City of Darlington
400 Pearl Street, Darlington, SC 29532
Public Hearing & Regular City Council Meeting
Held in the Old Council Chambers
February 3, 2026 At 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Reed, Milling, Gardner, and Segars. Also present was Hunter Thomas, Joyce Everett, Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Steve Abbott, Sean Odom, Tracy Blakney, Hugh Tuttle, Dyan Cohen, James Cooper, Gregory Jacobs, and a few other citizens.

News Media Present: Ms. Alexis Cooper with TV15

Invocation
The invocation was by Mayor Curtis Boyd

Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Mayor Pro Tem
Councilman Milling made a motion to nominate the current Mayor Pro-Tem Councilman John Segars. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. *No other nominations were made so a vote was taken.* **Councilpersons McRavin, Reed and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Baccus voted, "No."**

Approval of Minutes

1) **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday January 6, 2026. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

2) **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing/Executive Session held on Friday January 16, 2026, at 2:30 PM. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Milling, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

3) **Councilwoman McRavin made a motion to approve the work session minutes held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Councilwoman Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Milling, Segars, Reed and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

Citizens may speak for up to 5 minutes. Maximum of 30 total minutes for public comments. ***(Neither personal attacks nor disruptive behavior are allowed. Please sign in to be heard at this time.)***

Mr. Hugh Tuttle said he has a property at 1212 S. Main Street which use to be a commercial property. It used to be a funeral home, then a beauty salon was there, and a plumber had his business at the property. Mr. Tuttle said it is an actual home, and he rents it out as a home. He said when the businesses were there, they put in a commercial septic system that the water collects, and it gets pumped into the field. He said he asked years ago why he was getting a sewer bill because he had his own septic. They sent him the bylaw that said if we were on sewer you have to pay the tap fee and if you don't you still get the sewer charge. Mr. Tuttle said earlier last year he applied for the sewer tap and paid $1,600 but then three months went by with him calling to find out what was going on. He said he sent an initial FOIA request asking what was going on and he got a letter back from Michael Morris. Mr. Morris stated in the letter that upon further investigation it's been determined that there is currently no sewer line from the city running across the front of the property to be tied into the city sewer. He said the homeowner would be responsible for covering those costs. Mr. Tuttle said he was told the rough estimated cost would be $5,000 in pipe; $2,000-$3,000 in engineering cost; an additional $9,000-$15,000 in labor was to be expected. That was dated September 8th. It was obvious that my sewer tap fee of $1,600 sat for three or four months because it was obvious I could not get the tap so I said I would come pick the tap fee up. Mr. Tuttle said he sent another FOIA request on October 10th asking for all the documents so he could figure out what to do. He said he got an acknowledgement from Ms. Hawkins that she had received it. He said he followed up on December 17th & January 12th, and he still hasn't gotten an answer. Mr. Tuttle said he went into the office and asked if they could remove the sewer fee while we got this resolved and they didn't. Mr. Tuttle said he got the FOIA request and the letter from Mr. Morris. Mr. Tuttle said he is requesting that council approve the water department to remove the sewer fee on this property. Mayor Boyd told Mr. Tuttle to write his number on the form and Ms. Pridgen will contact him tomorrow.

Don Blakney said he is here to discuss a situation that they have on Limit Street that was presented to the city council several months ago. He said it's about the pump on Limit Street that's not working and not being used. Mr. Blakney said, "I was informed at the last meeting that I came to that we had a grant that was purchased to get that pump fixed. He said another reason why I'm asking this is because that street has in the past; I live behind that street, where feces overflow and it comes down my street from that overflow of too much rain. I'm here to ask if anything is going to be done with that grant or what we are going to do to resolve the situation. It was presented several months ago and I'm here to ask if it's something that we'll be able to do with that grant. Are we going to use it for that pump? Can we see about getting that fixed before we go through the same problems with the feces? Mayor Boyd told Tracy we will contact him tomorrow and give him updates on it.

Old Business

Second Reading on Ordinance 2025-06; Water/Sewer Rate Increase (30%) for Outside City Residents

Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the second reading on Ordinance 2025-06; Water/Sewer Rate Increase for Outside City Residents. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. (Councilwoman McRavin read the ordinance) Council discussed the previous dates on the ordinance because the public hearing was done in December. Council then discussed the first usage date on the ordinance. Councilman Gardner said he was going to ask to amend it at the bottom to change the usage to after February 3, 2026, so the first usage date would be March 1st. Councilwoman McRavin said they bill two months behind. Councilman Milling said he knows it's at least one month behind**. Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the ordinance as amended. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, McRavin, Reed, Baccus, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

Discussion of Main Street Program – Mayor Boyd & Mrs. Dyan Cohen

Mayor Boyd asked Ms. Cohen to speak because she has been working on this for us and will give everybody details. Mrs. Cohen said she spoke to most of council last week and it seems like everybody is all about going forward with membership in Main Street South Carolina. She said she is excited and grateful to be given an opportunity to be a part of this. She said the Main Street South Carolina exists to help historic and older cities revitalize their downtown areas and strengthen them. They are part of a nationwide group called Main Street America. They would make available to member cities a lot of deep and expensive levels of expertise from professionals in neighborhood and downtown revitalization. Also, networking, and training. They require members to go to training about four times a year. Councilman Milling said you mentioned training and some upcoming session, when does that take place. Mrs. Cohen said two weeks from tomorrow, which will be February 18th, they are having their first training of the year. It's going to be at S.C. Archives and History. She said having it there is going to be available to attendees, programs and education about historic preservation geared toward cities. Mrs. Cohen said, "I appreciate everyone's support and encouragement for me attending as a member of this city who's interested in helping and can use her experience as a former council member to help with the process. Mrs. Cohen said they have stated that any council member who would like to come and is able to come to this session on February 18th would be great. Councilman Milling asked if there is a deadline for signing up. Mrs. Cohen said there was a deadline for January 28th, but she sent me the contact and said any council member can come. She said if someone thinks they can come then we can put in for it. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Cohen when she would need to know who all can go. Mrs. Cohen said as soon as possible. Councilman Milling wanted to know the cost to the city for councilmembers to attend. Mrs. Cohen said she thinks it's $35; the first attendance is $135 and everybody after that is $35. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Cohen how much she had to pay to attend. She said it was either $125 or $135. Councilman Milling said, "I'd like to get you reimbursed for whatever you paid which would be in Ms. Pridgen's authority and then we know what else to do. He said Ms. Pridgen could write checks and send them off or does she need to coordinate with you if there's anybody who can go. Mrs. Cohen said it might be easier to coordinate with her because it might be easier for the organization for their bookkeeping people if they know it's all under the one city. She said if anybody wants to go, she can register them. Mrs. Cohen asked council if they

wanted her to tell them about the application process or whether they are good for now. She said she was going to tell them about what's necessary and some of the work involved, but it's not necessary to cover it at this minute. Councilman Gardner said we can do it at a work session. He said "I know we need to cut a $400 check, I think. Mrs. Cohen said, "They won't take your check until they get your application and there's a lot involved in the application process. She said one of the things we need to do is figure out how you want to be organized. Are you going to work with a non-profit organization or are you going to have everything strictly under the city? Mayor Boyd said we meet again on the 17th for a work session so we can do it all then; talk about it.

New Business

Community-based Alliance of Rural Peer Support in South Carolina (CARPS SC) – Gregory Jacobs

Mr. Gregory Jacobs, Deputy Director of Community Based Alliance for Rural Peer Support in South Carolina and they are what's called the Community Recovery Organization. They provide peer support services for individuals and family members who may be impacted or affected by substance use disorder. He said they are fully funded by the State of South Carolina, and they are also funded by the County of Darlington to provide those services. They distribute Narcan in the community and they also do the peer support services; if they see someone who's struggling, we talk to them and try to help them format their path to wellness. Mr. Jacobs said they have gotten people connected to substance use treatment, and to infectious disease care. He said they also provide free Hepatitis C and HIV testing. Mr. Jacobs said when I came last year, I came asking for money but I'm not asking for money this time. I just want to let you all know some of the things that we've done. He said they've been in existence since 2003. They started doing minimal services in Darlington, Marion, Williamsburg, Florence, and Dillon counties. From January 1st – December 31, 2025, they have 359 boxes of Narcan here in Darlington. They have recorded fifteen overdose reversals associated with the Narcan that's been distributed. The overall total in the five counties is 107 reversals, 1,283 boxes of Narcan given out. They have attended over fourteen hundred events in the community, and they have hosted and sponsored seventy-five events overall in the City of Darlington. Mr. Jacobs said they have a building located at 104 Jessamine Street. He talked with Krista at the Chamber of Commerce and she set a ribbon cutting date for Monday March 2nd. He said it is a small space, but it will allow them to do more centralized work. Right now, they have a facility in Dillon County which is their main office so this will be a satellite office that he will be managing. Mr. Jacobs said they already have about fifteen or twenty peers he has been working with for the past six months. He said he had a conversation with someone in the city, and they said they didn't see much need for what we do but wherever I go, I see my peers. Mr. Jacobs said this service is not just for …. There's a lot of stigmas attached to what people look like when they are struggling. I'm twenty-eight years and seven months myself, so this is the face of recovery. What we try to do in our organization is get everybody to the place that they need to get to. They have a network of treatment centers, and faith-based ministries. They have medical connections with Hope Health and Care First. He said on Monday, Wednesday & half day on Friday he has been

going around Darlington and different places in the city and servicing folks. He said once they open, they will be able to come, and we can sit down in the office instead of sitting inside my car or sitting inside their house. He said they will also have a recovery support meeting. If you are a family member, if you are a mother, a father, a spouse or whomever and you're interested in how you can help, you can come and sit in at that meeting. Mr. Jacobs said he passed out brochures to council and told them if they don't see anything in the brochure that they think they should be doing for the community, call and let us talk about it and we can set it up. Mr. Jacobs said, "As I said we are fully funded and we're not asking for money, but we are asking for office furniture if you have some available. Mr. Jacobs gave council background on his work history, education, and family. Councilwoman McRavin thanked Mr. Jacobs for the service that he provides. Councilwoman Reed said prior to you trying to set up you had already been moving the community. She said it's a regular thing that we see you at the soup kitchen and we know the number of people that's there that you provide a service to and counsel there. Councilwoman Reed said she is there every Saturday and it's uplifting to know that we finally have this hands-on service. Mr. Jacobs said his co-founder tells him to flex his time because he works so many hours nonstop. He said if he wasn't getting paid to do this, he would still do it anyway. He said he and Mark Face (Crazy Hope) go out after that. They went out about two or three weeks ago and they were in somebody's house and there were about ten or eleven people there. He said Mark Face ministered to them and prayed and he gave them Narcan. Mr. Jacobs said they typically go out on a regular basis, and he has extended space for him until they get their center open on Broad Street. Mr. Jacobs said it's a recovery community center, but it's also a community center, so if someone wants to have any type of meeting, just come to him and let him know what you're doing. He said they can't sell anything because that's not what it's for. If you are a nonprofit or if you're a church-based group or you just want to volunteer, come, and see us.

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. Executive session to discuss Brunson Dargan. ***(The council may act following executive session)***

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to go into executive session at 6:39 PM. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Gardner made a motion to end executive session at 7:04 PM. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. All council members voted to end the executive session.

Reminders / Upcoming Events

1) Monday February 16, 2026, President's Day, City Offices Will Be Closed
2) Tuesday, February 17, 2026, Work Session, 6:00 PM
3) Tuesday March 3, 2026, Regular City Council meeting at 6:00 PM

Councilwoman McRavin said we are three days into February which is Black History Month, so she wanted to have a moment of Black History for the City of Darlington. She read the history of Dr. Dwight Mayo. In 1889 Dr. Dwight Mayo, a nationally known educator envisioned a school designed to further the education of African Americans in Darlington County. One of the early buildings which the state and county used for the education of African Americans was located on Pearl Street in front of the Old Charles Estate, now known as the Darlington Hotel. In 1890 the land was purchased by the school board, and the Mayo School became a reality. An elementary and high school were done in this building. The school remained on this site until 1914. Mayo High School was the first of three African American public high schools in S.C. to be accredited by the State Department of Education during the early 1920's. The original Mayo High school closed its doors in 1995 as a result of a desegregation lawsuit. The newly renovated Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology reopened its doors in 1996.

Adjournment

Upon motion of Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilwoman McRavin the meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM. All Council members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer