

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018 AT 6:30 PM**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Alex Gainey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Interim Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Ms. Anna Dewitt, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. Coleman Cannon, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Audrey and Roger Gore, and a number of visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present were News Reporters from the News & Press and the Morning

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Bryant Gardner did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of February 15, 2018, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about the DDRA programs and give feedback for future at their monthly Members' Breakfast on Wednesday March 28, 2018 at 8:00 AM at Takis Diner. She said breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and

nonmembers who would like to attend the meeting are welcome for a nominal donation of \$5.00 towards the meal. These meetings will be held the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 AM through October at Takis Restaurant. Mrs. Rock said the Annual Taste of Darlington will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the track “Too Tough to Tame” from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the infield garage area. She said they are accepting grillers, table hosts and sponsors. Mrs. Rock said the “Taste” being held on the 2nd Thursday in April leads into their 2018 season of “Bringing Downtown Alive” free concerts that will be held the second Thursday of the month (May through August) they will also have a free concert on the Friday of Race Week at Liberty Lane and Pearl Street) She said Johnny Glenn & the Chasers will perform on May 10th to kick off the series as well as a “Cruise In” by the Darlington Cruisers Car Show. The Bout Time Band of Darlington will perform on June 14th; Dustin James and Hank Edwards will perform on July 12th; they will hold a community karaoke party on August 9th and Radio Vibe will wrap up the season on August 31st. The concert committee is in the process of securing additional sponsors. She said Pepsi of Florence and Wilson Senior Care has already committed to assisting them with this project. Mrs. Rock said anyone interested in helping organize the concert can call her office or come to the next concert committee meeting at Mamma Mia’s at 5:30 PM Tuesday, March 27th.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MS. HARRIETT HOBBS

Ms. Hobbs said she is pleased to announce that they have twelve new or reestablished Chamber members. Ms. Hobbs said within the last two days she has had three businesses have come into the Chamber to inquire about opening businesses in our town, particularly, on the Square. She said she showed them the buildings that she knew was for sale as well as gave them Mrs. Rock’s information so they could get additional information about grants, the incentives, etc. Ms. Hobbs thanked everyone who came to the Annual Banquet on February 1st. On March 24, 2018, the Greater Darlington chamber of Commerce and the Darlington County Recreation Commission will host an Easter Egg Hunt on the Courthouse grounds beginning at 11:00 AM. She said this is a free event for our community. She said the Easter Bunny will hide about 1,000 eggs for the children to find. Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber will host a new event called “Bowties and Pearls” on Saturday April 21, 2018 beginning at 6:30 with live music, bar-b-que, sweet tea, adult beverages, dancing and visiting. She said the backyard of South of Pearl is where the event will be held. The tickets are

\$15.00 for the event. Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber of Commerce and Florence Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon for Administrative Professionals Day on Wednesday April 25th at the SiMT Building at Florence-Darlington Technical College. The luncheon starts at 11:00 a.m. for the vendors/exhibitors and lunch and a program at 12:00. Ms. Hobbs said they will be doing something on Thursday May 10th at 1:00 PM that's totally different called "Open House Darlington". She said they have contacted realtors, owners of vacant buildings on the Square and in Darlington to sweep out the buildings and freshen them up and they will have an open house or "realtors caravan". She said they are inviting/advertising in Atlanta, Charlotte, Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg, Charleston, Miami, Southern Living and Gardening? She said we're going to have people walking through our town looking at our properties and we want them to see our dream. Ms. Hobbs said they will have one of the trolleys from PDRTA doing a Historical Tour. She said at the end of the day they will come back to the Chamber for a cocktail reception and they can talk about it. Hopefully they will have some bankers there and all of the grant information, incentives from Lisa as well as codes, etc. Ms. Hobbs said she's hoping people will fall in love with our town, and if not, we've gotten great exposure. Ms. Hobbs said, as always, they are in the planning stages of Freedom Fest. Mr. Garland asked Ms. Hobbs if she was planning to ask the City of Darlington for money for Freedom Fest this year and she said, "of course I am". Mr. Garland asked Ms. Hobbs when she was planning to do that and she asked if she could do it now. Ms. Hobbs said she sent a letter to Mr. Garland requesting from the City the same contribution that they gave them last year. Mayor Hines told Ms. Hobbs to tell them why she needs the money and what happened last year. Ms. Hobbs said the fireworks did not go off because the fireworks company did not do what they were supposed to do. She said they came in several hours late and the fireworks got rained on because they did not cover them. She said they told Chief Cavanaugh that the fireworks were ruined and if pyrotechnics get wet when they dry out again you cannot reshoot them because they can blow up in your face. Ms. Hobbs said they chose not to set reset date because they did not want to use those and take the risk of someone getting maimed. She said the contribution from the City was not for fireworks, it was a "presenting sponsor". She said Freedom Fest was presented by City of Darlington and this is how it was billed. She said they have to rent the race track and it cost them \$11,000 to hold Freedom Fest at the race track. Ms. Hobbs said they have to rent the track, they have to purchase tickets for the race, they have to use EPI Security and they have to have additional security.

She said that's almost \$11,000 just for those services. Ms. Hobbs said they have to rent port-a-johns and they have to rent dumpsters. Ms. Hobbs said it's a wonderful facility and they are proud of it, but it's a cost to use it and maintain it. She said the City's donation went into the general fund for Freedom Fest. She said the band and the children's rides were over \$20,000. She said they hope to do more this year. Ms. Hobbs said they have approximately \$30,000 worth of children's rides this year, if they can afford it. She said they want to continue to make it bigger and better. She said it was written up in Southern Living as one of the top festivals in the State. Ms. Hobbs said she is continuing to look at ways to cut costs. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland if they need to make a motion to approve the funding request and Mr. Garland nodded, "Yes". Mr. Garland said the City has given the Chamber \$15,000 the last four years. Mr. Garland said we've been one of the anchor sponsors and until the County started their hospitality tax the City was the largest sponsor and he believes the County matches it now. Ms. Hobbs said they plan to ask the County this year. She said one of her large sponsors turned her down this year. Mayor Hines said she's been to Freedom Fest the past four years and it benefits 98% of Darlington. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve \$15,000 for Freedom Fest. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

MR. LEE ANDREWS – BASEBALL & SOFTBALL FIELDS

Mr. Andrews said about two weeks ago they had a press conference announcing that we were going from Dixie and Little League to one league in Darlington and that was Little League. He said an entire week prior to the announcement there were a lot of things on social media about how this was a "fail" and they wouldn't get anybody signed up. Mr. Andrews said he just wanted to report the numbers for signups tonight. He said in the past there's been about 217 kids in Dixie and probably 117 at Little League. He said at the end of business today they had 283 kids signed up just for baseball. They had 135 girls sign up for softball. He said everybody was worried about people leaving and going to different places to play, but the numbers prove that the kids are here. He asked Council to keep this in mind when they make their vote. Mr. Andrews said Blue Street is not going to hold that number of kids. He said they have outgrown Blue Street with what they have right now just on parking alone. He said we've got to keep that in mind when we're doing this. He said it's going to be fun this year but it's going to be crowded. Mr. Andrews said the kids will not have to travel

unless they want to because they have enough children for a number of teams.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-01 – DIGITAL SIGN

ORDINANCE Mayor Hines said we will have to table this. Mr. Garland said we have to have a public hearing in April because it involves a fee and that's why we are tabling it at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

A) PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION ON OAK AND NORTH STREET – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Lisa Rock said Mrs. Kay Pierson, Chairman of the Historic Landmark Commission is present as well and can help answer any questions they may have. Mrs. Rock said the Historic Landmark Commission would like to expand their residential historic district. She said they have three residential historic districts and two commercial historic districts. She said this would extend the protection of the historic district and keep more of the character in their homes and neighborhoods. Mrs. Rock said the commission feel that this will enhance the City by capitalizing on what Darlington has going for it-its place as a charming historic town. She said this initiative was started by a homeowner's request (at corner of Oak & North Streets). She said all the research the Commission has done is based on the State survey of the properties. Mrs. Rock said they have identified several areas that they would like to extend the districts and the Commission members have been going door to door talking with neighbors to see if they want to participate. Mrs. Rock said at this time the Commission is proposing to expand the Cashua/Spring district by adding the properties along North & Oak Streets (on North Street from Evangeline all the way to Spring and on Oak Street until you get to the nursing home and Mrs. Carrigan's house). This will add an additional 15 properties to that district. She said committee members have been in contact with homeowners about the benefits of being in the historic district. She said once the homeowners are added to the City's historic district they plan to assist homeowners in applying for the State's recognition so that the tax credits will be available to them for major improvements. Mrs. Rock said there are two levels of this. She said this will open up the opportunity for homeowners that if they have improvements of \$15,000 or more, as long as you're keeping the historic character (you do a little bit of extra paperwork and you get a 20% tax credit). Mrs. Rock told Council with their approval they will proceed to notify the property owners. They will have to have an ordinance and first and second readings. She said

the Commission wanted to get Council's approval before they move forward and sending proper notifications to all the property owners, certified letters, etc. before they presented Council with an ordinance. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if everybody on the list has been notified of certain things they have to do under the historic. Mrs. Rock said the main thing with living in the historic district is the exterior. She said they want it to maintain the character of historic period the house was built in. she said if you're having to make repairs or replacement, then you would place things in the same kind, color, etc. of what would have been done in that era. Such as, if you have shingle siding, you would put siding back. Mrs. Rock said as far as getting the tax credits for the State, this is all filtered down from the U.S., Department of Interior rules. Councilwoman Reed said being a member of St. James United Methodist Church, they tried to get the old parsonage declared a historic building, but when it came to the building, because changes had already been made then it didn't meet the standards. Councilwoman Reed said, "In this situation, with so many houses (15) I would imagine that there's already been upgrades, repairs or whatever, are we sure that that's already meeting these standards"? Mrs. Rock said from the exterior obviously we just can't walk into someone's home. She said most of the folks that wants this tax credit wants it for the roofs and if they've got to redo the siding. Mrs. Rock said these homes were already identified in the State survey as fitting into the district based on the federal standards. Mrs. Rock said, take the old post office for instance, it's not historic because they have changed so many things inside. Councilwoman Reed said along the way, they need to know this upfront. Mrs. Rock said this will be included in the packet that they send to get the homeowners on the National Register through the State. Mrs. Rock said for the City's purposes our ordinance does not include anything on the interior. Councilman Milling said, "You spoke of that it would be protection for the people in the district, what do you mean when you say "protection for the people"? Mrs. Rock said that they will continue to have the character of the neighborhood. Councilman Milling asked, "How does that relate to the person whose next door to the historic district who wants to put up their Frank Lloyd Wright home? Mrs. Rock said we don't have jurisdiction over that if they are not in the historic district. Councilman Milling said there are a couple of houses on North Street that are smaller rental properties; Mrs. Rock interjected and said those are the folks they had a little trouble getting in touch with. She said one of those properties was recently sold in the last few months and they would have to go talk with that person. Councilman Bryant Gardner said he would be interested in a description and addresses so

he will know which homes they are talking about for the historic district. He said he want to protect these homes, but when you go down Broad Street you can see homes that haven't been kept up that much. Councilman Gardner said if you put too many restrictions on it then he's worried people want be able to afford to keep up the homes. Mrs. Rock said there's a certain amount of misperception about what being in the historic district is. Councilman Gardner said he's not opposed to this but there will be a challenge to offer someone to pay \$20,000-\$50,000 in wood siding when they can get vinyl. He said it may be an economic challenge for some people in our community and that is what he's worried about. He said that neighborhood is very worried about the encroachments of the businesses around there and we want to protect them and he wants to make sure he knows which properties this involves and right now, he doesn't. Councilman Gardner said he doesn't have any opposition to it, but he would like to know the physical addresses of the properties because they don't recognize where the blocks are on the maps Mrs. Rock provided. Councilman Gardner asked Mrs. Rock if they can get a map of the actual historic district in this area with the addresses of the proposed historic district included that they can have a fair representation of what they are doing? Mrs. Rock said, "Certainly". Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if she wanted them to vote on this tonight. Mrs. Rock said they just wanted to know how they should move forward; If they should they proceed with an ordinance or not. Mayor Hines said we need to look at this some more before we can make a determination. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Rock if the historical commission determines if whether a hardship is going to be allowed. Mrs. Rock said if you have a historic home in the district and you want to make a change (you are trying to do something different than what is there), you must go to the Historic Commission to get permission to make the change. Mrs. Rock said when you present your case you can state that you don't have the means to complete this that manner and that is up to the historic commission. Councilman Milling asked if that final decision lies with the historic commission or do they appeal to the courts or is there a provision where if the historical commission does not allow it, it comes before city council. Mr. Garland said the decision is up to the Landmark Commission and it's not something that can be appealed directly to City Council, it has to go to Circuit Court. Councilman Gardner asked if the economic hardship appeal be done to the historical commission and Mr. Garland said, "Yes". Councilman Milling said, "So if Council wanted input, we would need to make that change in the ordinances as well"? Mr. Garland said, "Correct". Mr. Garland said maybe they need to revisit and educate

Councilmembers as to where our historic districts are and how many houses we have in our historic district. He said we have a commercial historic, a partial historic on the Square, historic district for the St. John's Area, West Broad & East Broad Streets and Spring & Cashua historic district. He said all together we probably have more than 150 properties. Mrs. Rock said we currently have 192 properties in the historic district.

