

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AT 6:00 PM**

The City of Darlington held a work session in the Old Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Present at the meeting: Mayor Gloria C. Hines, City Manager Howard Garland; Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Coleman Cannon, Carolyn Bruce, John Segars, Elaine Reed and Bryant Gardner. Others in attendance included: Mrs. Karen Carroll, Calvin Holloman, Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Lee Andrews, Ms. Rhonda D. Brown, Mr. BoBBY Ross, Mr. Alex Gainey, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Mike Hanna & Mr. Ryan Hayes.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and Mayor Pro-Tem Coleman Cannon gave the invocation.

**STREET & SANITATION DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT NEEDS –
MS. KAREN CARROLL**

Ms. Carroll provided a “wish list” of equipment they would like to have. She said Councilman Gardner came to the Street Department and talked with her department and the “wish list” was compiled based on employee input. She divided the report into two sections; 1) Equipment items under \$5,000 and Equipment over \$5,000. Ms. Carroll showed the Sanitation Department trucks on route every day and the expenses for repairs on the vehicles from 2014-2017. She said repairs on the 2007 garbage truck from 2014-2017 were \$36,548 and we spent \$11,545 on repairs for the 1991 Cherry Picker. She included a list of other department needs. Presently, they only have two on the grass crew and one female employee will be leaving to go on maternity leave, so they need to replace her immediately. She said they have started a capital fund and presently have over \$15,000 in the account. Ms. Carroll told Council she wanted to provide background information on what they do and how important new equipment is for them. Councilman Bryant Gardner asked if equipment breakdowns were costing them in their production and Ms. Carroll said, “Yes”. Ms. Carroll said one week they only had one truck operating. Mr. Garland said if it wasn’t for SCDOT helping them out during the Hurricane, we would have been in really bad shape. Councilwoman Bruce asked for a ballpark figure for a new truck. Ms. Carroll said that discussion is in the next section of her report. Mayor Hines asked if we could get a price for a retrofit for the 2015 garbage truck.

Mr. Calvin Hollman said the side loader would not be convenient for the City. Mayor Hines said that was what Mr. Garland showed her. Mr. Garland said he was talking about a new truck because he doesn't think we can retrofit the 2015 truck. Councilwoman Reed said two people sitting near her were discussing that the way the truck is made it would be impossible to do what we're proposing. Ms. Carroll said we would have to get a new truck. Councilman Gardner said all of the items on the list "Under \$5,000" totals \$8,000, so it's cheap on the budget to give them these items. He said if you add up the items under "Over \$5,000" list, those items total \$376,000. He said in comparison to the fire truck we just purchased was \$360,000 so all the items they need to get them up to full production is right at the price of the fire truck. Councilman Gardner said the old garbage truck we are using takes three people to operate, but if we buy the new garbage truck with the arm, it only requires one person to operate. He said that would free up two people to do other things within the department. He said he hopes council will approve the \$376,000 which will give the Street Department all the things they need to fully do their jobs. He said he hopes we'll be able to go ahead and get the items for \$8,000. Ms. Carroll said to give clarity on the side arm garbage truck, it would relieve employees, but Calvin said it would be more expensive in the long run. Mr. Garland wanted to know how? Mr. Holloman said any time you've got a vehicle with more mechanical parts, it will be more expensive. Mr. Garland said he worry about guys riding on the back of the truck holding on while it's going 40 mph. Mr. Garland said from a safety standpoint, that trumps anything else. He said he'd rather save the workers' lives. Mayor Hines asked if it's possible to have a seatbelt around the employees and the answer was, "No". Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked Mr. Holloman and Ms. Carroll what they wanted for their department. Mr. Holloman said he understands about the safety of the employees and it will probably be better because you only need one person to operate it, but you have to think about the fact that you have to go down the same street twice because it only loads from one side. Mr. Holloman said with the rear loader, you pick up as you go. Councilman Milling wanted to know how the side loader works and how it engages itself. Mr. Holloman said the operator doesn't have to leave the truck, an arm extends, picks up the can and dumps it into the truck. He said the entire street would have to be clear on pickups days if we were to get a truck like this. Ms. Carroll said our residents don't just put their roll carts out, but they have bags of garbage and other stuff. Therefore, the worker will have to get out anyway. Councilwoman Bruce asked about the type of raingear the workers are using now. Ms. Carroll said what they have now is not sturdy and it rips as soon as they lift their arms.

Mayor Hines asked about our equipment inventory and how it's maintained because she knows that at one time we had a serious problem with items being missing. Ms. Carroll said their equipment is maintained very well. Mr. Garland said the problem they once had is gone. Councilman Milling asked if \$50 was enough for a decent rain suit and Ms. Carroll said, "Yes". Mr. Garland said he put together the proposal for a sanitation fee increase of \$3.00. He said we haven't had an increase since 2012. He said we need to do this because we've dedicated \$1.50 of the sanitation fee to go into the Street & Sanitation Capital Fund and if we increase this fee we can get new equipment and pay for it on time. Councilman Gardner asked Council their opinion on getting everything listed on the "Under \$5,000" list. Mr. Garland said in the Street & Sanitation Department line item they have money to pay for some of these things on the list. Councilman Gardner said he would rather them not do that. Mr. Garland said he want to leave the Street & Sanitation Capital fund alone for two or three years so it can build up. Councilman Gardner asked if there were any other funds where they can get this money from. Mr. Garland stated again, they have line items in their budget. Councilman Gardner said he wouldn't want to hurt the street department budget because it's tight right now, so if we can, find the \$8,000 somewhere else. Mr. Garland said they are going to meet Thursday morning on this. Councilman Milling said when you are checking on costs, see how many people are utilizing the one-person garbage truck and if an entity has been using this feature for the last 1-3 years, find out what kind of maintenance costs they've got so we can address Calvin's concern. Mr. Garland told Ms. Carroll they are good on her department for now and can go over the other part at the next session.

CHALMERS STREET STORM WATER RIA GRANT – MS. JANNIE LATHAN & MR. MIKE HANNA

Ms. Jannie Lathan introduced Mr. Hanna and said he would do a quick overview. Ms. Lathan said they submitted the grant and in that grant, was a preliminary engineering report that was submitted. She said Mr. Hanna and his team designed based on that preliminary engineering design, but realized that we couldn't build according to that design because DHEC requires at a minimum that a design event be 25 years and the design that was submitted wouldn't pass a 2 ½ year design. Ms. Lathan said the City Manager asked Hanna Engineering to go back and come up with a proper design that he can get permitted. Mr. Mike Hanna provided maps of the SW Drainage Project area. Mr. Hanna said they discovered additional parts of the sub-basin that goes to the Fleming Street outfall. He said they had no idea that the sub-

basin west of the railroad track = 62 acres existed. He said they surveyed along the railroad track and found pipes and there's ditches leading to them, but no pipes are under the railroad track. Mr. Hanna said there had to be pipes under the track, so they dug a 2-foot hole and found the top of a pipe. He said the top of the pipe is 2 feet below the ditch, so it hadn't worked in a long time. He said everything west of the railroad track had no way to get under the railroad track. He said unfortunately, that's 62 more acres of rain water that's got to come through this system that's right in the middle of the SW Drainage Project. Mr. Hanna said DHEC and SCDOT make them design for a 25-year storm event in a residential neighborhood, but if it's on a main thoroughfare like Pearl Street, it's got to meet a 50-year storm event. He said the specs don't meet a 2-year storm event. Mr. Hanna said they looked at what they needed to do to meet a 25-year storm. On the first map, he showed where the existing drainage area showed 42" RCP, open ditches and various size pipes. The second map showed their proposal. They will change the 42" pipe to 72" pipe then connect to a 60" pipe. He said all of this will cost a lot more money. Councilman Milling asked how long have the current pipes been in existence. Mr. Hanna said they don't have that information. Councilman Segars said, "If you've got water flowing through the Chalmers Street area ditch would the 48" not take care of the flow going through there"? Mr. Hanna said it would take care of a portion of it, but not a 25-year storm. He said with the present pipe size we have, it would barely flow a 2-year storm. Mr. Hanna said there's a 4-foot-high pile of sand in the middle of it. He said everything west of Chalmers Street is held up by the 200' – 300' long pile of sand. Ms. Lathan said the positive side of this is this information has been picked up in the survey process and the City Manager has been briefed. Mr. Garland said some of our staff can do this. He said the major drainage problem on Chestnut Street and other streets is the area he is talking about. Councilman Segars said we could have an excess of 4' of water going through that pipe at some point and time. Mr. Hanna said, "yes", if we got rid of the 300' plume of sand. Councilman Segars said, "If this sand were removed, you don't think the 4' pipe would work"? Mr. Hanna said it would handle a 2-year storm, but it wouldn't handle a 10 or 25-year storm. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Hanna how much open ditch would we have in his design plan. Mr. Hanna said everything shown on the map in a solid color will be piped, which is a little more money than we have. He said they may have to make hard decisions down the road that some of the solid color pipe may have to be left open ditch. He said he would like to design it and bid it to where it's all piped. Councilman Milling wanted to know how often we would need to get the

ditches cleaned out and regraded. Mr. Hanna said every 20 years' ditches need to be cleaned. Mr. Hanna said a good method of design is to dig a ditch 8" or 12" deeper than it needs to be to allow for siltation, but on the down side, you're openly ponding water for the first 10 years. Councilman Milling asked how deep are the open ditches going to be? Mr. Hanna said the ditches on Chalmers Street are 6' to 8' deep and the new ones will be 3' to 4' deeper than that. He said they would love to pipe that and you'll never see it. Ms. Lathan said in submitting the grant application two concerns were stressed- 1) the smell and respiratory problems of residents and 2) the depth of the ditches. Ms. Lathan said we have to keep in mind that because we're not able to build this project the way it was submitted as part of the preliminary engineering design, the project could be at risk and because of that, we have not moved out as soon as we should have. The grant was awarded in May, 2016 and RIA requires that their projects be completed within 18 months and the last month and a half they allow for closeout and monitoring. Ms. Lathan said she has a meeting with RIA this Friday to make them aware of where we are because we don't want to lose almost \$445,000. She said her concern is will the City be able to approve any additional funding to help offset this because the scope of the project has been redefined. Councilman Milling asked, "Was the dollar amount based on the overall cost of the project"? Ms. Lathan said the maximum of the RIA grant is \$500,000, so we got almost as much as we could. She said what happened is, we ended up with a preliminary engineering design that as submitted that we now can't get permitted because it doesn't meet the design requirements for SCDOT and DHEC. She said Hanna Engineering did exactly what they were supposed to do, but by the time they got finished designing it, they couldn't get it permitted. Councilwoman Bruce said, "So we did a preliminary design by another engineering company and they missed 62 acres"? Ms. Lathan said the preliminary design is done, with emphasis on preliminary and not final, so one would hope there wouldn't be a huge miss between preliminary and the final. Ms. Lathan said Hanna Engineering is coming in to do the "Final Design" (which he does in 2 stages – Preliminary & Final) and it was during his actual design of his "preliminary design" when they finished they realized they couldn't build it because they couldn't get it permitted. Mayor Hines said 62 acres were missed. Councilwoman Bruce said there's a big discrepancy between what was done first and what's presented now. Mr. Hanna said a detailed survey which is where he pays a guy to go out to the area for a week and survey everything he can find and he did not find this. He found proof that it possibly could exist. Mr. Hanna said they questioned if there's possibly a

36" pipe under the railroad track which they can't find, then it must have been some reason for being there. He said they then went back and did another level of survey but they dug in other areas and found pipe in different areas. He said it's not an easy thing to find until you start doing a detailed survey. He said to do a preliminary engineering report that's an easy miss. Councilman Gardner said, "So you don't think they made a major mistake"? Mr. Hanna said it was just something that wasn't evident. He said a preliminary engineering report is like looking down at the big picture. He said when you get down to sending a survey team for 5-7 days, they are finding the very minute points. Mayor Hines said, "So you went a little bit deeper"? Mr. Hanna said, "Yes" and they are totally blocked. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Hanna if he was the first engineer, would he have done everything exactly like the other engineer did it? Mr. Hanna said, "probably so", but that's looking at that 40,000-foot view and trusting the topography that they get on the internet. Councilman Gardner said, "We didn't waste our money with that (that's something we have to do and it's just a preliminary drawing and it's just that basic and that broad that this kind of stuff can get overlooked)? Mr. Hanna said even if you missed that 62 acres, you would hope that you could still produce 25-year calculations to show that everything we had planned would work and that didn't happen in this case. Councilman Gardner said, "And that's just because of the anomaly that we didn't find out about until we got the more detailed information"? Mr. Hanna said, "That's right". Councilman Gardner asked Councilwoman Bruce if that made her more comfortable. Councilwoman Bruce told Councilman Gardner she didn't need him to clarify anything for her. Councilman Segars asked if we can revisit the grant and add on to it. Mr. Garland said, "No". If we don't change the scope of that we'll lose the grant. Councilman Segars asked, "If we change the scope, can we go back"? Mr. Garland said we can reapply, but there's not guarantee. He said RIA has only approved two storm water grants - 1 for Georgetown and 1 for Darlington. He said if things go badly, they may discontinue funding storm water. Mr. Garland said in order to try and save this, the day he received this info, he called the bond attorney and asked him to give a quote on a 5, 10, & 15-year storm water bond. Mr. Garland said the only way to save this is to do a 15-year bond. Mr. Garland said we can reduce some costs by having our crew help out. Total estimate for project is \$1,718,920, but with funding of \$444,870 from the State, the total project cost will be \$1,274,050. Mr. Garland told Council to consider that these are estimates and has to be bid out. He said the bids could come in under this amount. Councilman

Segars asked how we will pay for this. Mr. Garland said with the money from our storm water fee.

CODES ENFORCEMENT FEE CHANGE REPORT – MR. ALEX GAINNEY

Mr. Gainey presented to Council a “Proposed Fee Schedule” for the Buildings & Code Enforcement Department. Mr. Gainey proposes increasing the basic permit fee to \$75.00 which includes one inspection fee. Mr. Gainey said he would like for the electrical and plumbing permits to be based on the dollar amount rather than on the number of fixtures and outlets and switches. He proposes to change the demolition fee from \$60.00 up to 100,000 cubic feet to \$75.00 up to 100,000 cubic feet and the verbiage of the permit schedule. Mr. Gainey said he propose changing the ordinance to read: 200.00 & less, no permit fee. He said to add a Planning Review Fee for Commercial – 25% of Permit Fee (not less than \$50.00). Mr. Gainey said we currently don’t charge for a “Plat fee” but he would like to add a “Plat Review” fee of \$25.00 per plat. Mr. Gainey included with his handout, a proposed schedule of fees. Mr. Gainey said his Secretary, Ms. Sheila Jones, made a brochure which gives step-by-step requirements to give to contractors when they come in to do work so they know what steps they need to take.

BALLFIELDS DISCUSSION – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews passed out copies of maps for the Bristow Site Preliminary Layout & Sprott Site Preliminary Layout. Mr. Andrews said to get a playground in this area we would have to bring in something more than a playground. He said Virgil Wells Stadium is a historic landmark because of Mayo High School, but he is the last person to say, “Let’s bulldoze Virgil Wells Stadium, but that’s what he’s saying and let’s honor him for the person that he was-A Coach of Everything. Mr. Andrews said he is not talking about just baseball fields, but walking tracks, a tennis court or playground. He said he is talking about encompassing the entire area. He said there are six pieces of property by the gym that are owned by different people. He said he and Mr. Garland talked with the School District because they own the land. Mr. Andrews said we are in a lease with them for the football field, but they own everything else except the gym and the swimming pool. Mr. Andrews said we won’t be able to put everything we want there, but there’s a total of 18.3 acres. He said we would have to partner with the school which should be no problem. Mr. Andrews said he foresees this in the future as our recreation complex where we can put 4 baseball fields. Mr. Andrews said his suggestion

would be to have somebody do a rendering for us and see what we can put on this property. He said before we get to that, check with the citizens of that area and make sure that's something they would want over there. He said this is sorely needed. He said they have approximately 500 kids that are playing on fields, and we have one portable bathroom, but can use another one at B.A. Gary field. He said the only drawback he has is if a parent has a child that has to play at different fields, they can't be two places at once. He said another complaint is the fear of change. He said some people are not going to like us putting everything in a historic Black neighborhood. He said if we start doing things and making people go where they haven't gone before, then things will work out. Mayor Hines said she likes the idea of it, but she would like to come together with the citizens (public hearing) first and if the citizens in that area don't have a problem with it, then she's for it. Mrs. Rock suggested that the public hearing be done in a different format, such as have different tables and stations set up at a neutral place and each Council member similar to the way another Town did it. Mr. Andrews told Council they are looking at approximately \$30,000 per field (just back stops & fields). He said lighting for the fields is approximately \$95,000 to \$169,000 to light a field. He said costs goes down if you can share poles. Councilwoman Bruce asked who maintains the pool throughout the year and what happens when the pool reopens. Mr. Andrews said the Police Department maintains the pool, but the water is off now, but before they reopen they clean the pool and turn the water back on. Councilman Milling asked if we are doing recreational ballfields can we use the hospitality tax money for some of the playground equipment, etc. Mr. Andrews said, "yes. Any amenities that we have and it's going to be considered being used for tourism dollars, we can use it". He said we can use money for Central Park South because it's going to be a big green space. He said Williamson Park is a tourist attraction, but a lot of people don't believe that. He said we could do so much more in Williamson Park and tie it in. Councilman Milling asked if we were looking at \$1 million for our ballfields and grounds, etc. Mr. Andrews said both fencing and lighting will cost approximately \$500,000 and does not include grading and paving. Ms. Lathan said another source of funding is from the State S.C. PARD which is allocated every year. She said it's not a lot of money, but it is money. Mr. Andrews said it's only about \$65,000. Councilman Gardner SCDOT approved \$750,000 for the rail trail in Florence. Mr. Andrews said Senator Malloy controls a lot of the PARD money and he could help us out with a lot of other things. Mr. Andrews and Council continued to have discussion about the ballfields. Councilman Milling said wherever we build the ballfields we need the public in that area to be happy about it. Mr. Andrews said 75% of

our kids come from that neighborhood. There was also discussion about the best way to get to the proposed area.

CENTRAL PARK SOUTH 1998 STUDY

Councilman Gardner passed out maps of the Sprott Site and the Bristow Site with random ideas. He said he went on Facebook and asked the public to give him ideas he didn't think of. He said someone thought of an RV Park for the Sprott property. He said that is a good idea because we can make money off of this during race time. Councilman Gardner said he talked to both property owners of the Sprott Site and Bristow Site and it's a possibility they will give us the land. He said they both have guaranteed that they will at least give us the right-of-way to do the Central Park track through their property. Councilman Gardner said both properties are substantial as far as creek frontage for getting right-of-way. Councilman Gardner and Council discussed different areas on the maps. He said he and Mr. Garland were trying to figure out feasibility, what we can afford and what we can't. Councilman Gardner said \$750,000 was thrown out to him and if we were to do the \$1.9 million bond for the recreation, then \$750,000 of it would be spent for Central Park South and doing the trail idea and whatever that would buy us for the first stage. He said hopefully we can get a \$750,000 match for that as well. He said they would get whatever is left over (\$250,000). He said these numbers are open to change. Councilman Gardner said once we get a professional drawing we'll have crystal numbers to work from. Councilman Gardner referred to different areas on the map and explained different areas. He then asked Council for questions and comments. Mayor Hines asked if the plan Mr. Ross did 20 years ago, start from Williamson Park. Councilman Gardner said, "Yes" and went all the way to the Race Track. Councilman Gardner said he added a 5-mile walking trail. (He was showing the Mayor areas on the map). He said on the opposite side of Williamson Park they have open communication from the property Phillips Street to the Race Track. He said the gap from Wells Street to Phillips Street is the only section where they have no clue as to how the property owners will respond. He said from Williamson Park to Main Street (2 property owners – The Brasington's & the Bristow's), they have already gotten permission from them. Mr. Andrews said he did a grant last year for the rail trail that the County owns, from where the water tower is to Smith Avenue, to tie Williamson Park in to that trail to go to Smith Avenue which would give them 3.1 miles of trail. He said he got written permission from David Flowers at Bristow Oil for the right-of-way, but he never got anything from Billy Brasington other than his word that he would hand it to his lawyer and they would see what they would do. Mayor

Hines asked Mr. Andrews how much would it cost to start. Councilman Gardner said in his opinion that's going to be a wet area, so possibly \$260.00 a square foot. Mr. Andrews said he talked with Henley Construction and to do a 6' wide boardwalk 100' long is \$18,000. Mr. Garland said Henley did the boardwalks at Williamson Park, so we have experience with them. Mr. Andrews said to build a boardwalk it's \$25 to \$30 a square foot brand new if it's easy access to build on. Councilman Gardner told Mayor Hines from Spring Street to Main Street, his concern is if this would be dry land or whether it would be water where we would have to have the boardwalks. He said once you cross Main Street and get to the St. John's property half of the boardwalks have been built and it's in good shape and just needs maintenance. He said the other half to get all the way across their property, you can stay on the hill and you'll never have to build boardwalks. He said you can get all the way to Wells Street for about \$5,000 or less. Mayor Hines said what she sees is a toss-up between the ballfields and Central Park South which is a combination of both. Mayor Hines asked about the splash pads on the maps. Councilman Gardner said all these are just to give visual ideas about what we can do. Mayor Hines said if we can get the land and get Senator Malloy to help us with it, it will help us out a lot and then we can venture out. Mr. Andrews said there may be some federal money out there and there's also a lot of grant opportunity as far as trails. Mayor Hines said we talked about the ballfields and the maps had a lot of the same information, but done in a different way. She said we got to get together on this side to see about the residents, how they feel about it. She told Councilman Gardner that what he's trying to do, he has to get with the homeowners to see if they will relinquish the land. She asked Councilman Gardner how many landowners has he talked to. Councilman Gardner said he has talked to probably 30 landowners, but probably has about 4 more. He said his thinking is, we pass a comprehensive plan to say that we as a council agree with this, then we can get a professional drawing to see if this is feasible. Council Milling asked how much does it cost to have a study done. Mr. Andrews said as much as you want to pay. He said we can contact Clemson because sometimes they will come in and help us out. Councilman Milling said sometimes you can get a University to do it. Mr. Andrews said the person who did this 20 years ago, may still be working there. Councilman Milling said maybe we can segment this. Mr. Andrews said Mr. Williamson has already said he wants to give us the piece of land on the other side of the park to Cashua Street. Mayor Hines asked if we can phase this out. Mr. Andrews said this would have to be phased. Councilman Gardner said do it by funds, and set a dollar amount and then if we can do a certain amount, that's what we'll do. Councilwoman Reed said this all started

with her to upgrade that area top provide a place for the people in that area because it has been neglected for a while. She said she can't say to put a trail before we at least address that first. Councilman Gardner said, "Address your area and giving you something to do". Councilwoman Reed said, "No, I represent Ward 2, not Elaine" and the plan that has come in we are able to get something for our children. She said this should be our priority and if we can incorporate this, but this should not be before that. Councilman Gardner said it should not be before anything. He said if we can get this on board where we can get the landowners and the school district, he doesn't see why we shouldn't have a joint bond for everything. Councilman Milling said we would have to find out if we can get a hospitality tax bond that would allow all of this. Mayor Hines said one you have an issue with the homeowners and the issue you have with Central Park South is you have to get the permission from the homeowners. Councilman Gardner asked Council if they would be fine with him approaching the homeowners and getting them to sign a letter of intent. Mr. Garland said every Council member should have a chance to talk so before they leave tonight they will know where every council member stands on both. Councilman Gardner said his thinking is, if Council is comfortable, we pass the concept, and then administration understands they can contact the homeowners and get permission. Mayor Hines said if we get Clemson to do the work for us without us paying for it, that would help us out a lot. Councilwoman Reed said as a Council, they would all like to see this done. She said the community has already been contacted because it started out as an upgrade, but we need to let them know now that there's going to be more. She said she doesn't think it's going to be a negative thing. Councilman Gardner asked if we need hospitality funds for Central Park South and then have a playground in Councilwoman Reed's district that's not attached to it? Mr. Andrews said we have to be able to tie tourism driven things into the hospitality tax. Councilwoman Reed said she is not questioning that. Councilman Gardner told Councilwoman Reed he is just trying to get her the playground over there so she can be happy. Mr. Garland told Council he gave them information on the \$1.9 million hospitality tax bond. He said the payments are approximately \$157,000 a year which leaves \$149,000 that we can use for other things. He said that's the cash flow we have extra and we still have the \$1.9 million to draw on. Mr. Garland told Council whatever they decide to do, they have the money. Mr. Andrews said his biggest fear is that we'll do nothing. Councilman Milling said he doesn't have a problem about this as a conceptual idea for building recreational facilities, ballfields, walking trails, etc., if we can do it. He said when it comes down to where he wants to spend his money in priorities, he has already told

Councilman Gardner that he wants to spend his money on those 500 people kids playing ball and their parents before he does on 100-200 people. Councilman Gardner said one of the concerns he has with these two projects being talked about at the same time is some people thinking we're taking away from one project to fund another and that's not the case. He said the money that we need to fulfill the baseball is the number one priority, and if it takes all of the \$1.9 million, then Central Park South won't live. If we can fund Central Park South and the baseball complex with the \$1.9 million bond, then why wouldn't we do it. Councilwoman Reed said as a Council, they need to do the right thing first. Discussion continued about what would be the right thing to do. Mr. Andrews said told Council before he goes out and do all of this again, he wants a consensus from Council that this is what they want. Councilman Segars said it will probably take a year for Clemson to come in and go through this thing and come up with a plan for us, so in the meantime the City can go ahead and get approval from those four or five landowners. Councilman Segars said if this is where the ballfields are going, then let's get the plans done on what it's going to cost to fix this and what money we have left over, do what you're able to do. Councilman Gardner said to do exactly like Mr. Segars said. Councilman Milling said, "So, you would be doing drawings for the Virgil Wells area and the Blue Street area, so that we'd have a concept. Mr. Andrews said the school district has to play ball with us. Councilman Milling asked if we could get our ownership of the land as opposed to a 50-year lease. Mr. Andrews said Dr. Ingram told Howard and him one day over lunch that anything they are not using anymore, they would rather tear down and sell, than to leave standing up. Mr. Andrews said he thinks the Brunson-Dargan property is ours because they met with Mr. Billy Baldwin that same day and he has no problem with saying the City of Darlington can have Brunson-Dargan. Councilman Milling asked if we could have Blue Street and Mr. Andrews said that property is connected to the 9th grade campus. He said that would be something we'd have to ask him. Mr. Garland said that's not anything we've done, they have always rolled over the lease. Mayor Hines said anything you do, you don't want to rush into it. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Andrews what type scope or timeline is needed for a study. Mr. Andrews said once we get permission from the school district, it's just a matter of when we can get people in here to do the work. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Andrews if he could push them a little to give us something in the next 90 days. Mr. Andrews said Dr. Ingram told him to call him tomorrow to let him know what we discussed tonight so he can discuss it with the school board at their meeting on Friday. Councilman Milling said he would rather we owned the school district land and work out

a lease with them for them to use it with us and help us with maintenance because we are the one's putting the \$1 million into it. Mr. Andrews said he thinks Virgil Wells is just a matter of them meeting and giving them the ok. Councilwoman Reed said she talked with Dr. Dawson and she's on board with it, but would like to see their plans. Upon motion of Councilwoman Bruce, seconded by Councilman Segars, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer