

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 7, 2017 AT 6:00 PM &
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM
TUESDAY – MARCH 7, 2017**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Coleman Cannon and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge and wife Savannah and Mr. Lee Andrews.

The meeting opened with prayer by Mayor Pro-Tem Coleman Cannon.

Mayor Hines said the purpose of the special meeting is to discuss the purchase of five pieces of property behind Virgil Wells Stadium from Chestnut Street to Chalmers Street Ext. Mr. Lee Andrews said after the work session Council gave him the go ahead to contact the property owners. He said one property owner said her mother just passed away and the reason she has not given him a reason yet is because she's still in the grieving process and she needs to make a return trip to Darlington to get closure. Mr. Andrews said everybody else is ready to sell. He said the property for Ila O. Turner will be a little over \$5,400 rather than \$5,318.11. Mr. Andrews said we still have to have the meeting in that neighborhood to see if the residents would like to have ballfields in their neighborhood. He said even if the residents don't want ballfields in that neighborhood it is a good idea to have this property because we can extend parking at the pool and the gym and may even look at future extension of the gym.

Councilman Milling said the only issue he would have is that the ordinances don't have the language in them at this time, but that we purchase these properties in the event we can get a clear title to them. (This language is to be added into the ordinance). Councilman Milling asked what fund would we use to purchase this property. Mr. Garland said Hospitality Tax. Mr. Kevin Etheridge told Councilman Milling this would not be a hard solution to redraft the ordinance.

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-11 (PROPERTY PURCHASE 165-10-03-063 CHALMERS STREET EXTENSION (WINNIE PEARSON MCIVER FOR \$5,000

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to purchase property of (First Reading) Winnie Pearson McIver (165-10-03-063 – Chalmers Street Extension, \$5,000) with the changes to the language. Councilman Coleman Cannon seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Comment [w1]:

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-12 (PROPERTY PURCHASE 165-10-03-065 & 165-10-03-066-CHALMERS STREET EXTENSION (AUDREY LUCINDA MACK FOR \$10,000

Upon motion of Councilman Coleman Cannon to purchase two pieces of property from Audrey Lucinda Mack for \$10,000 with any corrections to be made to the ordinance. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-13 (PROPERTY PURCHASE 165-10-03-056M, CHALMERS STREET EXTENSION (ELEANOR JACKSON HICKMAN FOR \$5,196.81 PLUS THE PROPERTY TAX AMOUNT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed to purchase property of Eleanor Jackson Hickman for the price stated earlier. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Mr. Lee Andrews reminded Mayor Hines that the property amount on the Eleanor Jackson Hickman property will go up because the taxes are a little over \$496.00. Mr. Andrews said the price will not be over \$497.00.

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-14 (PROPERTY PURCHASE 165-10-03-057, CHALMERS STREET EXTENSION – ILA O. TURNER)

Councilman Elaine Reed made a motion to purchase the property of Ila O. Turner at the additional tax amount stated. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved. Mayor Hines said the City Attorney will add the language of the ordinance to add in the wording Councilman Milling suggested.

Upon motion of Councilman Cannon, seconded my Councilman Milling the Special Meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 7, 2017- 6:30 PM

In addition to those present at the Special Meeting included: Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Ms. Rosa Hudson, Mr. Norman Steadman, Mrs. Rosena James, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Alex Gainey, Mr. Freddie Kinsaul, Police Chief Danny Watson, Ms. Judy Alexander, Mr. Roger Gore, Ms. Ernestine Lyde, Mr. Shawn Fritiz, Mr. Al Agnew, Mr. & Mrs. James Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Ms. Hannah Dixon and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

PRAYER

Councilman Coleman Cannon did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Coleman Cannon, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 & Special Meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to approve the City Council Meeting Agenda, which unanimously carried.

Mayor Hines said they need to move items E & F up on the agenda under “New Business” and table Item G. **Councilman Gardner made a motion to table Central Park South Sample Trail until the April Council meeting and move items E & F up on the agenda under “New Business”.** Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said a list of upcoming events sponsored by DDRA is included in their packets. She said the first downtown alive concert will be on Friday March 17, 2017 from 7:00 – 10:00 PM. She said the DDRA’s Annual Golf Tournament will be Wednesday, April 5th. The “Taste of Darlington” will be Thursday, April 13th from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Darlington Raceway in the garage area. She said tickets for the “Taste” are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the gate. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mrs. Rock about the possibility of other bands performing at these events. Mrs. Rock told Councilwoman Bruce to contact her if she or anyone else has suggestions for bands to play at the different events.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MR. NORMAN STEADMAN

Mr. Steadman said the Chamber is looking for participants for a local gallery program in their Chamber office. He said they want to use this as a platform for local artists to get their work out there. He told Council if they know of any local artists, to contact him. Mr. Steadman thanked everyone who supported their Annual Chamber Banquet. The Administrative Professionals’ Day Luncheon will be held April 26, 2017 at SiMT. Mr. Steadman said this annual event is hosted in partnership with the Florence Chamber. The Spring Fling will be held April 1, 2017 at Darlington Raceway. The Lamar Egg Scramble will be March 30th – April 1st. Mr. Steadman said the Taste of Society Hill will be Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the Society Hill Depot. He said the Chamber will host a Lunch & Learn/Networking event at the Darlington Library on March 23, 2017 from 12 noon to 1:00 PM which is a free event for Chamber members.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL

A) POLICE CHIEF DANNY WATSON – PART-TIME POLICE POSITION

Chief Watson said he has access to two officers that are already certified and have taken other jobs and he would like to allow Mr. Alex Gainey & Mrs. Kim Nelson be allowed to come and work part-time hours (no more than 12 hours a pay period and no more than 20 hours a month at minimum wage). Chief Watson said this gives them an opportunity to keep their certification and also aid the department when they have special events.

B) MS. JUDY ALEXANDER – SUNRISE ACRES ANNEXATION

Ms. Alexander said she wanted to let Council know that they are still interested in annexation and would like to know what information they need to move forward.

MS. ERNESTINE LYDE – POTHOLES ON 108 FLYNN CIRCLE

Ms. Lyde said she appeared before Council last year and nothing still hasn't been done about the potholes 108 Flynn Circle and it's getting worse. She said when she called she was told it was the City and another side told her it was the State. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if this is a State Street or City-owned street. Mr. Garland said he called on this, but he'll have to check his notes because he can't recall. Mr. Garland is supposed to check on this for Ms. Lyde. Ms. Lyde said the smell from the Oil Mill is back again too. Councilwoman Reed said the City removed some of debris back there, so the City has done something. Mayor Hines told Ms. Lyde that Mr. Garland will take care of this for her.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-04 – MAYOR/COUNCIL FILING FEE CHANGE

Mr. Garland said the current filing fee for Council is \$35.00 and the filing fee for Mayor is \$100.00. The new filing fee will 1% of the four-year salary for Mayor & Council. With the new increase, the filing fee will be \$200.00 for Council members and \$340.00 for Mayor. **Councilman Milling made a motion to adopt Second Reading on Ordinance 2017-04 to increase the Mayor/Council filing fee, which was seconded by Councilman Cannon. All approved the motion.**

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-05 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT CHANGE FROM .36 CENTS PER MILE TO 53.5 CENTS PER MILE

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed to change mileage rate from .36 cents per mile to 53.5 cents per mile, which unanimously carried. Councilman Milling made a suggestion that Mr. Garland check to see if it's permissible to set up an ordinance that would read that our reimbursement rate would be whatever is allowed by the Internal Revenue Service rather than having to have an ordinance each time there's a change in the rate.

NEW BUSINESS

E) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-09 STORM WATER BOND

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion for First Reading on Ordinance 2017-09 Storm Water Bond. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Mr. Segars said he is concerned that this Chalmers Ditch Project started out as a project that we were going to spend about \$400,000 to remedy and it has now grown to approximately \$1.7 million. He said it's really gotten out of hand and there's a deadline of May, 2018 when the project must be completed. He said the engineering company hasn't finished engineering it and there's approximately 13 easements that have to be satisfied. Councilman Segars said he feels the City will have a problem completing this project on time and he feels the City doesn't think the City can afford what it's going to cost us to fix it. He wanted to know if there is any way to scale the project back to what its original intent was and do the project on a partial basis as revenue and resources come available. Councilwoman Reed said we had a work session that indicated that what started out as the Chalmers Street project was just a tip of the iceberg and once the engineering company got in to see what was causing the problem and to fix the problem would mean a lot more money. She said to scale back would mean not really addressing the problem. Councilwoman Reed said we don't need to make any changes because the proposal we have now will address the problems in Ward 2 as well as other problems that have been noted. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce said in their work session last week brought out that 62 acres that were accounted for in the first scope of work. She said Ms. Lathan has done an outstanding job keeping Council informed about this. Ms. Lathan and Mr. Garland went to Columbia last week to meet with officials there to make sure the City didn't lose any of the grant money. Councilwoman Bruce said with Mayor Hines' permission she would like Ms. Lathan if she would come forth and give clarity on this so that everyone will understand. Mayor Hines said this problem has been going on in that neighborhood for years and she is not willing to draw back on this. Ms. Lathan told Mr. Segars he was correct about the original grant being approximately \$445,000 and Councilwoman Reed was correct in saying the City retained a Consulting Engineering firm (Hanna Engineering Firm) who was awarded the initial contract to design storm water improvements with that amount which was the grant amount that was awarded. Ms. Lathan said what happened was, the preliminary engineering report was not sufficient to be able to build what was presented in that engineering report because it could not pass a 25-year design storm plan which is a requirement to receive a permit to build (By SC DHEC as well as SC Department of

Transportation). Ms. Lathan said what was presented in the preliminary engineering report could barely pass a 2 ½ year design storm, therefore it had to be redesigned. She said the preliminary design was done by Hanna Engineering which he presented at the work session and as a result that rescoped the project. She said the first preliminary engineering report was submitted as part of the application positioned those improvements. Ms. Lathan said the first engineering did not totally and adequately define the entire phase so there were other design issues that had to be looked at and readdressed. Ms. Lathan said they have acknowledged all of the issues and met with the Program manager for the Pee Dee Region as well as Ms. Bonnie Ammons (Director of Division of RIA) in an attempt to see if they would approve a more comprehensive approach to this. She said they gave them verbal approval with them coming back and providing a number of additional documentation including easements. Ms. Lathan said there is a 4-month time frame in which they are to discuss and address the easements. She said she doesn't think the easements will be a problem because a significant amount of the easements that are identified are already defined and in public right-of-way. Ms. Lathan said Ms. Ammons and her Program Manager came from Columbia and drove through the project area and acknowledged all of the concerns (horrific smell, and as part of the application they pulled citizen complaints for the last 4 to 5 years). Ms. Lathan said Ms. Ammons gave them the ok for us to move forward with the project without them pulling the nearly \$500,000 grant they had already approved. She said to do this in phases would kill the project. She said the close out date for this project is April, 2018. Councilman Gardner said he's concerned that we will be using ¾ of our funds which she suggested we create to do this project and it's only going to fix ¼ of the City's storm water issues. Councilman Gardner told Ms. Lathan she asked us to form this fund for the purposes which she mentioned and he's not sure how we would fund those things if we were to take away such huge chunks for the next 15 years. Councilman Gardner told Ms. Lathan he would hope that we're cognizant of our total funds and what could happen if we had any kind of catastrophic damage on the storm water side. He asked Ms. Lathan how she could explain using ¾ of our funds for ¼ of our City. Ms. Lathan told Councilman Gardner his assessment is accurate if he looks at it in a narrow scope to say this would be the only source of funding. Ms. Lathan deferred this to the City Manager because 1) other optional funding is available to the City and 2) the City has the opportunity to apply for other funding and other grants in the future. Councilman Milling asked Ms. Lathan if grants are available for the other areas of town. Ms. Lathan said whenever Mayor, Council or City

Manager identifies any particular area that they would like her company to work on, she is more than happy to work on it. Mr. Garland said one additional source of revenue as Councilman Gardner suggested would be additional monies from the General Obligation Bond because we can go up to \$1.25 million. We currently have \$1 million of this out and we have 10 years to pay it back. Councilman Segars said we have identified the odor/smell that was hazardous to people's health was the dumping of chemicals from the Oil Mill into the ditch and we have remedied that situation by putting a lift station near the By-Pass so they can send all their sewage to Florence for treatment. He said he rode by the ditch and it is draining some now and wanted to know why can't we eliminate a lot of the expensive piping and just clean the ditches out and restructure the ditches so the water flows out of there and when resources come available come back and start piping the ditches. Ms. Lathan said if this was a viable option it would have been taken. She said the ditch is one issue in that total drainage basin plus it's not just the smell, but the ditch provides a potential safety risk, especially for a small child. She said it's not just the smell, but it's the flooding in resident's yard & mosquito infestation issue. Ms. Lathan said the residents have been coming before Council for the last 4 years with complaints about mosquito infestation that's coming from the flooding. She said it's not just the smell, which posed respiratory concerns. Councilman Cannon said it's time for Council to move forward and go ahead and get this done. Councilwoman Reed wanted to know what ditch Councilman Segars is looking at because the one they are concerned about is still stopped up. **All approved the motion except Councilman Segars, who voted against the motion.**

F) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-10 HOSPITALITY TAX BOND \$1.9 MILLION DOLLARS

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Gardner to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2017-10 Hospitality Tax Bond, which unanimously carried.

Councilman Bryant Gardner excused himself at 7:13 PM because he was not feeling well.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mrs. Rock said Mr. Ryan Whitlow was nominated to serve on the Williamson Park Committee and Ms. Naomi Willoughby was nominated to serve on the Beautification Board. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Reed,**

seconded by Councilman Coleman Cannon, to appoint Mr. Ryan Whitlow to serve on the Williamson Park Committee, which unanimously carried.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to appoint Ms. Naomi Willoughby to serve on the Beautification Board, which unanimously carried.

A) PROCLAMATION MARCH, 2017 AS RED CROSS MONTH IN THE CITY OF DARLINGTON

Mayor Hines read the proclamation proclaiming March, 2017 as Red Cross Month in the City of Darlington. Mr. Al Agnew said the Red Cross responded to fires at 52 homes in Darlington County and they installed 536 smoke detectors in homes in Darlington County.

B) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-06 BUILDING PERMIT FEE CHANGE – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey did a PowerPoint presentation to Council with a proposed fee schedule change. He gave Council a sample copy of an information flyer that he will be giving to contractors once everything is approved. He said he wants to adopt a Master fee schedule much like Darlington County and Hartsville. Mr. Gainey said right now plumbing, electrical, mechanical, sign and gas are all itemized, but he proposes to get everything on a dollar amount. Mr. Gainey went over the proposed fee changes and changes in some of the language in our current ordinance. He also proposes to add a plat review fee of \$25 and a commercial planning review fee of 25% of the cost of the permit. Mr. Garland said the rate increase should make the Building Inspection department self-sustaining. Mr. Gainey said when he first took this job his thoughts were that permit collections should be enough to cover both his salary and the secretary's salary. **Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce First Reading on Ordinance 2017-06 Building Permit Fee Change, which unanimously carried.**

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-07 (ANNEXATION OF FLEMING PROPERTY)

Mr. Garland said Mr. William Fleming wishes to build a home on 5 acres of property that he owns located on the corner of Cashua Ferry Road & S. Myrtle Street. He said the land is not currently in the City. **Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Coleman Cannon,**

First Reading on Ordinance 2017-07 (Annexation of Fleming Property), which unanimously carried.

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-08 (ANNEXATION OF SUNRISE ACRES - MS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said we can't have first reading tonight, but she will explain what the process will be. She said by State Law they will have to do the 75% method which is 75% of the property owners in a specified area petition to be annexed into the City. Mrs. Rock said residents need to come to her office and get an official stamped petition with the map on it and they will have to take the stamped copy and get it signed by the property owners that live in that specified area. State Law allows them 6 months from the date that it's stamped to get enough signatures to meet the 75% threshold. Mrs. Rock said they will then bring the signed petitions to her office and she will start the notification process and start setting up the public hearings that have to be held and sending out certified letters. Mrs. Rock said the Planning Commission will have to review it to designate zoning for that area and this will then come to Council as two ordinances: 1) to annex the property and 2) to designate the zoning for the properties. She said this will take approximately 3 months from when she gets the petitions signed and returned to her. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Rock to email the map to Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said last night Council appointed Attorney Robert Stucks as the new City Municipal Judge to begin July 1, 2017. She said Council would like to thank Daniel Causey for 30 years of service. Mayor Hines said Attorney Stucks will start 6 weeks before Judge Causey leaves.

REMINDERS

Council Retreat will be held March 24th & 25th, 2017
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6:30 PM-Regular Monthly Council Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Coleman Cannon, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer