics of use are predominantly residential, agricultural or semi developed, with scattered related uses. So that's going to be the definition of that. It's going to be larger tracts of land. It's not going to be like on Main Street where you know it's in and out in and out in the next ones. You know this little tiny piece of land, it's something that is undeveloped, a large track that we don't know what it's going to be. They're using it for a farm, right now that's the idea is someone who's actually farming their land still or they have the greenhouse and stuff like that. Councilman McRavin said like the greenhouse we talked about across form Raceway Ford. And so right that would be considered if it annexed in the DD Development District. Councilman Segars said the whole property. Mrs. Bryant said the whole property. Councilman Milling said can I ask a question back on our previous topic because I'm ignorant if you've got a 20 year mobile home that's replacing a burned out mobile home. Do we do some kind of inspection to ensure that the 20 year old mobile home that's going there is in good shape and would be safe to live in. Mrs. Bryant said so that's kind of why it has that year to it because theoretically the newer mobile homes or you know 20 year old mobile homes, if it's been maintained and someone's willing to actually purchase it, it's going to be in relatively good shape. The only inspections that we do is when someone brings their home, they have to get a mobile home permit. They pull it onto the property and they have to get their utilities inspected before and they make sure that they have their stairs proper, and it's strapped to the ground the way it's supposed to be. So we do those inspections, but there's no way for us to do a pre inspection because we don't know where someone is getting the mobile home from sometimes, they come from North Carolina, sometimes it's local. Mayor Boyd said somebody could pull a good-looking mobile home in and you got to expect the set up for the wiring and the meter base and the set down and tie down but the inside could be gutted and they have to then get a permit to build it out or if they are going to do any repairs. It could be a repo trailer. Mrs. Bryant said yes. Mayor Boyd said it supposed to be in good shape but somebody beat it to death after two or three years and they got to go into repair and then they got to get a permit. Councilman Segars said how about outside appearance, that could be detrimental to the neighborhood you are living in or it could be asset. Mrs. Bryant said that's part of putting that time limit of 20 years. I'm not going to go and give somebody $15,000 or $20,000 on a mobile home that looks bad. When I come home I want to go home and like it. Mayor Boyd said you can be in living in 100,000 mobile home and then it burns down, then all of a sudden it's not going to prevent you from going to buy a $30,000 mobile home that doesn't look as good on the outside. Mrs. Bryant said at the same time you can have a 5-year-old mobile home that someone has destroyed. Councilman Segars said would it cosmetically going to be an asset to the city. Mayor Boyd said you really don't have to have rules over how it looks on the outside cosmetically. Mrs. Bryant said no as long as it's structurally sound. Mrs. Bryant said I think that we're not giving the citizens the benefit of the doubt. I don't think that the citizens are going to want to bring a mobile home into their community that looks bad. Mayor Boyd said it's not that we are not giving them the benefit of the doubt but there is that one. Mrs. Bryant said the proposed changes, if you look at, you have those pages also attached, on page one we would add on to Page one We are just going to add DD under Map Symbol at Development District and then on page 4 where it defines that district, we'll add that language. If you go to page 7 this is where it speaks to the annexation and what it's going to be annexed in, so we're going to change that language to read that all petitions of the large tract of land will automatically be a development district and as demand for development increases and amendment and zoning designation can be requested in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, and that would be the provisions that we already have, they would ask for an amendment. They would bring it to Council, council would give it to Planning Commission for them to give some kind of recommendation. Once they give a recommendation, you guys would hear and you guys would make a decision about its zoning designation. It's the same thing

that we've been doing all this time. They would do the same thing as anybody else that's asking for it to be changed. Councilwoman McRavin just so I'm clear and make certain I understand that we are all on the same page because when we talk about incentives, incentives have to be done through an ordinance and you have to do the incentives as they recommend they said doing it through the planning and economics, but you have to do it for a district or for an area, you can't just do it for like one developer or for a certain developer or a certain area. Mayor Boyd said the incentive would be for anybody, for the whole city of Darlington not just for one developer. Councilman McRavin said it is but I'm saying you also have to do it though by your district or so you're saying that every district in the city, you don't care where you want to have that incentive. Mayor Boyd said anywhere you build in the City of Darlington, not just the Country Club or not just for Spring Street or Chestnut Street. Councilman Gardner said any primary resident inside the city limits of Darlington. Mrs. Bryant said this development is more respective to annexations. In fact down the road a developer says, you know what this track land I'd like to do a neighborhood and then at that point that person would come and ask for it to be rezoned into something, and that would be dependent on what they're doing. If they're doing, you know, a neighborhood and it's a high-density neighborhood and it's continuous with other high-density neighborhoods, then you know that that's something that you guys would make that decision, so it would be the zoning would be contingent on what's around it and what it's going to be. So we're good with making those changes for the second one. The final thing is something that has been talked about and I'm not exactly sure what changes that you guys want to make to it, but it's the tree Protection and Preservation. That's the last thing that you guys wanted to talk about. I haven't made any recommendations to this because I don't know what you guys want to do with it and with some people are very happy with how it is now and I know some people are not very happy with how it is now. The contention has been from some developers that how strict it is and it will make more difficult for them to develop because if there are heritage trees or trees that would have to, you know, either stay or they have to pay into the bank they don't want to pay into something because our tree ordinance is so strict. We have had a number of citizens that don't like the idea that they can't decide what they are allowed to cut down on their own yard. That's their yard they should be able to cut whatever they want down. Our current Tree Protection ordinance does have for commercial properties requirements about trees and how you know what is at breast height, what has to stay, if it goes, they have to replant trees, certain species this is for commercial only. They have to depend on how many parking spaces they have, they have to have a certain amount of trees, depending on how much land they have there has to be a certain amount of trees. They have to be buffer zones in between them. Mayor Boyd asked is it already that way. Ms. Bryant said it's already that way for commercial. Mayor Boyd said for example, the guy that's building beside the car wash over here, my question is, he is building a commercial building, he will have to put a certain amount trees in the parking lot. Mrs. Bryant said yes we have already discussed that and he doesn't like it. He's not going to have a parking lot because it's already a parking lot from his dad's building. So it's already parking, he's using that but he does understand that there has to be a buffer on the street side and for us right now, it's a buffer A. So I've already told him he has to put trees and bushes and grass and all this stuff, it's the rule. Councilman Milling where's that going to be? Mrs. Bryant said that it is in between Darlington Auto Parts and the car wash, it's going to be a cabinet showroom. It's up to you to decide what changes you want to make to the tree ordinance. If you want to make some changes. Councilman Segars said what are 24 inches DBH. Mrs. Bryant said it's the diameter of the tree at breast height. Councilman Bryant said I'm not sure how strict or how unstrict I want that, but one thing I do know is we had in our neighborhood, for instance, we had a homeowner who took trees that are probably 250 years old and cut them down. I don't know if that should be allowed. I don't like that. Those are trees that you won't get back for 250 years. So those need to have protection. The rest of it I almost want to just take this, slice it off of our ordinance update and really discuss this in depth at some other time. Mayor Boyd said that we need to get this done. Councilman Gardner said we can move this off and do the rest of the ordinances and be done with that. But I may want to slice this off and just we as a Council say over the next 90 days. Mayor Boyd said so in May, can we vote for the ordinance to be passed with this out, not being in there and not include this. Councilwoman Reed said contractors who want to come in to build if the present ordinance that we have that refers to trees is that what they're saying, it's restricted or is it this and we have

not voted on this yet? Councilman Bryant said it is this and no we have not voted on this. Mrs. Bryant said no, so in the old language anything on residential was residential they could do whatever they want to in residential. On commercial is where all of the stipulations came in. And so the new ordinance it's a blanket tree protection for the entire city. So if you have something that is 24 inches and breast height and it's considered a heritage tree, this doesn't include pine trees. In order for you to take it down you would have to call the certified arborist, and they would have to come out and decide whether or not something is wrong with the tree, and if it was diseased or it was dangerous in some way, then you can take it down. But if it's not, you have to keep it. If you take it down anyway, you have to put money into a tree bank. Councilwoman Reed said I think it's something that was it's 250 years old but they didn't have the homes out there. That tree was aggravating that man who does spend $200,000 or $300,000 in there for wide open space. Mayor Boyd said my question is could we vote in May because this is all going to be a part of. Mrs. Bryant said no and the reason is because the trees and vegetation and landscaping is all part of the zoning, so if you take trees out now, we're messing with buffer zones and we're messing with all kinds of other stuff. Councilman Gardner said You didn't have to include it. Mrs. Bryant said you're going to have to include it. Mayor Boyd said but again, we got two weeks before we meet again so everybody be ready in two weeks to figure out what you want to say and then we can be ready to vote. Councilman Milling said there was another provision in that ordinance I don't know whether we ever reached a resolution on it or not. Currently, the streets that are put in by developers will be accepted by the city and the city will become responsible for the maintenance of the streets. The question is, do we want to have the streets become our responsibility once the subdivision is there? Mrs. Bryant said I think that when we discussed that you guys had decided that the language was going to be in there that the city had the option. Councilman Milling said I don't know that we ever got that language from Bill Eubanks. Councilwoman Reed said we know it need to be in there now. Mayor Boyd said the problem that we've got is if we vote on this in May, she's gone. Mrs. Bryant said if you guys want to make changes and you want me to make those changes you need to do it by next Friday. I will make all the changes except trees and they can do just trees. Mayor Boyd said you have got the changes we want to make so far. Now we're just down to the trees but check on what he was just speaking about. Councilman Milling said if you would look at the language to see if it becomes the city's option. Mrs. Bryant said I'll look at that tomorrow. I do believe it's in the markups that I have. Councilman Milling said thank you for what you've done for the last 150 years. Councilman Gardner said I heard about this tonight and I want to say the same thing I've had two complaints on you, which is so little compared to my whole 10 years on council. I just want to thank you for everything you've done with the city. You have been a blessing for the City of Darlington and I heard tonight that you are leaving and I'm sorry to hear that and I hope you well wherever you're going. Mrs. Bryant said thank you. Councilwoman Reed said I want to say this has to be done. It's what we're saying. See, I was just under the impression that this was just a suggestions because we got involved with the trees and we got to be a special city, a tree city and all that kind of good stuff. Mrs. Bryant said we already have a tree protection. There's already tree protection in our zoning ordinance, so this is just part of your update. Mayor Boyd said you're leaving on the 25th so Council really needs to either decide what you want and e-mail it in, and then you can kind of make the changes for us and it can be rewritten under Ms. Hawkins. Councilwoman Reed said we got to be able to deal with this by the end of next week. Mayor Boyd said say leave this or take it or change it or whatever. And then that way it's ready to go by the 25th, and then we don't have to vote until May. There are many conversations going on. Councilwoman McRavin said a new developer needs to have restrictions. Mrs. Bryant said they do because we have our land use development ordinance. And so, there's a whole what their requirements are and for our land use development ordinance. So there's a whole another ordinance that is not done and that's for new developers who are doing subdivisions and different things major subdivisions and minor subdivisions. Councilwoman Reed said I was just saying, we talked about ordinances let's talk about it now this last one. Mrs. Bryant said I have been asked about Overgrown and Undeveloped Properties and what we can do to maybe become more strict about it. Mrs. Bryant said I know there's been much unrest about undeveloped properties and how they are being handled, so I did research Hartsville, Florence County and Florence City. None of them have anything specific to maintaining undeveloped lots. I also reached out to the City Attorney,

Kevin Etheridge, who also looked at it. He also said that there is nothing that we can do about that there's certain rights that people have to their properties when it's undeveloped and that's one of those things we can't at this time do anything. So unless some kind of legislation changes as it pertains to undeveloped properties only, there's not really anything that we can do about it, so my recommendation is to leave it as it is. Mayor Boyd said that there was never a house there. Mrs. Bryant said we can't say that because if there was a house there in 1930s and in the 1930s since they tore it down, it has regrown up it's now undeveloped. I've looked at even the property that you're talking about it has an address. I'm very sure there was a house there at one time, but there hasn't been a house there as long as I've been there, and it's been grown up as long as it's been there. Councilwoman Reed said here's where I am the state thing that you all are saying I don't see there is nothing that says that the municipality, if it is a nuisance that we can't have anything to do with it so that's the part. Mrs. Bryant said well here is the problem with that but this is the part too, we talk with Kevin Etheridge, it is so difficult in a court of law to prove nuisance because what is a nuisance to one is not a nuisance to another. So what is the nuisance to you, is not a nuisance to him? What's a nuisance to me, it's not a nuisance to him. Don't be upset with me I'm just telling you what the city attorney has said. I can't change that. I can't recommend something outside of that. It is what it is. Councilwoman Reed said I hear everything you're saying. I have heard for years. Mrs. Bryant said that it's the law. I can't change the law unless the law changes, I can't change it. Ms. Bryant said you keep asking me to do something that I can't. Councilwoman Reed said I got that what I'm asking I didn't ask you to change it. Tell me the state law that says we as the city as a municipality cannot have anything to do about a lot like that, nobody has shown that they say it, but it is not written nowhere. So, I asked you to just show me that. Mrs. Bryant said please don't yell at me. Councilwoman Reed said you're yelling at me. Mrs. Bryant said No, I'm not. I'm also not going to let you talk to me like that. Councilwoman Reed said okay that part is over. Mrs. Bryant said when Kevin comes back, if he's back before I come back, I'll get him to get you that that law. Councilman Gardner said I have a question, it's saying that we can't make a law specific to undeveloped, but we can have a law that citywide that we can enforce on undeveloped properties. Mrs. Bryant said you can't tell them that they have to cut it down, cut it back that's the point. Councilman Gardner said so a property that's my house and my grass is 36 inches high. Mrs. Bryant said yours is a developed lot. Councilman Gardner said so what I'm saying is that we can have a law that is citywide we just can't specify undeveloped. Mrs. Bryant said no there is a difference. There's a clear, defined definition between a developed lot and an undeveloped lot. We can, if someone has a house on a piece of property or a business or some kind of structure, we can say, and it's already been cleared, it has grass, it has plants, it has briars and weeds and whatever we can say you can maintain that. Hartsville says that there's can't be higher than 12 inches. Ours can't be higher than 18 inches. I think Florence is 12 inches. Hartsville says that you have to be able to maintain grass, weeds, briars and vines. If there's dead limbs in the tree, you have to cut those out, but to just go in there and say it's overgrown and I understand what you're saying, that it's getting to be summertime and there's going to be wildlife that's going to be crawling around and doing stuff. I get that. But it's wildlife and it's the woods. It's undeveloped. We can't tell them to go cut your tree down or to cut undeveloped property. Mayor Boyd said what she's saying you go to the Country Club, there's a half million dollar house sitting here and a half million dollar house sitting there and there's a lot sitting between that are woods that were never developed but what she's saying is somewhere down the line there was a house then it was developed but what she's saying is she can't prove that there was a house there because there's no real record. If you can go back in four or five years and say, oh, there was a house here, there was water there and you can pull it up and then you could say one time it was developed, then you have a little bit of a stronger case to do that. Mrs. Bryant said with the lot that Miss Reed is talking about I went back as long as we have records to hopefully find a demolition permit or something that proves that it was there. I can't. Mayor Boyd said if you can prove that there was something there, then we got a case because if we don't it's just like a set of woods there, you can't make somebody clean their woods up. Councilman Gardner said sounds like we can't do anything about undeveloped, maybe we can look into the legality of a law that is citywide. Councilwoman Reed said before you go there, here's where my argument is since I came on council in 2016, it was not in the shape that it is now, and if the letters and the things that said that whatever and the only definition for, is the height of this

growth and if they did not comply with the heights we said that we fined them for, how come we do not have any authority? They did not comply, she sent letters they did not comply. It says you got to cut them at 12 inches up. If it gets above 12. If it get above 18 or whatever show me that and when they didn't comply with that. Mrs. Bryant said a letter was never sent. I looked at both of those properties for the neither of those properties a letter was never sent. Councilwoman Reed said she received something in 2020 somewhere along that line, because they sent Mr. Stanley's son who is related to them, and they tried to get somebody to come out there to cut it. So something was sent to her. I don't know who, what or when. Councilman Milling said why don't we do this, they don't have the authority of law, but you can write, Miss Hawkins and Sheila knows what your concerns are. They could write a letter to the Attorney General's office for an opinion letter as to whether the city is under the state statutes have any authority to do what you would like to have us to do. It would at least be another way of looking at things to see if we can do something. If the Attorney General's office comes back and says, you know, I think you can do it because of this statue of that statue of that statute, we can go some way. Attorney General's office says there's no statute that allows you to do that kind of stuff, then probably it's a dead issue until the legislature acts on it. But it's a way to get another legal opinion about it, but without having a legal opinion saying you can do it. There are some things we just can't do. Councilwoman Reed said it doesn't seem right. Councilman Milling said I know why it doesn't seem right to you. Councilwoman Reed said I have not seen that because they keep saying that there is a law. Councilman Milling said the Attorney General's office will respond to the request and they will put it in writing as to whether it happens or it doesn't happen. So that's the value of getting an attorney general's opinion. Councilwoman Reed said I'm not disputing that because I've asked that. I just simply said show me that. Another conversation is going on. Councilman Milling said who are you asking of, ask it of the right people. If we asked the Attorney General's office, the Attorney General's office may be different from what you want to hear, but we can only act on what we can act. But that's just another avenue, another opinion you can get on the issue. Everybody is talking at the same time. Councilman Milling said well for one thing, we are a City Council and we really don't go to the city attorney with our personal request. Councilwoman Reed said it is not personal. Councilman Milling said it comes through City Council making a request. My suggestion is to ask the Attorney General if you don't like what Kevin's opinion has been. Councilwoman Reed said as you have heard me I have given you all the scenarios that property did not just get like that and if we have been doing whatever it is to me, the labeling overgrown over underdeveloped, overdeveloped all that kind of stuff and when those snakes came out of there we were able to go over there and clean it or get somebody to clean the lot off. Two lots down from me was in that same area we were able to get the private contractor, y'all came and cleaned that up. This is continually growing inside the city and when it started doing that, what then is our option, I'm going to take you to that. Councilman Milling said that's what I have suggested we do by contacting the Attorney General's office. Councilwoman Reed said I will start bagging all the rats and snakes and bring them over there to see if anybody else does anything. Mayor Boyd said we got to move on.

SPLASHPAD UPDATE AND DISCUSSION – SHELIA BRYANT AND COUNCIL

Mrs. Bryant gave out a handout. Mrs. Bryant said the left side is all the expenses on everything, everything that's green has already been paid. Chris the Contractor is green and white because he has been partially paid, but he is not 100% paid yet. The grand total for this Splash Pad Project comes to $563,361.93. Still pending is Chris the contractor, the benches, cameras, concrete, spectrum and signs and miscellaneous which totals $99,554.91. Mayor Boyd said out of the $99,000 we still owe is that including that we were assuming we haven't collected the $53,000. Mrs. Bryant said right because we can't collect the $53,000 until we spend $99,000. Column two, as of April 10th, the project total I already told you $563,361.93 minus what the appropriation we got for $250,000 minus what the city paid is again to complete is $99,554.91. At the end of the final project, projected is the same number I just told you $563,361.33 appropriations of $250,000 the PARD Grant of $53,000 so the city will be all in at $260,361.93. A couple of the things that are still outstanding details that need to be figured out is whether or not this facility is going to be attended or unattended that has been back and forth by Council. It's not required for it to be attended, but it is required

to be tested every day, which comes to #2. We still need to figure out who's going to be the license pool operator. The problem with this is that in our area the pool contractors no longer do commercial pools. They only do residential pools and so we can't find a third-party contractor to be the pool operator, which means that we need to do it in-house. It has been suggested in the past that the Water Department would get a license. It was suggested in the past that the Recreation Department would get a license. However, I think Lee is very strapped as it is and so that needs to be decided. Mayor Boyd said my understanding was that the water department was going to get a license. Mrs. Bryant said the other problem to that is that nobody has gotten a license yet. So until somebody gets a license, it's still not going to be able to open. Councilman Gardner said somebody needs to pick a volunteer in the Water Department whoever is checking our water daily already. But somebody who's educated on that needs to get licensed. They need to sign up this week. I mean, like, literally this week. I don't know why, we are supposed to be opening up in a month or so why we have already not done that. Mrs. Bryant said until that person is named and is certified because that person name we have to give that name to DHEC. Everybody is talking at the same time. Mayor Boyd said out of the $99,000 you are saying that we owe, we are going to get $53,000 grant from the state, which is $42,000 cash back because we got to pay, we get 80% back. Mrs. Bryant said we are going to get $53,000 back. We are going to submit invoices so that we get $53,000 back. Mayor Boyd said we will get $53,000 back, so then we can subtract $53,000 from $99,000. We are going to pay it out, but we will get it back. Mrs. Bryant said that's why we have it at the final project projected. Mayor Boyd said we still got to come with where the money is coming from. Mrs. Bryant said we can't get it back until we pay it. Mayor Boyd said I'm saying that we got limited amount of money here plus the ARP money so out of the hospitality money, we got to spend $99,000, but then once we spend that, we will be able to put back in $53,000 back into the hospitality once that comes back in. Mrs. Bryant said correct. Mayor Boyd said we need the benches out there, but we don't have to start out with the nicer benches because we could start out with some picnic tables for about $2,000 or $3000. Mrs. Bryant said there's some, like stationary benches, there's some bench swings, it was a ton of them. It was more than what I felt comfortable with because I said you guys are going to junk up the splash pad with benches and bench swings and then the kids are going to be able to run and play in the grass. If you guys knocked that number back or waited until after you see how it works out. Mayor Boyd said you could actually put some picnic tables out there and go get some picnic tables for way less than that to go and start it out, and then we'll decide from there what kind of seating we need. We need some seating out there; you got some picnic tables out there. Put a few more picnic tables out there. Mrs. Bryant said or just have the picnic tables that you have out there and allow people to bring their chairs and then see where you are in the first season. Mayor Boyd said if push comes to shove, she can approve to get five new picnic tables. Mayor Boyd said we can actually subtract that part off at the beginning. I would think parents would bring their own chair and sit down but again, you want some seating out there. Councilman Gardner said can we do four benches to put in the four corners: just so there's somewhere to sit. Everybody is talking at the same time. Mrs. Bryant said or you can just, like Ms. Elaine said we already have some out there leave those there for the first season and then see where you are at. Mayor Boyd said I say you need two more or three more tables, she can quickly run out buy two or three more picnic tables. Councilwoman Reed so right now what you are saying is just take the $16,000 out and use what we got. Councilwoman McRavin said no benches. Mayor Boyd said if we see that we need some, she's got the authority to go buy some picnic tables. Councilman Gardner asked if she was comfortable doing that. Ms. Hawkins said absolutely. Mayor Boyd said if you see that we need to two or three tables or 4 tables, I mean that's nothing major, you can go to Lowe's and buy some nice tables. Councilwoman Reed asked what do Chris the contractor have to do. Mrs. Bryant said so he's finished. He hasn't invoiced us because his father passed away last week. And so that's according to Lee, the number before that I had was 20 and the number that was approved by Council is 32. So it's better to put 32 in worst case scenario than to undershoot it. Mayor Boyd said we should come in less. We can go ahead and vote to approve up to this point, but it should come in less than according to Lee. And again it's still can go higher than $11,000, but it should not be higher than what she's saying is the $32,000. It should come under that $32,000. Councilman Gardner said we are going to designate someone in the Water Department to sign up for checking the water and get tested, they'll sign up this week. They will sign up for

the class tomorrow. Councilwoman Baccus said how can you tell somebody in the Water Department they got to do this. Councilman Gardner said it's two times a week that they have to go by during business hours and check. They already go across the entire city and check our water at each one of our pump stations. Everybody talking over each other. Mrs. Bryant said I'm going to say this just because I want for you to not have false hope. Those classes are not given randomly. Councilwoman Baccus said you can't force that on somebody. Councilman Gardner said I'm sure we have already messed up that's why have a sense of urgency. Mrs. Bryant said I appreciate your sense of urgency, but when it's looked at and there's not a class in time I just want to prepare you. Mayor Boyd said there is not a pool contractor who can do it this year. Mrs. Bryant said no there is not a pool contractor in our area to do it this year because it has to be checked daily, so it has to be checked every day. Mayor Boyd said the people that were doing our pool before can't do it. Mrs. Bryant said no, they don't do commercial anymore. Councilman Gardner said we will worry about the emergency at the emergency. Let's not worry about the emergency because they're going to sign up for class tomorrow anywhere in the state, and they're going to go there and get the class done, right guys. Mayor Boyd said right. Councilwoman Reed said I want to say that we're just learning of this now. I thought that when all of that other stuff was put out about DHEC, this wasn't put out so that someone in the water department would know. Mrs. Bryant said it was put out, but the supervisors of those departments didn't make a decision. She said that at one point it was said that the water department would do it, but the water department was going to charge the recreation department for the testing. Then the Recreation Department said that they would do it. Then the water department said no they would do it. Then the ball fields and all of this and now Lee has a very skeletal crew to be able to take care of all of the ball fields, all of our current parks that we already have and then to add something else to them that they already are going to struggle to take care of everything they already have. Councilwoman Reed said it's special qualifications. Mrs. Bryant said yes, you have to be a certified pool operator. Mrs. Hawkins said I may have someone I can contact. I'll chat with you about it. Councilwoman Baccus said how much would the class cost. Mrs. Bryant said $450. Ms. Anna Dewitt said I'm a pool operator and you can't do it online. You have to go there. You have to be very good at math and not me. You have to be very good at math to do this class. She said they are offered at the beach. Mayor Boyd so we're going to say take off the benches and leave Chris the contractor at the same price, but it could be less than that. Councilwoman Reed said are the cameras already installed. Mrs. Bryant said they are not installed; spectrum is already done. Mayor Boyd said we are just waiting on the concrete person. Mrs. Bryant said he is ready to go. Mayor Boyd said do I have a motion to approve $83,103.37. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve up to $83,103.37 for completion of the Splash Pad** Councilwoman Reed said you came up with that price by deducting the $16,000 from the $99,000. Councilman Gardner said yes ma'am. Mayor Boyd said we're going up to that because it could be less because of the contractor's price. Councilwoman McRavin said where are these funds coming from. Councilman Gardner said the Hospitality Account. Councilwoman McRavin asked do we have it in Hospitality account. Councilman Gardner said we do. Councilwoman Baccus asked what the balance in the hospitality account was because we got to pay that bond and when does the bond has to be paid. Mayor Boyd said we have $166,000 and the bond has to be paid in June. Councilwoman Baccus said city manager I am talking to you. Mayor Boyd said I answered your question. Ms. Hawkins said $198,000, that was what you were told last week. Councilwoman McRavin said we are taking fireworks and slash pad out of hospitality and we will have enough to pay this. Ms. Hawkins said it depends on what comes in. Mayor Boyd said it's $20,00 to $40,000 that comes in each month. Councilman Gardner said our Clerk and Treasurer said we did have enough in there. Mayor Boyd said some ARP money is in there too. Councilwoman Baccus said how much is the bond $150,000. Ms. Hawkins said $158,000. Councilman Bryant said there is a motion on the table. Councilwoman Baccus said that only leaves $40,000. So how are you going to pay for it. Councilwoman Baccus said there is no money in there. Councilman Gardner said there is money in there. We talked with the Clerk & Treasurer, and she said that. He said I don't know why y'all playing this game but the account raises about $15,000 to $30,000 a month. Mayor Boyd said $22,000 minimum. Councilman Gardner said last time we spoke it was $198,000 or $194,000 then you add in $20,000 more, I guess that is $220,000. Councilwoman Baccus said you have $198,000 you take $150,000 from it that only leaves $40,000 if you only

get twenty next month and twenty the next month that's only $80,000. She said you are talking about spending $83,000 right now plus what you just gave the chamber; $12,500 it does not balance out. You are short. Mayor Boyd said Gloria said if you need to move any money you can move it out of ARP until the funds come in. Councilwoman Baccus said you are spending money that you don't have yet. She said the bond has got to be guaranteed paid. Councilman Gardner reminded them there was a motion and a second on the table. Councilman Gardner said no ma'am you can sell it like that if you want to. Councilwoman Reed said I don't see how we can stop with it. Councilwoman Baccus said that you are talking out of both sides of your face. Different conversations are going on. Councilman Milling said at this point in time, Ms. Hawkins with the minimums that we get in, if we spend this money tonight are we going to be in a position to pay the bond payment that will come up. Conversations going on. Ms. Hawkins said Point of Order. Ms. Hawkins said what I'm hearing, the mayor said whatever is lacking, we can use our ARP funds to make this bond payment and anything else that you have approved tonight. That's what I'm hearing. So initially, there was a plan on the table that was not agreeable to one of the members, so I have let Sheila go full steam ahead no holds bar get it done. The $99,541.91 minus the $16,451.54 I was trying to figure out what that was when you called my attention. And then if we still have the 198 or 193 my hope was, we would not spend no more than the 158 that's due in June, but we're not doing that. What I'm hearing the mayor say by his knowledge and references, about 22,000 on average that will come in for the month of April, May and June that would be about$ 66,000. Mayor Boyd said Gloria said there was a minimum over the last year 22,000 minimum came in up to as much as 40,000. Councilman Milling said where does that put us with the numbers, are we going to have to pull funds from the ARP funds. Ms. Hawkins said that's what the mayor has said if there is a shortage, we can use that money temporarily and pay it back. Mayor Boyd said $53,000 will be refunded. Councilman Milling said will we get back 42,000 or 53,000 I've heard both numbers. Mrs. Bryant said we will get $53,000 back. Councilwoman Baccus said how long will it take to come back. Councilman Milling said we are robbing from Peter to pay Paul. Councilwoman Baccus said that's exactly what they are trying to do. Councilman Gardner said technically the number is 213 today if we're a month ago, month ago when the last number was given to us at 193, it rises by Ms. Pridgen said $20,000 bare minimum every month. So now we're at 213 and next month we will be at 233. Hospitality accounts increased 15, 000 to 25,000 a year. Councilman Milling said for Sheila to find out when our 53,000 is going to be available, I will ride up and pick up the check.

Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilperson Milling, McRavin, Reed and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Baccus voted against the motion.

Councilwoman McRavin said we need to get it finished because we got so much invested but I will go on record to say this is not how I would like to do it but I will go ahead and vote for it but this is not how I like to do business. Councilman Milling said I don't either. Councilwoman Baccus said that is bad business.

BUSINESS LICENSING – MAYOR BOYD

Business licensing was brought to Mrs. Hawkins about the smaller vendors coming in for like the farmers market, this is the one that being addressed, when the small vendors come in the vendors in the past have come in around the square to when we did the parade and stuff like that the little mom and pop some little craft things want to set up, they're still making money, but they're not actually a business per se. They don't have business with the IRS or anything of that nature, they were being required to purchase a business license, and they're asking if that can be waived. I was asked to bring it to Council. I'm asking your opinion on it. Ms. Hawkins said before y'all answer can I speak please before y'all discuss that. I was approached by Mr. Nettles about this. He came to see me personally. He had a rationale for why it made sense to assist these vendors with waiving fees. Several at least one person on staff said that is not fair because you may cause hundreds of vendors that come in on other events to want similar treatment. So, at first I was like, OK, I read the rationale, we were compared to the city of Hartsville and we were compared to the city of Florence where they provide a farmers' market, I guess without cost to the vendors, but that's them. I'm really not familiar with the way it's set up here, but when Mr. Nettles came to see me, he said to me remove the

request to be heard from the business license, so I did. And he also reminded me that it was my call to make as a city manager. I said OK, let me think about it. I will read your rationale. I appreciate you coming by and at least letting me know what y'all would like to do. As I read the rationale, there were good points as well to support, but when I got to page 2, our $25 or $50, if you're outside the limit, which is one time per year, I was a bit taken aback. He mentioned to me that they charge $15 a day for every vendor, every vendor day that they are there. So, if it's three days a week at $45 and 10 vendors paying you $450 a week and you hold that space for 10 weeks that's $4500. My thoughts was even though I had already made up my mind, I wasn't going to do it. I wasn't going to waive it. What about reducing your own fees? So that's the way I left it. I was asked why I didn't respond. I thought that it didn't have anything to do with the last meeting because it was asked to be taken off. However, I guess that was not good enough. I did respond. I gave my rationale and as I said we're not going to waive the fees and in fact, my suggestion and recommendation is whenever we do procurement even because we had this come up with the concert series, we need to tell every contractor or vendor you need to be paying the appropriate business license and fees, permits or whatever they are to the City of Darlington. So, keep that in mind when you do a quote to us or if you want to do business with us. So at the same time I went back and said to Mr. Thomas they need to pay their business license fees because that's how we do business. So why are we here again talking about that, I'm not understanding that and I feel like what I said was appropriate and well thought out and justified. That we're not going to excuse just some when and especially if you're getting some funds. So, my suggestion is how about you charge 7 1/2 dollars a day and then because the onus was, we're putting a burden on these folks to take part in the beginnings of a farmers' market to enhance things that we do here. It's one time a year, 25 if you within the city limits, 50 if you're out. I did incorrectly answer at some point the state had it $79 or$ 90 and up to $180, but no longer does that apply? It's 25 and 50, and I think that's not prohibited as it was first put to me, in my opinion. Thank you for letting me speak. Councilwoman Baccus said I agree, because it's the city manager's decision, why is it back at council again. Mayor Boyd said I was asked to put it back on the agenda again so I did so the Council could discuss it and it can be publicly discussed and to see if that's what everybody approves. Councilwoman Baccus said what we approve or don't approve if it's the city manager's decision then we should not be in this. Councilwoman Reed said I would like to know why they feel they should not have it. Councilwoman Baccus said if you're going to give one person a free license, then everybody should get a free license. Councilwoman Reed said I want to understand why they are asking. Mayor Boyd said the reason I put it back on the agenda is because a lot of these people are people that are coming in, they don't have a business; they don't. They're just a little mom and pop trying to do a creative craft or something else and then we're asking them to pay a small fee for their business fee. Ms. Hawkins said that crafts are no longer part of that. Councilwoman Baccus said if they're making money, they got a business. They came there to make money. They didn't come to give away their stuff. They came to profit and make money. Councilwoman McRavin said the people who participate in the Sweet Potato Festival, from what I understand, have to get a license, and that's one day. She said we are sitting here struggling and trying to figure out how we're going to meet budget now. You are trying to figure out how every department can make money, and somebody's got to pull money in and where we can generate revenue. Yet you want to push some more money out the door. We need every dollar we can get. If everybody else has to have a business license, yes, they need one too. That's not cost-prohibitive, we're not asking you to give up half of the sales that you do, it's $25 or $50. You are business and obviously they are a business, and they have to have some sort of tax ID number in order to sell anything. So yes, they would need to have a business license and if they feel $25.00 is too much then they probably will feel the $15 they have to pay to be a part of that market every day is going to be too much and they won't participate. Councilwoman Reed said our business license fee that they pay that is for a year, it's one year. The farmers' market is open every week and each time those businesses come, they're paying what you outlined is now that $15 per day. Ms. Hawkins said that was what I was told. Councilwoman Reed said I'm still trying to figure out why they felt like they needed to wave it. Why would they even ask that. Councilman Gardner said I'm Interested in incentivizing trying to help it grow I don' know long term forever if we want to stop the business license or charge them a prorated rate amount. I also remember just last month we had the Food Network coming, we didn't charge them a

business license. Somebody said that was four trucks. Councilwoman Reed said that was a promotion. Councilman Gardner said I'm just pointing out I'm not saying right or wrong or different apples or oranges that's a thought. Councilwoman Reed said it was the Food Network. It wasn't the individual. Councilman Gardner said to help incentivize the group that's trying to build up this farmers market for Darlington, we meet them in the middle, maybe they take half of it out of there vendor fee and maybe we take half of it ours. Charge them all 25 and not 50 If you are out of the city. Councilwoman Baccus said if that's the case, every food truck that come into Darlington, who's coming to promote Darlington or to build up Darlington with the food trucks so then they should get the same privilege and everybody else who come here for a license should get the same privilege and everybody pay half. It makes no sense. Councilwoman Reed said they having these food trucks but if they come into the city, they pay the business license that's what we're promoting. I really don't understand it. Councilman Milling said do we need to be assessing the business? This is a crazy question but I'm going to throw it out there. Do we need to be assessing the business license against the individual vendors who come in or do we need to be assessing the business license against whatever group it is that is operating the farmer's market. Councilman Gardner said that's a good idea. Councilwoman Reed said no. Councilman Milling said and you know, because these are just like sort of subcontractors for them. Does the license go to the organization, I will call it the Farmers Market organization, are they the proper party to be the licensee and they can have whoever they want to come in there, whether they have one person or six people, however many they can throw in there, where should the fee be assessed? Councilwoman Baccus said so if that said then you can say then all the vendors can get together who got food trucks and say one person is over all the food trucks and then one person get a license. Councilman Milling said if we did that with the Food Truck Organization, the license would be based upon the earnings of the Food Truck Organization. Councilwoman Baccus said all of them got different tables in the farmer's market. Councilman Milling said but Sheila, what I'm saying is, if you had a food truck organization, the business license would be based upon the revenue generated by the Food Truck Organization. That would be the same as any business if we have the Farmers Market Organization, then the business license is based on whatever revenue they generate. Mayor Boyd said the Pilot Club would go get one business license for everybody that's at the festival. Councilwoman Baccus said so when everybody who's selling at that table, how do you know how much they generate. Councilman Milling said we may not know what they generate, but we will know what the entity the farmers market generates because we know that they're charging a vendor's license so it may be that one vendor might make $15 sitting there a whole day and another vendor might make $115.00. Mayor Boyd said like for example at Peddler's, does everybody inside peddlers, they pay a spot, they pay a rental fee for that spot. But do they have to have a business license. I wouldn't think so. That's the way I'm looking at it, so the Peddler has to pay a business license. Councilwoman Baccus said that organization can come back to you Milling and said, OK, this week we gave all the vendors a free week. They may not have given them all a free week. You don't know, but they may say we gave them a free week and still charge them the rent that week. Councilman Milling said we would be basing our license on the rental charges and the individual vendor might have a good week or a bad week, but it would be on the organizer. Everybody is talking. Councilwoman Reed said the three days they are there they charge for that and the Chamber paid for the business license and they would do Monday through Wednesday, and on Thursday, one of them say we'll continue to operate, but they just they come out of there and say go down on Main Street and start selling, you don't think they need to pay. Councilman Milling said no I think they do need to pay. Councilwoman Reed said all we're saying that if they paid that one license for the whole year they could go any other place and do whatever they want to do. Councilman Milling said the vendor would be operating under the building location. If they relocate, they're no longer under the umbrella of that location. I'm just throwing that out; it may or may not work. Councilwoman Reed said I just think we're complicating it. Councilman Gardner said I think it's also been a long night. We all kind of seemed to be at the end of our wits end so why don't we do a little research on the peddler on some other options to see if there's any legal ways we can make it fair and wholesome for everyone. Ms. Hawkins said that is a peddler's license, that's why it was changed from upwards of $180 down to 25 and 50. Mayor Boyd said we are talking about like the Peddlers in Florence, not the actual business. You go rent a spot; you pay

for that spot. Is that person that's selling there, do they have to have a business license. That's what I'm looking at. The same thing came up before when we tried to do the parade, that's why I asked for it to be back on here because the same thing came before there were five people that wanted to do a little thing, and they were selling crafts and stuff up underneath the shelter for Christmas at one time. I agree with you, we're here to make every little dime that we can make. At the same time if somebody is on the corner of Wood Street and they sell lemonade are you going to stop them for not having a business permit. Councilwoman Reed said let me ask you all this the folk who are coming to the farmer's market are all of those businesses. I'm using my friend, Mr. Willoughby that has the same kind of product. He got his garden and he's on his specific corner once a week with all his collards, sweet potatoes and all like that because farmers market is open on Monday through Wednesday, he comes and do that now he doesn't have a business, but he sells it on our streets. He doesn't have a business. He has a big garden in the back, and he comes out and sell those collards and cabbages. Councilman Milling said he's the one in the red pickup truck. Mayor Boyd said does he have a business license. Councilwoman Reed said no business license. She said he has great stuff. Councilman Milling said one other thing, I don't know if we will get this thing decided tonight, but I think Bryant's idea… Everybody is talking at the same time. Councilwoman Baccus said it's the city manager's decision. Councilman Milling said I have one other business license question there was a fellow who was in my neighborhood over the weekend who was out in the neighborhood soliciting business for a company out of Columbia, going door to door. He was kind of like, I guess a fuller brush salesman. I don't know that we've got any requirements one way or the other that somebody who comes in to go door to door has to come to the city to make an application for a business license or whatever we call it or that we have anything that regulates the time during the day that they can be making these solicitations from like 9:00 to 5:00. One neighbor called me and was concerned about his wife because he was out town, and she didn't go to the door, but evidently this person had knocked on the door at 7 in the evening. Well, you know, she was there by herself and her two kids. If we are going to have those types of events occur, happenings in the city, do we want to say if you going to do this, you can only do it between 9:00 and 5:00. You have to check in with the city so that the city will know that you are a legitimate person. He convinced one or two people that he was legitimate, and they checked on the computer and they really was a company by the name that he said he was representing. But you never know when somebody's coming in like that, whether they are just casing the neighborhood or whether they are actually a door-to-door salesman. I just bring that to our general attention so that you can think about is that the kind of thing that we want to try to put some regulations on or do we just want to let it slide. Councilwoman Reed said did you check to the see if we already have something. Councilman Milling said well, I asked Sheila tonight when I came in and she said she would check, but we know that Sheila's got things to do in a short time to do them in. I was just bringing it up so Ms. Hawkins would have a chance to follow up on it after Sheila is gone. Councilwoman McRavin said the Police Chief would know. Chief Davis said I'll check also Ms. Hawkins. Chief Davis said I believe at one time there was something on the books as a young patrolman I believe I remember having to go out and check the people who was selling something. Councilman Milling said because when you guys are checking out a car with Virginia license tags sitting in the neighborhood, they need to know whether or not the person is complying with a city ordinance or whether they ought to be run off. Chief Daivs said when we get the call to go to somebody's neighborhood referencing that, it would be nice to oh I checked with the city and we make a phone call on our company phone and verify it and then we can let the complainant know that he's check with the city, he or she is registered. Councilman Gardner said if you don't mind, I'm a motion to adjourn. Mayor Boyd said before we do that, we've got executive session that I would suggest that doesn't have to be done tonight. We can postpone that till next time, do we need to make a motion. Ms. Hawkins gave out some information. Councilman Gardner said can we take it home with us. Ms. Hawkins said you can. Mayor Boyd said that we can discuss it in executive session next time. We need to make a motion to move the executive session or table it.

REMINDERS

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, City Council Workshop Session, 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, Reed and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

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Assistant Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

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Mayor