CITY OF DARLINGTON
DARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025, AT 6:00 PM
CITY COURT ROOM – CITY HALL
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC 29532

1. Invocation – Mayor Curtis Boyd

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Mayor Boyd

3. Public Hearing

a. Ordinance No. 2025-02 / Budget Fiscal Year 2025

Mayor Boyd opened the Public Hearing asking if there was anyone present to speak. No one present to speak. Motioned to close public hearing by Councilwoman Reed. Seconded by Councilman Milling. All in favor.

4. Updates/Discussion/Action – City Manager Lenessa E. Hawkins

Approval of joint lease to Family Engagement Program Inc.

Ms. Hawkins explained that once the council was satisfied and entered into the agreement the next step would be to approve the accepting of the PARD grant for $50,0000. She said they are ready to start the project. Mayor Boyd wanted to know that happened if the repairs exceed the $62,500? Ms. Hawkins said once we meet the $62,500 you have only agreed to, we will receive the $50,000 back. She said that they have not identified any other funding at the present time but if they exceed the $62,500 it is her understanding that they may have some additional investment that they should be able to pull together to assist with the project. She said that they

are clear with the fact where the council is at with the $12,500, coming out at $62,500. Council Milling stated that their insurance policy would cover them initially and anything that it didn't cover ours would kick in. He stated there is no way to prevent us from getting sued. Council Segars stated that he had a problem with that. Mayor Boyd said there is a lot more liability with a pool. Council Milling said that the contract needs to include that the non-profit organization shall hold the city harmless and non-liable for any claims brought against them in Section 6. Ms. Hawkins said she will contact Mr. Caldwell to add that part into section 6 before signing the agreement.

Motioned to allow Ms. Hawkins to sign the agreement after the correction has been made to Section 6 by Councilwomen Reed. Seconded by Councilwoman McRavin. All in favor with the exception of Councilman Segars.

<u>Approval to accept the PARD grant for updating Darlington Swimming Pool</u>

Motioned to approve to accept the PARD grant for updating the Darlington swimming pool by Councilman Milling. Seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor with the exception of Councilman Segars.

<u>Approval of purchases related to Operations exceeding 5,000</u>

Ms. Hawkins presented several quotes for the water and sewer department for things they need to purchase exceeding $5,000. She explained that they wanted to accept the quote from Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of $32,104.62. This quote includes things like couplings, pipe and things of that nature that they need to have on hand. Motion by Councilman Gardner to accept the quote from Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of $32,104.62. Seconded by Councilwoman McRavin. All in favor.

Ms. Hawkins said that the water and sewer department wanted to accept the quote for a mini excavator from Blanchard Cat in the amount of $68,146.00. Motion by Councilman Gardner to accept the quote from

Blanchard Cat in the amount of $68,146.00. Seconded by Councilwoman Reed. All in favor.

Ms. Hawkins stated that the water and sewer department wants to accept a quote up to $14,150.00 for a new trailer to haul the mini excavator. Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve an amount up to $14,150 to purchase a new trailer to haul the mini excavator. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Hawkins stated that the council approved back in the fall $310,000 for water meters. She said the water and sewer department wanted to accept the quote foe $23,071.39 from Ferguson Waterworks for the purchase of water meters. Motioned by Councilman Gardener to accept the quote from Ferguson Waterworks for fire hydrants in the amount of $23,071.39. Seconded by Councilwoman Reed. All were in favor.

Ms. Hawkins informed council that the air went out on the 2nd floor of the Street and Sanitation building. She informed them she had received a quote from Adams Heating and Air for $14,775.00 and Gainey's Heating and Cooling, Inc. for $19,000.00. Councilman Milling suggested she get a few more quotes from local companies. Council explained that this was a emergency issue and she was authorized to pick the best for the City without prior approval from council.

<u>Approval of Second Reading Ordinance 2025-02, Budget Fiscal Year 2025-26</u>

Ms. Hawkins stated that before they begin discussing the budget she wanted to let them know that she had Mr. Roosevelt Scott look at the Water and Sewer building on West Broad Street. Mr. Scott said that the floor and foundation is impaired and cracking. Apparently one of the steel pilons is sinking, Mr. Roosevelt said it could cost up to $72,000 plus $20-25 thousand just to fix the floor. She stated that they will continue to do research. In the meantime, Mr. Boatwright is going to get a few quotes on a 40x60 and a 40x 70x steel building. Related to that Ms. Hawkins stated that she took the money out of the O&M, one because she needed to

balance the water and sewer budget and two because you have money in the capital improvement fund.

Discussion of the Budget

Ms. Hawkins stated that the insurance rates increased by about 14% and all the Departments felt it. The brokers are working with our folks on a possible different kind of plan and that could bring our cost down $40-$44 thousand dollars. Hopefully that will come through in 2025-2026.

Ms. Hawkins stated that she and Ms. Vinson had discussed engaging in a company that would help the city collect on water and sewer accounts that were being written off. She said that it was way to much what they had been writing off.

Councilman Gardner wanted to know why there was $18,000 for PDRTA. He stated that he thought they discussed taking it back to last year's amount. Ms. Hawkins said that she had spoken to their director, and we were going to lose Saturday's route already at that amount. Ms. Hawkins said that she would fix the amount.

Mayor Boyd had questions about the salaries in several different departments. He said that the employees were not getting raises but the salaries were higher this year than last year. He did not understand why.

Motioned by Councilman Milling to approve the Second Reading Ordinance 2025-02, Budget Fiscal Year 2025-26. Seconded by Councilwoman McRavin. All in favor with the exception of Mayor Boyd with a no.

Motioned by Councilman Milling to approve the Second Reading Ordinance 2025-02, Water and Sewer Budget Fiscal Year 2025-26. Seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor with the exception of Mayor Boyd with a no.

Event Reminders

Saturday, June 29, 2025, Freedom Fest

Tuesday July 1, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting, 6PM

July 16-20, 2025, Municipal Association Annual Meeting, Hilton Head Island

Motion to adjourn meeting by Councilwoman McRavin. Seconded by Councilwomen Reed. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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Mayor Curtis C. Boyd

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Lacie Weatherford, Secretary