B) MR. LEVERNE MOODY – SIDEWALK REPAIR ON NORTH

MAIN STREET Mr. Moody said he has property at 439, 437 & 433 N. Main Street and people dug up the sidewalk about four months ago and it looks really bad. Mr. Moody said it's tearing up people's cars where they dug it up. He said he understands that AT&T hired some Mexicans to fix this, but he stopped right there at his property and his property is dug up now. Mr. Moody said he doesn't know what to do, but he believes he contacted the wrong people and should have contacted the building department. Mr. Moody said he spoke with Mr. Garland about a month ago, but he didn't know who had done the work. Mr. Garland said, "No Sir, I think I told you it was AT&T". Mr. Moody said, "No, no, you didn't know who it was". Mr. Moody said, Anyway, I need your help to get this repaired. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he could get the City Attorney and write a letter to AT&T? Mr. Garland said, "We've been in contact with AT&T with in the last week and they said they are going to have everything repaired including the sidewalk and the area in front of Mr. Moody's property by April 15th.

C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-02 PURCHASE OF PROPERTY (165-04-01-005 – 4 ACRES); (165-00-02-010 – 13 ACRES); CORNER OF OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY AND AVENUE D FOR \$161,500

Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-02 Purchase of property (165-04-01-005 – 4 acres; 165-00-02-010 – 13 acres, corner of Old Florence Highway and Avenue D for a cost of \$161,500. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

D) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-03 PURCHASE OF VIRGIL WELLS STADIUM (165-11-01-048); BALLFIELD AND TENNIS COURTS (165-11-01-038 FROM DARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR \$100,000 – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-03 – Purchase of Virgil Wells Stadium (165-11-01-048); Ballfield and Tennis Courts (165-11-01-038) from Darlington County School District for \$100,000. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman Segars who voted against the motion.

E) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-04 PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE FOR PLAYGROUND (164-15-02-055); (164-15-02-056); & (164-15-02-060) FOR \$80,500 LOCATED AT 207 SISKRON STREET (OLD POBOY'S SEAFOOD BLDG)

Councilman John Milling made motion to approve the purchase of the Siskron Street property (164-15-02-055); (164-15-02-056) & (164-15-02-060) for \$80,500 – 207 Siskron Street. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

F) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-05 ANNEXATION (164-05-02-020) NORTH MAIN STREET BESIDE DARLINGTON

AMUSEMENT COMPANY Mayor Hines said this is the area beside Darlington Music Company. They want to put a Dollar General Store. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, First Reading on Ordinance 2018-05 Annexation (164-05-02-020) North Main Street beside Darlington Amusement Company, which unanimously carried.**

G) VACTOR TRUCK PROPOSED LEASE/PURCHASE – MR.

GARLAND Mr. Garland said he has a proposal from United Financial and they gave three options for funding a vactor truck. Mr. Garland recommends going with option #3 which is ten payments consisting of \$44,216 a year and it works out to roughly \$460,000. He suggests that they split the cost between the Water & Sewer Department and the Street Department. Mr. Garland said they need this because the jet vac truck helps all of Darlington. He said as far as staffing is concerned, we'll have to address that with our new budget after July 1st. Mr. Garland also suggests that we put in the order for the jet vac truck, but we don't have it delivered until July so that way the payment won't be due until the next year. Mr. Garland said this is sorely needed and while we're getting ready to move ahead with a multimillion dollar project for a part of town, this helps with all of the town. Mayor Hines asked if this equipment will suck out the water that settles around Hardees, Joe's Grill and around the Square. Mr. Garland

said it can be done for that, but it will also clean out the storm lines. Mr. Kinsaul said the truck is a combination truck which is a vacuum truck and it has a high pressure jetter that's used to clean out the sewer lines. He said you can feed the jetter down the sewer line and it washes all of the debris out of the sewer line and the vacuum part of it, vacuums out the catch basins and collect all of the debris in the storm drains. Mr. Kinsaul said there's a big tank on the truck and everything is self-contained in the truck. Mr. Kinsaul said liquid like sewer would have to be dumped at the waste treatment plant and the other would have to be dumped somewhere around the street department and be disposed of it at the landfill or somewhere else. Mr. Kinsaul said it's a useful truck and almost every city has one. He said staffing it will be the hard part. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul how much will come out of his capital budget for this and Mr. Kinsaul said he will budget over \$20,000 for this. Mr. Garland said it will be the same for street and sanitation. Mr. Kinsaul said he just paid Sellers Septic Tank \$3,500 for a one-day job to suck out one lift station. Mayor Hines asked where will keep the truck and Mr. Kinsaul said they will park it at the Street Department. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul how many times a year do you use someone like Sellers and how much money does it cost on average? Mr. Kinsaul said he has used him six times so far this budget year and it's probably \$7,000 or \$8,000. Mr. Kinsaul said Sellers gave them a break on the \$3,500 charge for the one-day service, but the normal charge would have been \$5,500. Mr. Garland said a good example of this is the disastrous weather we had in 2015 and 2016 when the Allen Street station overflowed we would have has the capability to clean it out ourselves instead of having to beg for somebody to come in and do it. Mr. Kinsaul said they had to get a truck to come in and keep sucking out to try and get the flow down. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland if he's proposing that we take delivery in 2018-19 fiscal year and make payment in the 2019-20 fiscal year and Mr. Garland said, "Correct". Councilman Milling asked if we get the same price and Mr. Garland said, "Yes". Councilwoman Bruce said she asked the question at the last council meeting about the use of the truck from the outside service and it was stated that we use it five to ten times a year and it costs us anywhere from \$3,000 - \$4,000. She said if we use it ten times a year, we're talking about paying an outside service \$40,000. Mr. Kinsaul said it depends on how much we use. Councilwoman Bruce said at \$7,000, which we use on an overage of ten times a year, she's trying to see if it's beneficial for them to purchase a truck that we're only going to use on an average of ten times a year for \$400,000. Mr. Kinsaul said what you want to do, and right now it's going to be tough, is to staff it where it's running

about everyday doing storm water cleaning. Mr. Garland said that's the idea; we have to start cleaning or storm water drains. Mr. Kinsaul told Councilwoman Bruce he thinks she is figuring on what the sewer department is using. Mr. Kinsaul said storm drains that aren't being cleaned out and full of debris (provided they can get a crew to staff it) is where the real use will be. Councilwoman Bruce said, "So the figure you gave me last month was just on sewer" and Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes, those figures are his figures coming out of the sewer budget. Mayor Hines said, "So you're saying if we start cleaning out all the storm drains, we will come up with \$400,000 a year with calling people to come in and do it"? Mr. Kinsaul said it will be a lot of use if we could get the crew to run this truck several days a week cleaning storm drains and we'll never get through. Councilwoman Bruce asked why would it be hard to staff it? Mr. Kinsaul said we'll have to hire at least two people and they have to have CDL's. Mr. Garland suggested that we hire one person in the water and one in the street department. Mr. Kinsaul said with what we're going to have to pay these people including benefits, you're looking at two to three times what the truck payment is going to be. Councilwoman Bruce said, "So the money is not in the budget" and Mr. Kinsaul said the money is not in the budget until we come up with something creative in the budget sessions. Councilwoman Reed said, "So that may have been the fact as to why you haven't done it. Mr. Kinsaul said the truck is a wonderful piece of equipment, but to put \$400,000 in it for it to sit there if you can't use it would be like Councilwoman Bruce said; it would be better to rent or lease one when you need it. Mr. Garland said the street sweeper is a good example. We have a \$200,000 street sweeper, but Kendrick runs it maybe five times a month. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "So the storm drain lines that's draining into these ditches that haven't been cleaned out in 30-40 years, how is that going to benefit that area"? "What are you going to do about the ditches"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "It won't help the ditches, but the (Hardee – Broad Street area) if you clean that drain all the way out to Grove Hill to get it to the ditch, it will be an improvement. Councilwoman Baccus said once you clean all of that out, that water is going to drain into S. Darlington, and if those ditches are not flowing or clearing out, then all of that water is going to sit in S. Darlington. Mr. Kinsaul said the County dropped their South Darlington Storm water project. He said all we're trying to do is get the water off the street and get it out of downtown. Councilwoman Baccus said that's the same issues; you're still dumping it in S. Darlington. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "Technically, wouldn't that be dumped behind Grove Hill"? Mr. Kinsaul said there's seven outfalls away from the City. He said the ditch will go into

an outfall behind where the old cotton mill was into Swift Creek. The Hardees, Hampton, Broad Street area runs into a ditch that will run down to Swift Creek off Old Florence Road. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he has a map of all the storm drains over the City of Darlington and Mr. Kinsaul said, "No", they have partials in the storm water study that Ms. Lathan did. Mayor Hines said, "Well, don't you think we need to find out where all of the storm drains are before we invest in this"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "We know where a lot of them are because the storm water study has a lot of them in it". Mayor Hines said, "I heard you say about sucking the water out of the downtown area; what about the storm drains all over the City"? Mayor Hines said you need to go and try to clean them out also. Mr. Kinsaul said, "What you want to do is work a street all the way to the end and strategically work each street". Mayor Hines said, "We need to know where they are first and how many you have before we get this". Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, we need to do a little bit more research before we buy this. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "Hold up, I'm sorry, please Council, please reconsider this". He said this is something that the whole city can use. He said, "This is something that every storm water pipe in the City, this is something every wastewater can use; we can use this". Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Kinsaul how many years they can run every day until they catch up. Mr. Kinsaul said they are willing to finance for ten years to life and it should run ten years. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Kinsaul how many years he thinks we can go before we get back to the first pipe we started on and Mr. Kinsaul estimated five to ten years. Councilman Gardner said, "We can go five to ten years, day after day cleaning out our pipes and we think we need to wait to figure out which pipes we need to clean first"? Mayor Hines said, "It's a good thing and we need that, but we need to know how many storm drains we have over the City". Councilman Gardner said, "I don't think we need to know how many storm drains we have over the City before we figure out if we need to start cleaning them". He said we need to start cleaning our ditches and then figure out what our storm water issue is. Mayor Hines said it should have been cleaned 60 years ago and we can't do it overnight. Councilman Gardner said, "We need to worry about not having an actual comprehensive storm water plan that includes our whole City". Councilwoman Baccus said, "We do have a five-year plan". Councilman Gardner said, "We don't have a plan that covers the whole City". From the audience, Ms. Lathan said, "That's not true". Mayor Hines said the storm water plan that she saw was for the whole City and told Councilman Gardner she does not know where he got that from. Councilman Gardner said, "I'll be happy to provide Council and Jannie

Lathan a map that shows where we have a storm water plan and where we don't. He said we don't have a storm water plan that includes the Country Club, Oakdale, anything like Spring Mart or the other side of Spring Street. Councilwoman Reed said because of the situation in the area where they are doing the storm water project, she does see the value in the truck. She said she's not opposed to anything, but she sees the opposition to the present S. Darlington storm water project and then they come up with the truck. Councilwoman Reed said, "It's like where was this idea prior to this"? Mr. Garland asked Council to strongly consider this. He said he's in favor of doing S.W. Darlington storm water project, but he's also in favor of doing something for the rest of Darlington now. Mr. Garland said he wants to help out S.W. Darlington to get that project completed in a timely manner, but he also wants to show the rest of the town that we're going to be willing to do something to help them out also. Mr. Garland implored Council to approve and move forward with ballfields, move forward with storm water and to move forward with getting the vactor truck. Mayor Hines said when she was talking she was not saying she didn't want it, she just want to be sure that when we get it, we will use it the right way. Councilwoman Bruce said, "Mr. Garland you just said something that concerns me and I don't think we need to me making decisions "tit for tat". She said she was asking Mr. Kinsaul for the cost factor and if you've got to show the other side of town that we're going to do something on the Southside with the storm water project. Councilwoman Bruce said, "All of a sudden here comes a vactor truck that probably should have been purchased 30 years ago". Mr. Kinsaul said they did have a vactor truck at one time. Councilwoman Bruce said this water project isn't something that just happened overnight or two years ago. She said it's almost like we're doing something "tit for tat" and that doesn't sit well with her. She said she wants to do what's right for the City, but don't do something "tit for tat". Councilwoman Bruce told Mr. Garland the comment he made concerns her. She said if this is something that we truly need, then we need to get this, but if this is something we just want to do because we're doing something on one side of town and you want to please the other side of town, then we're not doing what Councilman Gardner said in his prayer when we started this meeting and that concerns her.

Councilman Milling made a motion that we go with option #3 and hire the people that we need to operate this piece of equipment. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Mr. Garland said a lady that lives at 382 W. Broad Street came by his office complaining that for the last four years whenever there's a heavy rain, her house floods (she has lost several heat pumps and had to replace the ductwork multiple times) and if the City didn't

do something to help her and her neighbors, she was going to sue the City. He said the lady asked if the S.W. Darlington storm water project would address her needs and he told her “No”, but there was an item on tonight’s agenda that may be able to help her by cleaning out the lines around the property where she lives. Mr. Garland told Councilwoman Bruce that’s where what he said came from. Councilwoman Bruce said she’s just saying, decisions do not need to be made like that. She said, “You’ve got to be careful with comments and things that we say because it can be perceived the wrong way. Councilman Milling said we had a motion and a second and would ask that we call for a vote on the question. **All approved the motion.**

Commented [w1]:

H) MS. ANNA DEWITT – CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Ms. Anna Dewitt, representing the Darlington Rescue Squad said they sponsor the annual Christmas Parade. She said in 2017 a new committee took over the parade and after thinking of a way to keep people downtown for the Tree Lighting Ceremony, the idea of having a festival to tie the parade into the tree lighting came to mind. Ms. Dewitt said they have many ideas but due to the fact they are a small organization they lack the funding needed to sponsor such an event. She said this is where the City comes in because we have the money to fund their ideas. She said the Annual Christmas Festival will kick off with the Christmas Parade and close with the Tree Lighting. She said some of the changes they are proposing will be reversing the parade route to start at Fitness World, to add more bands and offer them \$300 to participate, provide affordable floats for \$50, have more music, choirs on floats; they would like to have 4 minutes of fireworks, inflatables, etc. Councilman Gardner asked Ms. Dewitt how much money she was asking for and she said \$10,000. Councilwoman Bruce asked Ms. Dewitt what the name of her organization was and she said it’s the Darlington Rescue Squad which is the same as it’s always been, they just have a new committee. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland when would he start the budget process and Mr. Garland said he’s been working on it the last five weeks. Councilman Milling told Ms. Dewitt that we need to have a budget meeting so they’ll have some sense of how much of the hospitality tax money we actually have. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt they will let her know something after the budget meetings. Councilwoman Reed said the parade was beautiful but one thing was offensive to her-there was a group that had confederate flags on their vehicles. Ms. Dewitt said she didn’t see anything and was not aware of it. There was discussion about ways to prevent this from happening at future parades. Ms. Dewitt said she hate to tell people they can’t come because of different things. She said she doesn’t

want anyone to be offended, but she also doesn't want to start down that path of, "You can't come because of this or that". Councilman Gardner asked Ms. Dewitt if she can work on somebody to come that can sing Christmas carols while walking in the parade? Ms. Dewitt said that's what they are talking to the Churches about, but they will ride on the floats and sing rather than walk in the parade. Mayor Hines asked Chief Cavanaugh if during the 12 or 15 years they were over it, did they have the confederate flags in the parade. Chief Cavanaugh said not to his knowledge, but Mr. Dwayne Weatherford watched people come through when they started the parade. Chief Cavanaugh said it was so crowded this time it was hard to control people coming in. Mayor Hines asked if participants have to pay to be in the parade and Ms. Dewitt said, "Yes" and they had one entrance coming in, but everybody started coming at one time and even from the side streets. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt she was on the side when two cars with confederate flags passed by. Ms. Dewitt said she didn't see it and she is not sure who the group was. Mayor Hines said what she's wondering why when the Fire Department had it what made it that they rushed in this year. Ms. Dewitt said the Fire Department never had the Christmas Parade, the Rescue Squad always had the Christmas parade they just had a different Christmas committee. Ms. Dewitt said the other committee members retired in October and Mr. Dwayne Weatherford talked with her about things they need to do for the parade. She said she is not sure about the group she is talking about or the cars. She asked if it was part of the Shriners? Councilman Gardner said he thinks it was the Shriners. Mayor Hines said she is wondering why they did it this year. Ms. Dewitt said how the Shriners work is you email one person and they email everybody and whoever shows up you have to give them a donation. Ms. Dewitt said you don't know before they show up that they were going to be there. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt she doesn't think she understands what she saying, she kept asking her why it is this year they tried to move on in. Ms. Dewitt said she did not see them because there were so many people. Councilwoman Bruce said it was such a large parade and there was a big gap in some parts of it and people were leaving because they thought the parade was over, but she stayed because she knew the last group was a dance group. Councilwoman Bruce said if we can do something do, maybe start an hour earlier and Ms. Dewitt said one thing they can do to quicken the parade is stop throwing out candy. Ms. Dewitt said if the event become a night parade we will have to stop that. She said one suggestion was that if your group wants to throw out candy, then have them walk beside the float and throw the candy away from the road. Mayor Hines said having the parade at night

will be easier to stop it. Ms. Dewitt said they will have the Christmas Parade this year and the Darlington Rescue Squad will fund it, but they will not be able to do the Christmas Festival. She said they are trying to keep everybody downtown for the Tree Lighting and just have a community time where they fellowship and listen to Christmas music. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt we will let her know something.

BOARDS/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – LISA ROCK

Ms. Rock said the Williamson Park Committee has two open seats. She said the first nominee is Ms. Nancy Atcock who lives on Spain Street and she is interested in serving on the committee. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman John Segars to approve Ms. Nancy Atcock to the Williamson Park Committee, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said the second nominee brought by the Williamson Park Committee is Ms. Roseanne Brasington who lives on Woodland Drive. **Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded by Councilman John Segars, to appoint Ms. Roseanne Brasington to the Williamson Park Committee, which unanimously carried.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

John Milling said it sound like when the Chamber was presenting its proposal that we're going to have an open house on May 10th where people will have a chance to look and drive around. He asked that Mr. Garland to make contact with Palmetto Paving this week and tell them what we're trying to do on May 10th to see how their schedule is going to fit on their paving on Cashua Street so that we don't run into a conflict. Councilman Milling said there should be some sympathy there for us because Palmetto Paving's senior group has a daughter that's married to one of their former residents and so there may be some help in getting them to cooperate with us. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if they have given him a deadline yet. Mr. Garland said they are supposed to start this month.

Bryant Gardner

Councilman Gardner said he thinks the Mayor discussed some issues about yard debris throughout the administration and he'd also like to discuss it. He said he don't know how they are going to go about it, but it looks like Council previously looked at different ways of working on this. Councilman Gardner said he thinks they need to revisit it because it seems that some citizens don't know that you can't put refrigerators and beds, etc. on the street. He said maybe they need to do a public service announcement on our

water bills or some way to educate the citizens. Mayor Hines said she use to tell the superintendent about that and it sends a mix signal to the customers because he would go and pick it up. Mayor Hines agreed with Councilman Gardner that this needs to be revisited. Councilman Gardner said a follow-up subject is about sidewalks. He said they discussed previously about possibly doing some outside hiring of employees to do grinding of the sidewalks. He said his girlfriend almost had an accident the other night and he would appreciate it if they would look into this. He said we have a serious liability and he would love for it to be addressed.

Carolyn Bruce

Councilwoman Bruce told Mr. Garland she wanted to publicly thank him for a job well done on the process of hiring the new Police Chief. She told him he got Council involved from the beginning which he didn't have to do. They went through all of the resumes and narrowed down to the finalist and then his decision was made. She also commended him for getting the public involved. Councilwoman Bruce told him the entire process went out he did an outstanding job.

Sheila Baccus

Councilwoman Baccus thanked Mr. Garland for cleaning up their neighborhoods and getting all of the trash off the street. She said it's time for Council to step up and do their jobs. She said they need to improve or change our ordinance. Councilwoman Baccus said they need to put an ordinance in place that says this is what they can and can't do and notify the public of what they can and can't do. She said right now the streets look good, but if they don't so something fast, its' going to be back out there again. She said the Street Department has done their jobs, Mr. Garland has done his job, now it's time for Council to do their job. Councilwoman Baccus said the new equipment they just brought, (she's ok with buying the machine), but she wants to see the machine working in all of Darlington (not just downtown only, not on the north side only; She needs to see this machine in S. Darlington, SW Darlington and everywhere cleaning out drains.

REMINDERS

Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:00 PM – Swearing in Ceremony of Police Chief Kelvin Washington;

Tuesday March 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM – Special Meeting Darlington City Council, First Reading on New Storm Water Bond;

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer