CITY OF DARLINGTON

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING

HELD IN THE OLD COUNCIL CHAMBERS

400 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC 29532

JUNE 29, 2026, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Boyd, Councilpersons Shelia Baccus, Angela McRavin, John Segars, Elaine Reed, and Bryant Gardner. Councilman John Milling was not present. Also, present were Interim City Manager Ronnie Ward, Gloria Pridgen, Hunter Thomas, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Dyan Cohen, and Kimberly Vinson – CPA.

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

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to open the floor for Public Hearing on Budget FY 2026- 2027. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Cohen said with the police department and getting the department working better, I feel like pay is an issue here. Pay increases are needed for existing officers, as well as making sure that we're having competitive salaries in other departments so we can attract officers. We really have great police officers, and I'm observing maybe that morale is being affected. But they're putting their lives on the line every day, as we know. And I think it's great that the sheriff's office is doing this street crimes unit, and that they're willing to help us with that. But I think that by no means that solved all of our problems relating to street crimes. So, in closing on the topic of the police department, nothing could be more important than safety. And then as far as recycling goes, I've been told that recycling is being funded in the budget, and I wanted to say thank you so much for this. And I have really been proud of the recycling program in Darlington, as well as the yard..... Really, I feel like it's great. I want to shout out to the people, all the people in the city, but especially the street department for the services. And for me, the continuity of our recycling program is very important. So, in our house, I think we have more stuff in the recycle can than we have in regular trash. And I don't think it's great for things like soda cans, water bottles, and lots of other stuff to be going to the landfill. I just wanted to mention that I had another project I was working on and I had multiple conversations in the last couple of years with someone from Sonoco who works on this. And just like other things, they have their act together. They have the know-how and they sort all this stuff, and they sell it, and they get rid of it, and they put it to use, and it's all legitimate. And so, for me, I have no question that

they're doing a good job, but great, we're getting proper services. So once again, I just want to thank you for funding the recycling budget. Thank you.

Councilman Gardner said the police department and all other department employees are all getting a 5% raise. He said we are all doing all we can.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to end the Public Hearing on FY 2026 – 2027 Budget at 6:08 PM. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Baccus, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

SECOND READING ON THE ORDINANCE 2026-04 FY 2026 -2027 BUDGET

Mrs. Kimberly Vinson said in the first three pages on the budget there are just a list of changes that we have made since the last meeting in order to increase the fire department personnel to add for the vacancies that I didn't have on the previous budget. That's the primary reason for the change in the general fund. She said in water and sewer budget she was to add two more vacancy positions, so that the water and sewer department is fully staffed and rely less on temporary services. Mayor Boyd said, “so that everybody is clear, I also spoke to Chief Cavanaugh about his salaries, I think you said a few people were actually out on leave, and you have to compensate back, which actually you had to put somebody in their place. Chief Cavanaugh said that when people leave, we had to pay them out for their vacation time. We had some on leave and some on sick leave, that's what caused the issue in the salaries. Councilwoman Baccus asked do you normally have employees out yearly? Chief Cavanaugh said it depends. Some years, no one gets sick. Some years, like last year, two people got hurt. Councilwoman McRavin said on page three, the expense changes, the hospitality changes. Mrs. Vinson said going back and watching the December 12, 2023, council meeting discussing the Public Facilities Corporation Debt, a certain percentage of it was supposed to be paid out of the general fund and a certain percentage was supposed to be paid out of hospitality tax. She said we had it fully coming out of hospitality tax. Mrs. Vinson said we moved a portion of it into the general fund. So, the general fund is absorbing some of that. And then the adjustment to make that adjustment, we just reduced the amount that we were planning to put in the hospitality tax reserves. Discussion about PDRTA (volume is very low could not hear clearly). Councilwoman Reed, Councilwoman McRavin and Councilman Gardner made comments. Councilwoman Baccus said so out of curiosity, the street and sanitation capital fund, why is there no money. Mrs. Vinson said there is, it's 49,000. Councilwoman Baccus said so you only estimating 49,000. Mrs. Vinson said it's what you bill by the people on the water bills. Mrs. Vinson said Well, right now it's just a projection. She said right now I don’t know what your June bills are when I did this. It was just an estimate. We are talking about a $1500

difference. Mrs. Vinson said that it's just an estimate. Councilwoman McRavin asked a question about rate increase in water & sewer (could not hear clearly). Mrs. Vinson said the water and sewer change I made is where I went back and looked at February compared to March and just took the difference there and kind of prorated it out for the whole year. Councilwoman Baccus said you estimate planning is going to go up almost 70,000? Mrs. Vinson said we don't have an employee in planning right now, but you are planning to hire someone so it's going to go up once you hire someone. Councilwoman Baccus said you expect it to go up that much? Mrs. Vinson said yes based on payroll taxes and retirement. Mrs. Vinson said your retirement is 18.56% of the salary.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the Second Reading on Ordinance 2026-04 FY 2026-2027 Budget. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd all favor.

Reminders/Announcements

On Friday July 3, 2026 – July 4th Holiday – City Offices Will Be Closed

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 – Next Regular City Council Meeting

July 14 – 19, 2026 - Municipal Association Annual Meeting

Friday, July 17, 2026 - Level 10 Band on the Square

Adjournment

Upon motion of Councilwoman Angela McRavin, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM. All approved the motion to adjourn.

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MAYOR

ATTEST: _____

ASSISTANT CLERK & TREASURER