CITY OF DARLINGTON

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, August 6, 2026
6:00 PM
Held in the Old Council Chambers – City Hall
400 Pearl Street, Darlington, SC 29532

Present: Mayor Curtis Boyd, Interim City Manager Ronnie Ward, Clerk & Treasurer Gloria Pridgen. Councilpersons Angela McRavin, John Milling, John Segars, Elaine Reed, Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner. Also, present were Attorneys Ron Scott & Joseph Dickey, Anna DeWitt, Sean Odom, Carl & Margie Goodson, Steve Abbott, Alison Carraway, Clarence Chapman, Ernestine Lyde, Tracy Blakney, Aspen Evans, Diane Sigmon, and other attendees.

News Media Present: Mr. Stephan Drew from the News & Press.

I. Call to Order by Mayor Boyd

II. Invocation by Mayor Boyd

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. <u>Approval of Minutes</u>

Regular City Council Meeting –Tuesday July 7, 2026 – 6:00 PM. **Councilwoman McRavin made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday July 7, 2026. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Milling, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

V. <u>Citizens Wishing to Appear Before Council</u>

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.)***

<u>Alison Carraway</u> said she is the President of the Terrance F. Carraway Foundation, the widow of Terrance Carraway. Mrs. Carraway said The Terrance F. Carraway Foundation respectfully asks that the City partner with them both financially and operationally in presenting the official opening of the S.C. Fallen Officers Memorial and in helping to establish the memorial as a permanent destination within our city. She said this request is more than for funding of a single ceremony. It's an opportunity for Darlington to invest in a permanent asset that honors South Carolina's fallen officers while generating tourism, economic activity, educational opportunities, and statewide recognition for Darlington. Mrs. Carraway said we are honoring our hometown hero Sgt. Terrance who dedicated thirty-two years of his life to law enforcement and in the military. She said on October 2, 2026, they are planning a private unveiling; an RSVP for fallen officers' families, law enforcement agencies, schools, civic groups, council, mayor, and anyone that has had or taken part in this being established. She said this is an economic and tourism opportunity because every person who visits this memorial is a potential visitor to our restaurants, stores,

fuel stations, museums, attractions, and downtown businesses. Mrs. Carraway said they are asking and request that the city fund the Fallen Officers Memorial with a $5,000 donation to help with the grand opening ceremony procedures as well as partner with them as they progress, learn and grow. Mrs. Carraway said on August 10th the granite will start being placed and they will have cranes placed the granite memorials of all the fallen officers and canines. She said that it is up to 441 names as of now. There will be an annual event each year to add names of officers that lost their lives the previous year. There will be a shelter area where picnics or events can be rented out with a donation. Students can come and find the officer's name and find out the history of that person. Mrs. Carraway said she is also working on getting a kiosk to place in the memorial where they can put the person's name in and the history will come up. She said if it's a family member, they can show their respect and take photos. She said they have the bagpiper from Terrance Carraway's funeral coming, they have a request for the S.C. Highway Patrol Honor Guard to be there and also have Charleston Airforce Base in attendance as well. They will have catering, tents and chairs set up, and security. She said parking will be at Macedonia Baptist Church, and they will have a shuttle that will transport the guests from there to the location. She said the MC for the event is Tonya Brown, and both TV stations are supposed to be there. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve Terrance Carraway Foundation for a $5,000 donation.** Councilman Milling asked the attorneys if we could vote on this without it being on the agenda. Attorney Ron Scott said I do think that might be a point of consideration because it is a final action. Mr. Scott asked if there is a reason why we can't hold off until the next meeting. Councilman Milling and Mayor Boyd said we can hold off until the next meeting. **Councilman Gardner withdrew his motion.**

Don Blakney said he is a member of Macedonia Baptist Church and S. Main Street was paved and there were parking lines on the side of the road. He said they had two incidents already and he's coming to ask if there is a time frame that they will put the lines back down to prevent a bad accident. Mr. Ward said I'm trying to do that. He said he had a guy who I thought would already have done it, but it appears he's busier than he thought he would be. Mr. Ward said he's looking at getting estimates to see if we can't speed that up. Mr. Blakney said he lives at 129 Bacote Street and there's two properties by his house that have grown up again.

Councilwoman Baccus said she has information that she is going to pass out … on June 29, 2020, at a special city council meeting, this council voted to raise citizens sanitation bills $6.00 to pick up items placed on the side of the street. I pointed this out at a council meeting three months ago and I was accused of lying. This was done during a budget meeting. Note that on the second page the conversation with Mr. Alex Gainey who was then the Street & Sanitation Supt. Mr. Gainey recommended that we raise the sanitation bills to $6.00 to cover the cost of picking up items off the street. She said Mr. Gainey's proposal was to go up to $28.50 and pick up anything they put outside the road. Curtis Boyd said, "I agree with you, but I would agree to go $6.00 to pick up all of that. The increase went into effect on October 20th bill therefore the citizens are paying for this service. Citizens received a note in their water bill several months ago stating that the city will not pick up their items. She said the city needs to stop billing the citizens for this service. She said the city manager needs to correct the message that went out in the water bills and the News & Press needs to print an article correcting the information they printed several months ago in their paper. Councilwoman Baccus said, I councilwoman Baccus don't believe in taking advantage of the citizens of Darlington and will not sit silently and allow it to be done. Councilwoman Baccus said on the last page of the documentation shows a picture of a city sign on the ground. She said she mentioned this

sign during a budget meeting and was accused of lying. She said if you drive past Georgia Pacific and Bowens Manor, the sign is on the ground.
(Councilwoman Baccus passed out the documentation that she has to those in attendance that live in the city and to council.)

Sean Odom said on behalf of the NAACP they would like to present to the City of Darlington and specifically the cooling center a check in the amount of $100. Councilwoman McRavin said she appreciates the donation. Sean Odom said as the Third Vice-President of the NAACP when you have Black young people who all council members always talk about there's no racism but when you show evidence like this, what about the young people who live with their parents and they can't afford to continuously pay all of this because of all the other continuous things this council continues to raise. He said I think you all need to redo this ordinance …. and relook at everything, especially the water bills.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business

POP Funding Request

Mr. Carl Goodson said he is the Chairperson of Power of Progeny Foundation, a nonprofit organization as you all saw last month. He thanked the mayor and council for allowing them to come and present before them. Mr. Goodson said their camp is a leadership camp which allows them to do the arts. Mr. Goodson said several council members have attended, and they have never come and asked for anything. They have done everything through their own fundraising or donations. Mr. Goodson said because the camp is affecting so many of the young people in the City of Darlington, he is asking the city council to give them any kind of grant. Mr. Goodson said he is requesting an amount of no less than $500 in the next funding that you do. Mayor Boyd asked how often they meet. Mr. Goodson said the camp is only once a year during the summer for one week. **Mayor Boyd made a motion for the city to donate $1,000. Councilwoman Reed said she would like to see if we could at least make the funding request of $2,000. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion to give a $2,000 donation to POP. Councilpersons Gardner, Milling, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.** Councilman Milling said for purposes of the clerk and the city manager, give them a location of where to pull the money from. Mr. Ward said, council salaries.

Purchase of New Trash Truck & Picker Truck – Mr. Ronnie Ward

Mr. Ward said he talked with Amick Equipment in Columbia who we have dealt with for a number of years. Mr. Ward said we have a truck there now and it's going to cost $13,000 to fix it. He said he asked them since they are right there in Columbia and they deal with garbage trucks and pickers what they had and if they could help us and what we could do to upgrade these trucks. Mr. Ward said the cost of the picker is $218,900 and a new garbage truck is $239,900. He said they have an annual lease program, and you can pay either three annual payments or five annual payments. Mr. Ward said three annual payments for the picker would be $81,825.56. The garbage truck would be $89.361.57 for three years. The five-year plan for the picker truck would be $51,900.90. The garbage truck would be $56,680.90. He said at the end of the five-year lease you would pay them $1.00 and you would own the trucks. Mr. Ward said Councilwoman McRavin sent him information on another company that does this also. He said he sent the company the same information for the same trucks and asked them to send him

a lease comparison, He said if they come back with something better than this, he will bring it back to them. Mr. Ward said he would like the council to go ahead and approve at least this amount. He said he talked with the clerk, and we can afford to make the payments. Mayor Boyd asked if we are able to do the three-year option rather than the five-year option and what is the warranty on the trucks. Councilwoman McRavin asked about the repair/maintenance plan they are offering for the vehicles. Mr. Ward said since we are leasing these vehicles, they would include any major problems that went with the vehicles. Councilman Milling wanted to know if we checked with Kimberly to see if this would cause us to exceed our debt limit. Mr. Ward said we talked about it during the budget and her answer was that this was the way we would need to do it. Councilwoman McRavin said, "If we did this lease program are we still going to have enough space to get the police chief to be in a lease for the Police Chief because they need a fleet as well." Mr. Ward said there's no doubt they have a need and we're trying to look at ways we can accommodate them. He said we have to do this because we know from past experience this is a priority. Council continued the discussion…Attorney Ron Scott said he has not had a chance to review the agreement, but he wanted to point out that we do have non appropriation clauses in a lease purchase agreement according to S.C. law requirements to avoid some financing concerns. Mr. Scott said he would like to take a look at it to verify it complies with the appropriate lease purchase provisions. He said typically that's put in the form of a resolution with the terms of the lease financing and non-appropriation clause. Mr. Scott suggested that council table this until they can review it and bring it back at the next meeting. Councilman Gardner said anything over $5,000 we are supposed to get three quotes, so he wants to make sure we're doing that unless it's through a purchasing plan through the State. Councilman Gardner asked council if they could wait another two years before we purchase the next one so they will be cycling on and cycling off at different times. Mayor Boyd asked Mr. Ward to make sure it's documented that the company will take care of and get the specs….

Food Truck Ordinance 2026–08 - Mr. Ronnie Ward

Mr. Ward said he had Attorney Mr. Ron Scott make sure the proper wording is in the food truck ordinance. Mr. Ward said the object was to go ahead and get an ordinance that provides for food trucks. He said they looked at food truck ordinances from several municipalities and came up with an ordinance that would work for us. Mr. Ward said he already has a recommendation for two additions and deletions on the proposed ordinance he presented to them. He said it was recommended by an insurance agent that we should add that the city requires $1 million for liability insurance and has the City of Darlington listed as the insured. Another change under renewal process as it relates to permits, we don't do permits for the food trucks, we only do business licenses. Mr. Ward said he's asking the council to approve first reading of the ordinance and he'll make the changes he mentioned and get it back to them prior to having second reading. Mr. Scott said because it raises all the implications of …. These are land use regulations so it would be appropriate to send them to the planning commission for review and comments. Attorney Scott said he received feedback related to how many food trucks might be placed per x number of feet of road footage and other things that are valid considerations. He said the next step will be to take it to the planning commission to get comments and bring it back to council for a public hearing and second and final reading. Attorney Scott said he sees no reason why we couldn't do first reading tonight. Councilwoman McRavin brought up concerns about food carts, vehicles that may drive up to the food truck. Councilmembers continued to discuss …. Mr. Ward said you're never going to get everything on a piece of paper that's not going to come up. Mr. Ward suggests that as it goes through planning, we can get those concerns out and have a second reading of the things you feel need to be in there. Councilman Gardner said if something comes up, they can address it. He said he wants to make sure we look at the fees and look at a way to be able to enforce and make sure we're receiving the hospitality tax like the restaurants are required to do. Attorney Scott to help with moving this along, I think it might be appropriate to consider a motion to refer this to the planning commission for such

modifications, additions, deletions based upon the comments of council tonight and bring back a recommendation that's inclusive of the most appropriate ordinance for the city and then at that point and time you will have a better document to make comment upon and consider second reading. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading on Food Truck Ordinance No. 2026-08. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

Councilman Milling made a motion to refer the food truck ordinance to the Planning Commission for further comments and revisions as may be appropriate. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

First Reading on Parade Ordinance 2026-09 – Mr. Ronnie Ward

Mr. Ward said this ordinance is something that needs to be done because we have a lot of parades and we don't charge anybody to have a parade, but it comes back on us when we have to put out cones, and we have police that have to block roads, etc. He said he looked at an ordinance that was recommended by the former Interim City Manager, Mr. Bill Taylor. Mr. Ward said it costs the city money, and we should be compensated for that cost. Mr. Ward said included with the ordinance is an application and a fee schedule for all associated costs. Councilwoman McRavin asked about a charge for the street sweeper. Councilman Milling wanted to know if we're going to require the money upfront for roll carts and will there be a record keeping process. Mr. Ward said if the police are there doing what they are asked to do and they pay for three hours and they keep it for four hours, then they will tell us and we can rebill them for an extra hour. Councilman Milling said he's wondering if there's some kind of penalty provision that we can provide that says if you don't do what you're supposed to then you cannot have a parade next year. Mr. Ward said you can always go back. Mayor Boyd said this is just first reading so we can address it. Attorney Scott said this is just first reading, and they are going to provide touchups on some things. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve the First Reading on Parade Ordinance 2026-09. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

Councilman Milling said he would like for us to put on the next agenda whether or not we want to have a float in the Christmas Parade. Mrs. Anna DeWitt said we probably should have done this a couple of months ago because they usually fill up pretty quickly.

Employee Handbook Update

Attorney Joseph Dickey said updating the employee handbook is ongoing with different provisions. Mr. Dickey said some of the big highlights are looking at some of the policies regarding Equal Employment Opportunity. He said with administration changes in D.C .so there is new implementation of laws regarding executive orders and other laws regarding the EOC. With us being a municipality, they need to look at some of that throughout the handbook to ensure we aren't impacted by any federal funding that might be attached whether by the agency out of D.C. or otherwise. He said some of the other issues include permissible vs mandatory language. Some of the other areas they are looking at include leave policies, probationary period, grievance process, etc. Mr. Dickey said they will have this done in a reasonable period and provide them with a draft of the handbook, but some of the more detailed discussions they will have in executive sessions.

VIII. Executive Session

a. Discussion and Receipt of legal advice regarding appointment of individuals to City boards, committees, and commissions – S.C. Code 30-4-70(a)(1)

b. Discussion and Receipt of legal advice regarding pending legal action regarding real property – S.C. Code 30-4-70(a)(2)
c. Discussion and Receipt of legal advice regarding contractual matters pertaining to the purchase and/or sale of real property – S.C. Code 30-4-70(a)(2)
d. Discussion and Receipt of legal advice regarding employment of City employees and employment contracts – S.C. Code 30-4-70(a)(1)
e. Discussion of employment matters regarding selection of the City Manager – S.C. Code 30-4-70(a)(1)

Possible Votes as a Result of Executive Session

Councilman Milling made a motion to go into executive session at 7:13 PM. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Came out of executive session.

Councilman Milling made a motion to end executive session at 9:03 PM. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Board Appointments

1)Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilman Milling, to appoint Linda Bekham to the Beautification Board. Councilpersons McRavin, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

2)Councilman Gardner made a motion to appoint Vivian Jackson to the Beautification Board. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

3)Councilman Gardner made a motion to approve moving on to the second phase of interview process for the city manager. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, Segars, Reed, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

IX. Reminders/Announcements

a. Tuesday, August 18, 2026 - Public Hearing & Special Meeting
b. Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM– Regular City Council Meeting
c. Monday, September 7, 2026 - Labor Day, City Offices Will Be Closed
d. Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM - City Council Special Meeting

X. Adjournment

Upon motion of Councilwoman McRavin, seconded by Councilwoman Reed the meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer