CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING/WORK SESSION
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026
6 PM

Present at the meeting: Mayor Curtis Boyd, Councilpersons John Segars, Shelia Baccus, Angela McRavin, John Milling and Bryant Gardner. Also, Gloria Pridgen, Ronald Ward and Lacie Weatherford were present. Councilwoman Reed was not in attendance.

Call to Order

Invocation – Led by Mayor Boyd

Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business

First Reading on Ordinance 2026-01 to Increase Parking Ticket Fines – Assistant Chief Micheal Cooke

Motioned by Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilman McRavin to increase parking fines. All in Favor. (rates listed below)

Parking Overtime 1–2-hour zone $10 increased to $25

Parking in a No Parking area $10 increased to $25

Improper Parking $10 increased to $25

Parking at Hydrant or in Fire Lane $25 increased to $100

Parking at Curb, Courthouse $25 (no change in price)

Reserved Handicap Parking $100 increased to $250

Approval to Upgrade/Replacement of LawTrak Software - Assistant Chief Micheal Cooke

Assistant Chief Micheal Cooke said that ARMS had the lowest bid and that they are willing to do it with no initial startup. He also stated that they could do a year-to-year contract with them in the event that they are not happy with their services. He said that they will also need to purchase cell phones so that the officers will have a hot spot for internet connection and a work phone since at this time none of them do, this will allow them to access the new system remotely instead of having to come into the office. Motioned by Councilman Gardner to approve ARMS lowest bid of $8,500 with a startup of $8700. Seconded by Councilman Milling. All in favor.

Motioned by Councilwomen McRavin to purchase up to 30 phones from FirstNet @ 99 cents plus a monthly fee of $38.99 a month. Seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor.

New Business

Resolution for Fair Housing Month

Resolution read by Mayor Boyd.

Update on Ordinances – Mr. Ron Scott

Mr. Ron Scott discussed updating their ordinances and finishing them that had been started previously. Motioned by Council Gardner to obtain Haynesworth, Sinkler and Boyd to assist in updating our ordinance's. Seconded by Councilman Milling. All in favor.

Update on Expanding the Fire District – Mr. Ron Scott

Motioned by Councilman Gardner to obtain Haynesworth, Sinkler and Boyd to assist in updating the expansion of the Fire District. Seconded by Councilwoman McRavin. All in favor.

Proposal for City Manager Search – Mr. Ron Scott

Mr. Ron Scott thought it was better to discuss the matter in executive session.

Discussion & Approval for Batting Cages – Lee Andrews

Mr. Andrews came before council to request a new set of batting cages for Blue Street. Councilwoman McRavin stated Mr. Andrews could he ask the county to help with that purchase, especially since majority of the kids comes from the county and they also pay the same rate as our city kids. She stated that this is unfair that our city taxpayer dollars having to support a facility used primarily by county residents and they are not doing their fair share. She feels that it would be helpful if they would chip in and we do not carry all the financial burden. It was agreed upon that the City would ask for 60 percent. Mayor Boyd agrees to reach out to Mr. Charles Stewart.

Proposal for Tennis/Pickleball Court – Lee Andrews

Council wants Mr. Andrews to get a quote on resealing the courts and lining them to include different ratio use between pickleball courts and tennis courts. The quotes would include 6 pickleball courts/ 2 tennis courts and 9 pickleball courts/1 tennis court.

Purchase of City Park Benches – Lee Andrews

Mr. Andrews stated that he was asked to get the cost of some benches. The cost is $1250.00. These are the exact replica of the benches that are currently around downtown. Mayor Boyd stated that the swings listed on the quote were not for the city but for his personal park. Mayor Boyd stated that he had been asked if

the city would put some benches in the area in front of High Cotton and on Cashua Street. Councilwoman Baccus stated that if you are going to put them there you need to put some down South Main Street in front of businesses. After discussion, Councilman Milling would like to wait to vote. He stated he would like to go look at the area first.

Proposal to Assist Non-profit Group with Purchase of Chairs – Mayor Boyd

Mayor Boyd said that he would like to assist Mr. Gregory Jacobs with CARPS SC, on getting some chairs and things for his business. He stated that Mr. Jacobs was offering to allow people to come in and sit in his business as a warming/cooling station. Motioned by Councilwoman McRavin to give $600 to CARPS SC to purchase furniture for his business. Seconded by Councilman Milling. All in favor.

Council Discussion on Future City Goals and Project

Mayor and all council members shared and discussed their future goal and projects for the city.

Councilman McRavin said she would like to see the upgrades needed at the AW Stanley gym including plumbing issues, resurfacing the parking lot, and replacing the floors at both gyms, cleaning lot beside the pool that the city owns. The clarification of the downtown business that we own. Parking lines put back down on South Main Street. She would also like to see decisions made about the properties we own, and what we are going to do with them. She would like to see the McCullough house renovated for an event center. She also wants to work on getting a public safety building or at least a fire department building and developing a Food Truck ordinance.

Councilman Gardner passed out a paper with his city future goals and projects. He discussed with council. (see attached documentation)

Councilman Segars said he would like to see something done with the buildings on Exchange Street, the Council on Aging Building and the Stone House.

Councilwoman Baccus said she would like to see Mr. Andrews put some soccer equipment/goals at Bowens Manor, some lots on Hwy 52 bypass cleaned up for the purpose of creating a green space for people to stop and rest out while walking and replace the tennis courts at BA Gary. She would also like to see the dog equipment moved from Hampton Street Park to the actual dog park at Bowens Manor.

Councilman Milling would like to have an Infrastructure Plan for the next 5 years and take a look at expanding the sewer service. He would also like to bring more events to the city like some of the other cities do to help draw people in.

Mayor Boyd passed out a paper with his city future goals and projects. He discussed with council. (see attached documentation)

Ms. Dyan Cohen was present to give an update on the Main Street SC Application process. She went over sections approaching completion, work underway, city involvement and help desired from council

Motioned by Councilman Gardner to go into executive session, seconded by Councilman Milling. All in favor.

<u>Executive Session</u>
In accordance with S.C. Code 30-4-70
(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. (Update on contracts for Retail Spaces on Public Square and Purchase of property) *(The council may act following executive session)*

Motioned by Councilman Milling to come out of Executive Session, Seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor.

Motioned by Councilwoman McRavin to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

_____

Mayor

_____

Lacie Weatherford

Mayor Boyd.

- Demo Apartments on Grove St
- Demo Old station on S Main St
- Purchase Property on Square and renovate
- Renovate Exchange st buildings
- Renovate Library
- Work to build New Fire Station on E Broad st property
- Amphitheater remodel
- New Batting cages
- New Pickle Ball courts remodel
- Pave Pool parking lot
- Paint Street signs, update all street signs
- Rehab old cuts in the roads that have settled and finish any unpaved cuts
- Purchase 2 benches for Cashua st
- Get agreement for 3 parking lots to be paved, Cashua and 2 off S Main
- Work on plan to purchase new trash and picker trucks in 2 years or sub out
- Expand the fire district
- Retrieve funds from officers that leave early
- Grants for 3 mile sewer line
- Hire a drug team
- Put in water/drip lines on the square to water flowers
- Pressure wash the city hall
- Clean up entry ways
- Plans for council on aging building
- Plans for library
- Grants for Water tower, sewer line, expansion by Walmart
- Enforce codes on open storage, abandoned buildings/homes.
- Hire a planning/economic development department head
- Start the Main street program
- Christmas garland, red ribbon, lights on light poles down S Main, Pearl, Cashua and N Main streets
- Lights on the tops of the city square buildings
- Sewer line in the Country club
- Use funds from Planning, codes demo funds and Hospitality Fund.
- Continue to expand the city trail

Councilman Gardner

🏗 Infrastructure & Capital Improvements

Parks & Recreation

- Add on to splash pad (fill in missing sprouts)
- Add shading structures (parks, pool, Hampton St Park)
- Repaving by the pool
- Hampton Street Park seating and shading improvements
- Wells Park Dixie Cup collaboration
- Add on to Wells Park lights (walk-through before takedown)
- Pickleball court conversions
- Baseball batting cages

Streets, Sidewalks & Roads

- Correct pothole cuts and smooth with infrared process
- DOT sidewalk and road repair plan & meetings
- Finish the trail (address rights-of-way)
- Find funding to pave trail
- Overhead lights (Cashua only or 4 Corners)

Gateways & Beautification

- Welcome signs / gateways (entrance + "Thanks for Coming" exits)
- Gateway dress-up & development plan
- Plants on the Square (low maintenance / waterless options)
- Determine if we hire a plant/landscape manager

- Lights and garland around the Square (coordinate with County about inner circle)
- Christmas lights (city-wide plan)

🏛 Buildings & Property Strategy

Immediate Issues

- Apt Square Issues
- Burnt-out building (begin using demo funds for acquisition)
- Merle Norman building

Buildings to Discuss / Evaluate/RFP Proposals/ State and Federal Tax Credits that can be

- Whitehouse
- Exchange Building(Stipulations)
- Building on the Square
- Broad Street food truck venue concept
- Carnegie Library improvements (utilize $5K allocation)
- Clean City Hall

Demolition & Redevelopment

- Building demo list
- Start using demo money to purchase burnt-out building

🤝 Partnerships & Collaborations

- St. John's and Brunson Dargan collaborations
- St. John's High School

- Brunson-Dargan Elementary School
- Wells Park Dixie Cup collaboration

Economic Development & Staffing

- Hire Main Street Director / Economic Development Planner
- Develop rental ideas for birthday parties (parks/facilities revenue)
- PR campaign to improve image across the Peedee region
- Ad campaign for the newsletter
- Explore plant maintenance contract (professional vs. low maintenance strategy)

Downtown & Square Enhancements

- Plants in square pots (maintenance plan decision)
- Overhead lights (Cashua vs. Four Corners expansion)
- Garland & lighting around the Square
- Broad Street food truck venue feasibility

Funding & Grants

- Utilize $5K to improve the library
- Find funding to pave the trail
- Explore additional funding for:
- Shading projects
- Gateway signage
- Downtown lighting expansion

- Recreational amenities (pickleball, batting cages)

Seasonal & Aesthetic Enhancements

- Christmas light plan (city-wide strategy)
- Expand Wells Park lighting
- Overhead lights (pilot area decision)
- Garland around Square (coordinate with County)