CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM
LOCATED AT
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC
TUESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2025 - AT 6:00 PM

PRESENT AT THE MEETING:
Mayor Curtis Boyd, City Manager Lenessa Hawkins, Councilpersons Baccus, McRavin, Gardner, Reed, Milling, and Segars. Also present was Hunter Thomas, Steve Abbott, Sean Odom, Dyan Cohen, Michael Morris, Anna DeWitt, Ruth Dickey, Calvin Holloman, Charles Bailey, Pat Cavanuagh, Mrs. Beatrice Wilson, and others.

Invocation was by Mayor Curtis Boyd followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Councilwoman McRavin said she wanted to advise everyone that she emailed everyone of changes and updates that were needed for the August 26th as well as the September 2nd & September 16th meetings. She said the minutes have already been updated by the clerk. Councilman Gardner said
Councilwoman Angela McRavin the made a motion to approve Tuesday August 26, 2025, Special Meeting / Work Session minutes with the changes. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilman Gardner said if we're going to do that try and do it in a timely manner so that all of council can read those changes. **Councilpersons Gardner, Milling, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the minutes of our Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday September 2, 2025. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Baccus, Reed and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilwoman Angela McRavin made a motion to approve Tuesday September 16, 2025, Special Meeting / Work Session minutes. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Milling, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the minutes of an Emergency Meeting held on Monday September 29, 2025. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

CITIZENS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL
Mr. Dontae Hough said he is appearing tonight out of genuine love for the city and the people who make it such a special place to live. He said. I believe each of you share the same love.

and in your own ways are committed to moving Darlington forward. Mr. Hough said that's why it is important to acknowledge the growing concern among residents about the rising cost of water and sanitation services. He said while these increases may seem manageable for some, they become a real burden for many, especially our seniors on fixed incomes, single parents, and families already living paycheck to paycheck. Access to clean water and reliable sanitation isn't a luxury, it's a necessity that touches every aspect of health, safety, and dignity. He said they also recognize the sanitation services have experienced some delays, but they are encouraged to see improvements on the way. Those delays have created challenges for residents who depend on consistent and timely service. As this work continues, I urge the Council to make decisions that are in the best interest of Darlington today and the Darlington of the future. Mr. Hough thanked council for their time.

Malika McGill said she wanted to talk about the lack of sidewalks in some areas. She said her main transportation is her scooter which she rides around. She said with the lack of sidewalks…. some sidewalks are messed up, and it forces her to go into the street. She said the streetlights and some areas. Need to be brighter. So that pedestrians can stay out of the street and not risk getting hit by a car. Ms. McGill said she knows someone who recently got killed. They were hit by three cars. She said she knows this did not happen in the city. Ms. McGill said this happened on Lawson Road & Society Hill Road which is in the County. Mayor Boyd told Ms. McGill we will look into that.

Mr. Don Strickland – PDRTA Mr. Strickland said ridership continues to do well. They average over 2,000 trips per month. He said they had a major increase in ADA services. Everything that they are providing in the city of Darlington is fare free…. No cost to the passengers right now. Mr. Strickland thank the city for the commitments we have had in place for Many years to help us match the federal funds we used to provide the services. Mr. Strickland said for every $10,000 we get at the local level we're doing $30,000 worth of service. He said they do two on board surveys every year. Currently 77% of everybody that steps on the bus do not have access to a car. This service is critical for people going to doctor's appointments. He said one thing they've got to do is add more service. The DART route is the earliest fixed route they have across our six counties that they are operating at 4:00 PM. They want to be able to add to that. A lot of people are scheduling afternoon appointments. They get to the appointment, but they can't get home because the bus route ends at 4:00 PM. Mr. Strickland said for $8,500 per hour for the entire year is what's needed to add the 4:00-5:00 PM so it will be roughly $17,000 to be able to run services until 6:00 PM. He said this will help a lot of people. That's going to help a lot of people work and get off at 4:00 or 5:00. It also helps with the medical side, going to and from as well as grocery stores. Trying to figure out how to add those extra hours. Their partnerships will be critical in our area. He said I mentioned. 2500 trips a month. But we could probably increase that to 3500 trips a month if we could figure out how to add those two additional hours. Mr. Strickland said I want to thank Ms. Judy Alexander… She has been the Darlington City representative of PDRTA for 17 years and she has decided to step down. Mr. Strickland said if anybody is interested, make a nomination for city council to approve a new appointee for the PDRTA Board. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 12PM. He said lunch is provided and they pay for mileage to get there. They are looking for someone in the community

that's willing to jump on the bus and engage with passengers and figure out what we can do better to serve the community. He said they would love city council to make that recommendation and make the appointee. Typically, it's a three-year term to serve on the PDRTA Board, but they are not tied to that so if someone wants to commit for a year, they can do reappointments.

Old Business

Second Reading on Ordinance 2025-05 to Amend Business License Ordinance

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2025-05 to Amend Business License Ordinance. Councilman John Milling seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion on Asbury Street Sewer Extension & Housing – Mr. Brady Sanford (Moved to Work Session meeting)

New Business

Discussion & Possible Bids for Outsourcing Trash Pickup Mayor Boyd said he spoke to one local company that spoke about possibly …. They were interested but said at this moment they couldn't take on any more additional work than what they're doing right now. Mayor Boyd said, "I asked Ms. Hawkins to check and see if she could get up with anybody else. Ms. Hawkins said she left a message. Mayor Boyd said we will keep working on that. Ms. Hawkins said, "It is my recommendation that the City put out a formal bid where we can put it not only on our city website or with the Municipal Association website but also on SCBO where contractors look to find work or see request for proposals or bids are in one central place. She said we can have that out this week and hold it for at least two to three weeks before the end of our one-month rental. Mayor Boyd said, "I'm fine with that. It's an option to look at to see if it's something that would be better or could be worse for us and if we don't want to do it, but as an option to look at, I think we should look at it." Mayor Boyd said, "If everybody is fine. We're not committed to her putting it out there."

Discussion of Water Bill Increase for Outside City Residents Using City Services

Mayor Boyd said we have been talking about this for a while trying to come up with different variations of the increase and what would change. Ms. Hawkins passed out a copy of proposed changes. She said what the council requested staff to do is increase the base rate as well as create a tier and base that tier percentage on what inside customers pay for water & sewer. She said outside city residents do not have a tier at this point. It didn't matter how much they use they were going to pay the same per thousand gallons as everybody. Ms. Hawkins said with a 30% increase …and I have it as council proposed and if they want me to go forward, we will put it in ordinance form for the meeting in November. Ms. Hawkins said outside water residential would move from $40.52 to $52.68 if they didn't use anything at all. The proposed tier would move from $5.71 to $7.42. $5,001-10,000 would be $8.16 per thousand gallons and then $8.91 for 10,001 and over. For sewer outside residential the rate would move from $43.64 to $56.73. There are only twenty-eight customers in that particular category. For 0-5,000 gallons the rate

would go from $8.74 to $11.36 per 1,000 gallons. 5,001-10,000 would be $12.49 per 1,000 gallons. The next tier 10,000 and above would go to $13.64 per 1,000 gallons. Ms. Hawkins said the commercial for water outside the city is now $43.02 and would increase to $55.93. There are thirteen customers on commercial water outside city rate. The proposed tiers would be $7.42, $8.09 & $8.82 for the commercial water rate. She said for outside commercial sewer the base rate would go from $46.14 to $59.98 with the 30% increase. The new tier for 0-5,000, which is currently $8.74 for any amount per 1,000 gallons would go to $11.36; 5,001-10,00 would be $12.39 and 10,000 and above would be $13.53 per one thousand gallons. Mayor Boyd said so the public is clear what I've been asking for and what council has been asking for is when we say …. just like on your water bill, people are confused when they say your rate went up …. The water bill wasn't really clear … the water part base pay went up $5.00 ($2.50 & $2.50) for the inside residents. Mayor Boyd said the outside rates were different. There are some residents that are using City services, commercial and residential outside the city. Some have city water, sewer, and trash pickup. These have city services but have not been annexed into the city. This does not affect the residents inside city residents. He said we've been trying to see if there's a way to generate additional revenue for things to be taken care of without putting more burden on inside city residents. Councilman Milling asked if there is anyone that does not want this to be in the form of an ordinance at our next meeting? He said I don't want Ms. Hawkins to go to the trouble of putting it in the form of an ordinance if we don't have support. Councilman Garnder asked if we needed to have two separate ordinances- one on the fee level increase and then on the increase of 30%. Councilman Milling said, "We can do it with one ordinance. Ms. Hawkins said you will have to have a public hearing as well on the rate increased. Councilman Milling said that's an interesting question whether we have a public hearing on people outside of the city limits who don't have a right to vote on. Councilwoman Baccus said anytime you change your ordinance, there's a public hearing. Councilman Milling told Ms. Hawkins to check on this and see if we need to have a public hearing. Councilman Milling said, "Normally we would have a public hearing, but this is affecting people who are not citizens of the city. So, we may or may not need a public hearing. Council continued to discuss whether or not we need to have a public hearing. Councilman Gardner asked if he could get the tiered system that we have for the residential so he can compare it to this. Ms. Hawkins said, "You asked me to use the same percentages and that's what I was doing. It was the same percentage change that the residents are using. Ms. Hawkins told councilman Gardner that she would email it to him. Mayor Boyd said, Mr. Milling said something about possibly going up with a higher percentage rate. Ms. Hawkins asked if they were talking about the ordinance.

Discussion of Fire Hydrant Repairs – Pat Cavanaugh & Charles Bailey

Chief Cavanaugh said he's been talking with Michael & Johnathan and has been keeping up with this fairly good. He said when they first started this, they had a total of fifteen fire hydrants that were reported inoperable. Eleven have been fully restored; the ones that were gone have been put back in. There are still three hydrants that they are worried about relocating with a four – to six-inch leg. They are operable, it's just the water supply is not the greatest. Chief Cavanaugh said everything in their commercial areas has been repaired. The fire hydrant by Young's has been replaced. The parts came in on the 2nd for the fire hydrant by Dixie Cup and they will install those, and the parts came in for the hydrant by the splashpad. He said at this

point they should be caught up in the next month and a half. Mayor Boyd asked Chief Cavanagh if he was going to leave the hydrant by the splashpad. Chief Cavanaugh said they are going to leave it there for now. He said they can get credit for it as long as water flows out of it. He said we can get the ISO points as long as the water is coming. Mayor Boyd said, we have fifteen and we have eleven that have been replaced. Chief Cavanaugh said we will have two more ready to be repaired this week because the parts came in for two and then there's two more. Mayor Boyd asked about the water flow and if that still needs to be addressed on the other hydrants that are working but the proper flow valve to be where it should be now and in the future. Chief Cavanaugh said we've done some testing, and most all of the water is pretty much doing ok. Mayor Boyd said before there was an issue of saying that a good number of the fire hydrants (approximately one hundred) were not at the proper flow that they should have been and need to be adjusted eventually down the road. Chief Cavanaugh said ISO had required that everything go to three-barrel hydrants. He said the new ISO standards came out, and I just took training on it, as long as we can produce water, they are not going to be as critical. Councilwoman Baccus wanted to know the status of the fire hydrant that has been leaking for a long time on the corner of E Avenue & Third Street. Chief Cavanaugh said they are trying to get parts for that one. He said I didn't call it critical because it was leaking. We can still open it if we have a fire. Chief Cavanaugh said my biggest address was the ones that weren't working in case we had a big fire we could get water. Councilwoman McRavin asked about the hydrants that were missing and if we have been able to replace them. Chief Cavanaugh said, "Yes, the one in front of Leo's has been repaired as well as the one in front of Young's. Councilwoman McRavin asked about the hydrant on D Avenue before you get to Georgia Pacific. Chief Cavanaugh said the parts will be coming in for that one. He said all of the hydrants that were missing have been put back in place except for the one at the splashpad and the parts that Michael said have been ordered. Mayor Boyd asked about the hydrant on Hampton Street that has a bag on it. Chief Cavanaugh said it's still there and they still have to get to that one. He said those that have bags are not out of service; it's just leaking.

Funding Request from Pilot Club for Sweet Potato Festival – Mayor Boyd

Ms. Denise Campbell said this year they currently have one hundred forty-two vendors registered already. They are expecting over one hundred cars for the car show. They are expecting new vendors such as 360 Photo Booth and a digital photo that will be free for people. She said the Recreation Department is planning to have "Movie Night" after the festival. Ms. Campbell said they are having a few challenges with accessing power on the street side as well as the city business license which continues to be a challenge for vendors outside of the Darlington area. Mayor Boyd said in other towns they have to pay business licenses. Ms. Campbell said, "I'm not saying we shouldn't have to pay them, but at some point, we need to look at our process of it. She said it's very dependent on phone calls back and "snail mail." She said we just had a lot of challenges, and they keep encouraging people to call. She said they are very appreciative of council's support throughout the years. Mayor Boyd asked Ms. Campbell if they were going to need assistance from the city with the power. Ms. Campbell said, "Yes. We have three poles that we need to access. Mayor Boyd asked Ms. Hawkins to check into this. Ms. Hawkins asked Ms. Campbell to leave her number, and she would get back to her.

Councilwoman McRavin asked, “Are you requesting funding and how much.” Ms. Campbell said, “Yes. Last year was $2,500 and we’d love to have $2,500 again this year. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve $2,500 to the Pilot Club Sweet Potato Festival. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

Discussion & Funding of Christmas Lights for Wells Park – Councilman Gardner

Councilman Gardner passed out pictures of the Christmas lights at Wells Park that we currently have and then pictures of what he’s looking to do. He’s asking for council’s support on more of the immersive look that they were going for. Councilman Gardner said, “Last year we didn’t have enough, we had a limited budget, so this year it’s the last thing we’re really going to fill in just to give it that immersive look. He said that’s the $5,000 budget that we have. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Mosca Design for $5,316.43 to finish filling out the Wells Park Christmas lights. Councilman Milling seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Reed, Baccus and mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** Councilwoman McRavin asked if we put a timer on there because there were no timer and our electric bill for these lights was over $7,000 for those forty five days that they were on. She said it would be imperative that if we were going to proceed with this that we would at least be frugal and put a timer on those or have someone that’s going to turn these lights on and off so that we’re not having lights remain on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the entirety that it’s there. It ended up costing us over $30,000 last year. I just want to make sure we don’t have another $7,000 light bill and that we are frugal since our poor citizens are struggling with trash. Councilman Gardner said last year he asked for a timer to be put on, but evidently it didn’t get put on. He said I have been in discussion with Ms. Hawkins and with Hunter about getting that timer. He said it is my understanding that Ms. Hawkins has a quote for a little over $500 to put the timers on so that we don’t do that again. Councilman Gardner said just so the public knows, this comes out of the hospitality fund, and it can only be used for tourism related things as we know, so it doesn’t reflect trash trucks or any other budgetary items in the general fund or water and sewer fund. He said I agree that we should be fiscally responsible and have the timer on there and I would expect … Councilman Gardner said I spoke with Kimberly and Ms. Gloria yesterday on that subject and we’re not sure if that is just Wells Park or if that’s Wells Park and our Christmas lights throughout town, but it’s irrelevant, it was a waste of power. I told them it was for everything. Councilman Gardner said that $7,000 covers the entire town. **Councilman Milling said, “I would like to amend your motion to approve spending $5,316.43 plus an amount not to exceed $650 for timers to be put into Wells Park. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion**. Mayor Boyd asked how much we spent on Christmas lights last time. Was it $15,000? Councilman Gardner said it was $17,000, I thought. Mayor Boyd said and if this did cost $7,000, that would be $24,000, so it wouldn’t be $30,000 plus. Councilwoman McRavin said, “No Sir, It was $10,000 paid for the electrician to run electrical through there and we also had to pay to rent a lift to have that done and that’s not to include the funds that we had pay for our employees who had to work extended hours to get those lights in place. She said I love Christmas, and I am asking these questions because we need to be mindful of how we spend our taxpayer dollars. She said the hospitality tax fund can be used for anything tourism related, which also includes water and infrastructure. It also includes roads that help people get

to tourism. So, we found a way that it could be used to purchase a trash truck. We have had extreme concerns and issues with trash pickup. We are in need of a new trash truck. We have found a way to get a new trash so I don't want us to be frivolous and spend funds that could be used to purchase a trash truck…. Councilman Milling said, "Mr. Mayor, I hate to cut her off, but at this point in time she has changed it from whether or not we're voting on Christmas lights to a discussion of whether we can or cannot without a presentation having been made by the city manager or the auditor or anyone else as to exactly what we can utilize funds on." Councilman Milling said, "So, I'm only suggesting that we vote on this and if we've got another presentation about additional uses…. that be put on the agenda so everybody can have that information. Councilwoman McRavin said, "We were raising our hands to have a discussion for two minutes that we are supposed to be allowed to have. I didn't say we were voting on a trash truck tonight. I'm letting you know what the funds can be used for. And it states that in the law, that's all I'm saying and to make certain that we are informed, and our citizens are informed of how we are spending their funds. Councilwoman Baccus said we also spent thousands of dollars on landscaping …. on rocks in Wells Park. She said it started out with roughly … Give or take $20,000 for the lights. And at the end of the day, we probably invested $30,000 to $40,000 in lights and landscaping in Wells Park last year. Councilwoman Baccus said that hospitality fund is only at $800,000 plus because we sold the land on Highway 151 at a huge loss. She said that's how the money got back to the hospitality tax fund. Councilman Milling called to question. Councilman Gardner said, "We bought that land for $600,000 (please correct me Mayor if I'm wrong) and we sold it for $611,000. He said we had some costs that you can't get back and they're not part of the purchasing of the land. Mayor Boyd said, "We still may be able to get back." Councilman Gardner said, "On the other subject, While I was under Mayor Hines's tenure we spent $50,000 on Christmas lights three years in a row. He said on the question of garbage trucks, unless the garbage It's going to stay at Blue Street 24/7 there is no way to purchase a garbage truck unless you are going to use it solely for picking up trash on Blue Street. He said you cannot take a garbage truck and use hospitality funds and drive it outside of the recreation area. You cannot make water, sewer, or road improvements unless it's directly tied to recreation. That is State law. Mayor Boyd said, "For six years and a half, I cleaned Wells Park, and I paid to have it cleaned every month**." Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all voted in favor of the motion to spend a maximum total of $5,963.43 if the timer costs $650.**

Department Head Updates / Reports

Police Chief Jimmy Davis said they are still six officers short in the police department. He said they applied for a grant for new equipment to replace their aging body worn cameras. Chief Davis said they got word this weekend for $31,688 and change for body worn cameras. He said their quote is only good for ninety days so today they asked for a new quote, and it looks like they might be a couple of thousand out. Councilwoman Reed asked if there has been an increase in any particular crime in the city. Chief Davis said, "Not notably. They will have a spike here and there so overall that brings it back down. He said they have been getting calls from business owners and councilmembers when they spot something. He said they get phone calls and that helps them get ahead of it. Chief Davis said they still need vehicles, but they did get the two trucks and have them up and running. Mayor Boyd asked Chief Davis how many officers he

has on the street. Chief Davis said, “Eight, when I’m usually running twelve. Mayor Boyd asked Chief Davis if he has received a budget yet. Chief Davis asked, “For this year. No, not as of yet.

Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh said he only has one full-time position open. He said he has four part-time firemen to help fill in. He said during last year’s budget he asked for a couple of command vehicles. Chief Cavanaugh said he and Chief Davis were able to get a vehicle from S.C. Surplus. Mayor Boyd asked Chief Cavanaugh how often they are going out to do inspections of businesses. Chief Cavanaugh said they have a list given to them every year. When Lacie sends the list to Charles, they divide it up among the shifts and the guys go out and check. As for Fire Marshall inspections, when a new business comes in, they check them. He said his check is probably going to be for the train station they want to put in temporarily at Genesis. Chief Cavanaugh said they have their “Taste of Christmas” coming up November 6th. Tickets are $10.00. Mayor Boyd asked Chief if he has a copy of the budget yet? Chief Cavanaugh said, “No Sir, not yet.”

Michael Morris said they have been able to maintain everything, but they have had a few collapses that they have located. He said one of the collapses will probably require a contractor to come in because it exceeds their deep depth. The other collapse looks to be an old service line on an abandoned property on Washington Street. He said over time the line deteriorated, and they should be able to take care of that ourselves. Michael said they repaired a weir at the sewer plant and we’re going to have to rebuild it. The contractor said it’s an estimated cost of $10,000 plus. Councilman Gardner said, “going down Cashua on the hill there’s an apartment complex. Are you familiar with what’s running across that sidewalk? Is that their side or our side? Michael said it’s their side, but we are going to try and assist them because those valves are frozen in place and it’s going to have to be done live. Councilwoman Baccus asked about the status on Magnolia Street. Michael said they are trying to get to it. Councilwoman Baccus said seemingly every week there’s either a water leak and going back into winter, sewer breaks.” She said every week or two something is collapsing, so it seems like we're never going to get back to Magnolia Street to finish it. Michael said we’ve made more progress toward it than where we were. He said a month ago, we had eighteen leaks on the board at one time, and we finished the last one today. Councilman Gardner asked about “soft season.” Michael said we’re not having as many leaks because of the temperature. When it’s really hot the metal pipes swell, and pin holes open up and create leaks. When it gets colder the water gets denser and it expands and bursts those pipes. Councilman Milling said he saw a leak on Hampton Street in the area of Mr. Etheridge’s Law Office. Michael said they fixed it today. Councilwoman Baccus said on First Street where you all cut that street to fix the water leak, what is your intent to get back to paving that because those school buses travel that street every day. Michael said First Street is on the next “cut list.” Michael said he would like to get it out and get it quoted by the end of the month. Michael said I’ll call tomorrow and see how much more it will be for him to get that one.
Mayor Boyd asked Michael if he has a budget and he said, “No Sir.”

Hunter Thomas said Hauler Fest went really well. Hunter said he is working with a very large group of people here in town for the Christmas Festival which they will do in early December.

Hunter said that's a network with us, the County, DDRA, the Famers Market, and several others. He is hoping to do "Photos with Santa" in Wells Park the night before. He is also hoping to do a "Christmas Movie Night" in Wells Park. Hunter said he is hoping to nail down his concert series this week or next week. He said we had a lot of media coverage about the Housing Incentive Program as well as with our new Associate Judge. Councilwoman Reed asked Hunter to tell them about the new system communicating and letting our citizens know about different issues. Hunter said, "You can follow us on Facebook, and we also have a new texting service. He said you can go to Cityofdarlington.com and follow all of the directions on how to do that. Hunter said you will get all of the updates, but they are limited to how many text messages they can do a year. So, that's why not every single thing is texted out until we get a feel for how much we use in a year. He said they also put announcements on the sign on the Square. Mayor Boyd asked Hunter if he has a budget and he said, "Not yet."

Calvin Holloman said the only update he has for his department is the trash truck that had the engine down should be back here on Friday. Councilman Gardner said right now we're caught up with residential trash and we're running regular routes. As soon as we get that second truck online then we'll be able to pick back up on everything and get that route restored, is that the plan? Calvin said, "Yes, that's the plan. Councilman Gardner asked if we've ordered or have the rental truck yet. Ms. Hawkins said, "No." Councilman Gardner asked if we've ordered it. Ms. Hawkins said, "Yes. We have to get the insurance and liability to their satisfaction. It was reviewed this morning by the city attorney, and the email came back from his paralegal that it was ok to proceed. Once they provide the insurance coverage that they require then Mr. Holloman can plan his trip to go get it. Councilwoman McRavin asked, "So, recycling will be back on track with regular trash pickup and recycling as well as yard debris after we get this other truck or how is that…. doing recycling and trash together." Calvin said, "We are doing recycling and trash together... Councilwoman McRavin said, "And that will continue until we get …. Calvin said, "Yes ma'am. Mayor Boyd asked if the part came in for the truck that had the safety issue. Calvin said, "Yes, it's in, but I have not had a chance to install it yet.

City Manager's Report – City Manager Hawkins

Ms. Hawkins said you have already heard the report on the proposed rate increases for outside commercial, residential water and sewer customers. She said one item she was asked to give an update on is the renovations happening at the Darlington Swimming Pool. She said both contractors have completed their work. The pool was drained, cleaned, and scrubbed as it was drained. The pool deck has been cleaned as well. It has been painted inside and out. The trim has been redone, and it is a beautiful color that matches our city's seal. She said they did have it opened conditionally on September 5th. Now that the contractors are finished, we did have some items that came up such as the chlorinator was working for three days and then it quit. So, we had to move some money to cover that. There were some items that the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services required, so some shifting of what was supposed to be done originally … she said, what I'm saying there is going to be a budget amendment. So, I'll present you all with the budget amendment and tell you where we are. She said I think we're around $9,000 - $10,000 left. Ms. Hawkins said security cameras have been installed. There are some other items the project manager and I would like to put in there. She said they did have

some youth who were afforded the chance to work with the Department of Natural Resources to begin beginner swim classes. She said it was good to see folk come out, parents came out, and Councilwomen Baccus & Reed were there. Ms. Hawkins said, “It was an excellent project, and it adds to the attractiveness. I’m hoping that they will consider … if our partner Families Engagement would consider a warmer and a cover so that maybe water aerobics, swim lessons …… I didn’t know that daycares bring their kids to the pool.” Ms. Hawkins said we had another candidate for the Inspector’s position. She said there are some things there that caused us some pause. I’m not quite sure how I’m going to handle it; going back out or going back to the third or fourth candidate. As far as a fit, we want someone good that can come right on and hit the ground running. Ms. Hawkins said I will put the request for quote together and get it out.

Executive Session

In accordance with S.C. Code 30-4-70
(a) A public body may hold a meeting that is closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:
(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.
(The council may act following executive session)

Upon motion of John Milling, seconded by John Segars, to go into Executive Session at 7:17 PM.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Reed, seconded by Councilman John Segars, the executive session ended at 7:37 PM. All approved the motion to end executive session.

Reminders

Tuesday October 21, 2025, Council Work Session at 6:00 PM

Thursday October 30, 2025, Scare on The Scare, 4:00 PM

Tuesday November 11, 2025, – Veteran’s Day, City Offices will be Closed.

Thursday November 27, 2025, & Friday November 28, 2025 – Thanksgiving Holiday, City Offices will be Closed.

Tuesday December 2, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

Adjournment

Upon motion of Councilwoman McRavin, seconded by Councilman Gardner, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM. All approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer