CITY OF DARLINGTON

SOUTH OF PEARL RESTAURANT, 117 PEARL STREET, DARLINGTON, SC at 12 NOON

&

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM
400 PEARL ST., DARLINGTON, SC 29532
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 - AT 6:00 PM

PRESENT AT THE MEETING:
Mayor Curtis Boyd, Interim City Manager Ronnie Ward, Councilpersons Baccus, McRavin, Reed, Milling, and Segars. Councilman Gardner arrived at 12.26 PM. Also, present was Clerk & Treasurer Gloria Pridgen, City Manager Candidate Mr. Joe Samaniego, and Attorney Ron Scott.

Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

Councilwoman made a motion to go into executive session at 12:07 PM to discuss the City Manager's contract with Mr. Joe Samaniego. Councilwoman Baccus seconded the motion. Councilpersons Reed, Milling, Segars, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilwoman McRavin had to leave the meeting at 1:15 PM. Councilman Milling left the meeting at 1:17 PM. Councilwoman Baccus left the meeting at 1:27 PM.

Councilwoman Reed made a motion to end the executive session at 1:59 PM. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. All voted in favor of ending the executive session.

Adjournment
Upon motion of Councilwoman Reed, seconded by Councilman Gardner, the meeting adjourned at 1:59 PM. All approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

PART 2 OF TODAY'S MEETING

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COURTROOM
400 PEARL ST., DARLINGTON, SC 29532
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 – AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT AT THE MEETING:
Mayor Curtis Boyd, Interim City Manager Ronnie Ward, Councilpersons Baccus, McRavin, Reed, Milling, Gardner, and Segars. Also, present was City Clerk & Treasurer Gloria Pridgen, Mrs. Diane Sigmon, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mr. Jim Litchard, Senator Chaplin, Attorney Ron Scott,

Attorney Joseph Dickey, Police Chief Davis, W&S Director Michael Morris, and City Manager candidate Mr. Joe Samaniego.
Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order.

Prayer was led by Mayor Boyd followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Milling made a motion to amend the agenda for tonight's September 22, 2026, special meeting to add, under New Business, cconsideration of a Resolution committing the City of Darlington to provide a local match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Problem Solver Grant and following City Procurement Policy when securing services and products with grant funds. Because this item is being added after the meeting has begun under S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-80(A), and because there has not been and will not be an opportunity for public comment on it with the required prior public notice, I further move that council find that an emergency or exigent circumstance exists if this item is not added, specifically, that the Municipal Association of South Carolina, Problem Solver Grant requires the City's commitment resolution by September 25th, 2026, a date that falls before the City's next scheduled meeting and could not reasonably have been noticed 24 hours in advance. I ask that this motion, the finding, and its basis be recorded in the minutes and that the vote be taken by a two-third vote of the members present and voting. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Baccus, Reed, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.
Mayor Boyd said we will put this at the top of "New Business."

Old Business
Mayor Boyd asked for a motion to consider the old business for Ordinance.
2026-10 to be discussed in executive session. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to add consideration of Second Reading on Ordinance No. 2026-10 to be added to our executive session for Item #B for legal advice. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Milling, McRavin, Baccus, Segars and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.**

New Business
Councilman Gardner made a motion to move Item "B" for the grant application to Item "A" under new business. Councilman Milling seconded the motion. Councilpersons McRavin, Reed, Baccus, Segars, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Problem Solver Grant. Councilman Milling read the resolution in its entirety but Attorney Scott told him he only had to read the title which is: A Resolution Committing the City/Town of Darlington to providing a local match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Problem Solver Grant and following its procurement policy when securing services and products with grant funds. Councilwoman McRavin seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Segars, Reed, Baccus, and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion.

Senator J.D. Chaplin said what he wants to discuss is what they can do at the State level to help the City of Darlington. He said a lot of times there are problems going on inside of the city limits that the State can help with, but they don't know about it. He said if they don't know about it then they can't help with it. He said there is no issue that's too big, or too small or too trivial to discuss with them. If they can help, they will. He said if we have certain state roads inside the city limits that are flooding out, he needs to know about it; if there are issues with the state rights-of-way not being mowed properly, he needs to know about it. Mr. Chaplin said he wants to know about these issues so he can get them addressed and fixed. Mayor Boyd said we have issues with the storm drains and flooding on Pearl Street by Takis and First Citizens, Chestnut Street, Virgil Wells Circle. Councilwoman Reed said there's another area on the corner of Jessamine & Dargan Streets; Councilwoman Reed said it is the block from S. Main Street, and it may end at Hickory Street. Mayor Boyd said another issue is with all the ditches from the By-Pass by Pizza Hut and coming all the way up to Timmonsville Highway. Councilman Gardner said where Oakview & Oklahoma meet is an old railroad bed and there is a pipe going up under it that supposed to take it to Black Creek and where it crosses under the road it doesn't ever really flow. Councilwoman Reed said there's a ditch behind Bowens Manor that floods. Councilwoman Baccus said the ditch is on state land, but it runs down the side and back of Bowens Manor. She said the ditch is eroding and a lot of the problem is coming from Georgia Pacific. She said you also need to add Reid Street to that list. Senator Chaplin asked if a ditch is on Reid Street and Councilwoman Baccus said, no it floods a lot. Senator Chaplin asked what other issues we are having other than drainage issues. Councilwoman McRavin said the city needs funding to build a new fire department. She said the police department is running out of space, and we need a new facility. She said we have property that we could use that we already own on which we could build a facility, but we need funding to help with that. Councilwoman Baccus said one of the big problems on Allen Street and several other streets, …. I don't know whose bright idea it was to pour concrete in the storm drains. Also, Second Street and Avenue F have the same issue. Councilman Milling said the main thoroughfares receive attention from time to time from SC DOT but once you get off the main thoroughfares and into neighborhood streets, they are lacking attention as far as paving of the streets. Councilwoman Reed said we need funds for housing projects. Councilman Gardner said there may be state funds available that we don't know about to help with the redevelopment of our downtown. Councilman Gardner said our infiltration tanks will need to be replaced, the backhoe is at the end of its life and the estimated cost for another one will cost approximately $95,000. We need four patrol cars at $80,000. The water department needs three pickup trucks. We have a vac truck that is getting toward the end of life, and we will need another one. We have trails that you all have helped us with but there will be other sections that we will need help with. Senator Chaplin said PARD Grants are relatively easy. Councilwoman McRavin said most of our recreation facilities are in need of updates. She said at this point it would be nice to build a complex. She said there are sections of the basketball court where you can't bounce the ball. They have a basement that floods and that's where their primary offices are. We would love to be able to have a new complex for them to provide opportunities for additional tournaments. They already host basketball tournaments, but the facility is small and because they do have gym floors that need to be replaced, I would like to see if there is any funding for recreation where we could

potentially get a new facility. Councilman Milling said the Fallen Officers Memorial is pretty much completed now, and it would be good to have some signage on 52 By-Pass that would direct people to come down S. Main Street for that memorial. He said everything wants to go on the By-Pass so it would be good to have signage that directs people to historic downtown Darlington. Mayor Boyd asked if there's a way to rearrange or shift the funds that are being sent to the state from the cities. He asked Senator to look into that. Senator Chaplin went over the list of issues that council members provided to make sure he didn't miss anything: Storm drains by the old Hardees interchange up to Belk Funeral Home, Chestnut Street, over by Taki's, Jessamine & Dargan, area over by Hickory, ditches on the By-Pass by Darlington Gun Works, Oklahoma, Oakview Street, then drainage pipe near the railroad, Cashua Street by Swift Creek, ditches by Bowens Manor, Reid Street, Allen Street; concrete in drains on Allen Street, Second Street, F Avenue, Jessamine Street; Public Safety building for police and fire; all of our smaller secondary streets need to be looked at, if not paved, at least be patched; $2 million for a main drainage line for the city; help on cleaning up the old dilapidated buildings around the city and on the Square; infiltration system for the city water towers when they get reworked, 4 new police cars; 3 trucks for the water department; a vac truck, recreation department updates along with a sign for the Fallen Officers; City entrance sign coming into the city that says "Welcome to Darlington" and the Veterans Memorial. Senator Chaplin asked how many streets inside the City of Darlington are owned by the city. Councilman Gardner said, thirty-seven but Mayor Boyd said he thinks it's forty-three or forty something.

Executive Session

Mayor Boyd asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters related to the city manager and discussion of Ordinance 2026-10

Councilman Milling made a motion to go into executive session at 6:58 PM for discussion of personnel matters related to the city manager search and matters relating to real estate and receipt of legal advice pursuant to S.C. Code Annotated Section 30-4-70(a)(1) and 30-4-70(a)(2). Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, McRavin, Segars, Baccus and Mayor Boyd voted in favor of the motion. (Council may or may not vote as a result of executive session.)

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman McRavin, the executive session ended at 8:19 PM. All voted in favor of the motion.

Reminders

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM next Regular City Council Meeting
Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM, Sweet Potato Festival on Public Square
Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM Special City Council Meeting

Adjournment

Upon motion of Councilwoman McRavin, seconded by councilman Gardner motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. All council members approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer