CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE OLD COUNCIL CHAMBERS
400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC 29532

MAY 5, 2026, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, Councilpersons Shelia Baccus, Angela McRavin, John Milling, John Segars, Elaine Reed, and Bryant Gardner. Also present were Interim City Manager Ronnie Ward, Gloria Pridgen, Hunter Thomas, Steve Abbott, Sean Odom, Anna DeWitt, Lisa Bailey, Rosa Hudson, Street & Sanitation Superintendent Calvin Holloman, and other citizens.

Mr. Stephen Drew with the News & Press was present at the meeting.

Invocation & Pledge

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

Approval of Minutes

Councilwoman Angela McRavin made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday April 7, 2026, with the necessary changes. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Milling, Segars, Reed, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Boyd said some things were missing from the April 21st minutes, so we will put those on the next regular meeting date.

Citizens Wishing to Appear Before Council

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. Litchard said he came back to complain about the same thing he complained about a year ago, the abandoned building ordinance. Mr. Litchard said the ordinance states abandoned buildings will be $1,000 in the first year; $2,000 in the second and $3,000 etc. Mr. Litchard said, "I have been here for three years, and the same houses and businesses are still sitting there. He said I am going to guess that letters have not been sent out, so the clock doesn't start until the letters are out. I am hoping that somebody can get something going because I have put a boatload of money in my house

and I am tired of looking at everything else falling apart around me. Mr. Ward asked Mr. Litchard if he could give him an address because the letters had been sent to most of those. Mr. Ward asked him if he could give him the address of the house he is concerned about, and he would check on it. Mr. Litchard said there are probably a hundred of them around town. Mr. Litchard said they should be sold if they are not paying any money. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Ward if he was talking about Mr. Litchard's address or the address of the properties. Mr. Ward said, "I am talking about the address of the one you are concerned about. Mr. Litchard said, "I am concerned about several. Mr. Litchard said, "When you start at the downtown Square there's empty buildings there. He said he lives on Cashua Street and would say its address 401 and probably 306. Mr. Litchard said you go down Cashua Street before going down the hill and there is a big one there. Mr. Ward said letters have been sent on most of those, and we are trying to take action on those houses.

City Manager 's Update

Mr. Ward said he wanted to go over a few things that we have been doing and some things that have been going on. **#1** Mr. Ward said he had a meeting this past week with Ron Scott and Katie Engels and they are going over the Landmarks Development Downtown information concerning the downtown properties. Mr. Ward said he found some files upstairs in the street department and those files were given to Mr. Scott. Also Ms. Merry Morgan Smith came and talked to them, and they also gave them a tour of the buildings downtown. So, they've got additional information so they can try to figure out where the title stands and where the rents go. **#2** Mr. Ward said he got sample ordinances for food trucks since that's the thing that's going on now. The existing ordinance we have is a vendor ordinance and it doesn't necessarily accommodate or meet the requirements that it needs to be so we're looking at other cities' ordinances and trying to see what would suit us best. Mr. Ward said he has about four or five cities that have ordinances and he's looking at them and will try to bring one of those and let council look at it and maybe have first reading on it. **#3** He said on the 19th I hope to have some figures together for you to have first reading on the budget. Mr. Ward said he has been getting feedback from the departments and he has the revenue and expense info through the end of April. He said our CPA is coming next week, so he will sit down with her and go over some things to try to get that process completed by the deadline. **#4** Mr. Ward said, I got a bid to do pressure washing of city hall and they will try to do it on a Saturday. They will wash the entire building from the front all the way to the fire department. They will do the tower, the building, and the sidewalks. **#5** Mr. Ward said carts for the sanitation department have been ordered and it will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to get them back. They ordered two hundred green and 250 blue carts. **#6** Mr. Ward said it was brought to our attention by one of the council members that the trail had a ditch on it that might prove to be unsafe. He said he went and looked and sure enough there was a deep ravine there and they are going to put something on that to make sure until we can get the permanent fence up, at that particular spot which is a pretty good incline, that if somebody got

there couldn't get hurt. He said he appreciates Angela bringing it to his attention. **#7** Mr. Ward said he asked Mr. Evans about Magnolia Street and he said they have been there and graded it, but something happened that took them off of the job, but he said they were going to get right back on it so hopefully they can complete the paving of Magnolia Street. **#8** Mr. Ward said they did get the benches out, but they still have to correct the ones on Pearl Street, but the two on South Main Street are down and they will come back later and make them more permanently secure. **#9** Mr. Ward said both garbage trucks are working at the present time, one of the picker trucks is in Lexington. He said we have a little problem with the one that we're using now. He said we should have those operating and catching up. **#10** Mr. Ward said there were questions about people leaving furniture, mattresses etc. and if you noticed in your water bill, Hunter sent out our ordinance on bulky refuse which shows they are not supposed to put that stuff out on the street. Councilwoman Baccus said that's not true. Mr. Ward said that's what the ordinance says. Councilwoman Baccus said, "Yeah because you haven't updated your ordinance. She said we haven't written to update our ordinance, and we voted to change that. She said if you go back and pull the minutes which I'll pull it for you and show it to you, and we voted on it. Mr. Ward asked, "You already voted on it"? And Councilwoman Baccus said yes. Mr. Ward said we were going by what the ordinance says. He said, "I'll pull that back up and look at it. Mayor Boyd said the ordinance was voted on in 2020 and I have a copy of it. Councilwoman Baccus said I am giving you… in 2022 when we raised it $6. She said I can show it to you. I'll pull it up and give it to you. Councilwoman Reed said, "What I want is for us to be clear. I know we sent the ordinance out, but it is the consensus of the community that the raise that we did was to add on a specific time that would be set aside so that they could pick up bulky items. However, we do see that this is the ordinance that we have because we did not go further with it. If it is and in my discussion with the mayor, there is a difference about what the increase was about. I know that we had two increases; one specifically to raise the rate itself and then it was another that came after that and I was under the impression along with a lot of our residents that it was to give them money to set aside a time that they would come back and do bulky items, so that needs to be clear". Mayor Boyd said "It has never been approved so it doesn't need to be updated. It's not an ordinance and no one can provide that. If you can provide that ordinance where everybody voted on it for it to be picked up, please provide it but otherwise don't bring it up because that's why the public thinks that because people say it. He said just because somebody says it doesn't mean it is clear and it's correct. It's incorrect. This council has never voted, and it has never been voted for anybody to pick up bulky material. It's been discussed, it's been talked about, but it's never been approved." Councilwoman Reed said, "What you're missing and what I'm telling you is … what I'm saying is what needs to be clear is what the raise was for and that will show in the minutes. All we have to do is show the minutes from those times. Councilwoman Reed said there were two raises. The first was for an increase for the water which they said hadn't been done in years. After that there was another raise that came and that is what I would like for us to get it and see what it is. Mayor Boyd said we will get that clear and bring it.

Councilwoman Baccus said we have voted in many council meetings to change rules, buy property, sell property without ordinances. We spent last month having back ordinances trying to correct errors that were made in this council where we voted on things that were not legally done. Public hearings were not completed, was not done, and we sold property and brought property and voted on several things. When Alex came with his budget during budget season, he brought that to the council and I'm going to print it out and as a matter of fact, I'm going to post it on my page. Mayor Boyd said, do that for me please. Councilwoman Baccus said, I'm speaking. Councilwoman Baccus went on to say we voted to raise it to $6, I believe in 2022. She said we raised it from $22.00 and some change to $28.00 and some change. There was a heated exchange because Mayor Boyd said I'm going to cut you off tonight because I have asked you and asked you and you keep throwing these allegations with no backing. Councilwoman Baccus said, "What allegations am I throwing out. I'm going to keep speaking. You're not going to interrupt me I don't care who you think you are. Don't let that fool you…. Mayor Boyd said, "your time is up." Councilwoman Baccus said, "Your time is up. She said we raised it to $28.00 and some change and we can go to the water department and you can see where we raised it and we said it was for residential. She said I'm going to print it out and post it on my page because I want all citizens to pay attention … Curtis wants to take your money, but don't want to give you services, that's what he's all about." Mr. Ward said, "OK let's move on." Mayor Boyd said, "OK it's my turn to talk …. (arguing)…. Councilwoman Baccus said, I'm going to interrupt you the same way you interrupted me." Mayor Boyd said, I'm not going to sit here because I've asked you before not to continue to bring up allegations about stuff …. Councilwoman Baccus said it wasn't an allegation these are facts. Mayor Boyd said unless you have some paperwork to show something don't keep saying it. (Talking back and forth) …Mr. Ward said he will look in the minutes and see what he can find. Councilwoman Baccus said, I'm going to print it out for you as soon as I find it.

Mr. Ward said on May 8, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM is the next community concert.

Reminders

Tuesday May 19th, 2026, City Council Work Session at 6:00 PM

Monday May 25th, 2026, Memorial Day City Offices Will Be Closed

MASC Annual Meeting July 16th -July 19th at Hyatt Regency, Greenville SC

Discussion was started by Councilwoman Elaine Reed regarding proposal for trash truck for the sanitation department. Interim City Manager Ronnie Ward provided a response.

Adjournment

Councilman Milling said he will make the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM because we have competed the items on the agenda. Councilman Segars seconded the motion.

Councilpersons Gardner, McRavin, Reed, Baccus, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of adjourning the meeting.

_____ Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Clerk and Treasurer