

**CITY OF DARLINGTON  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY MAY 23, 2017 AT 6:15 PM**

The City of Darlington held a Budget Work Session in the Old Council Chambers on Tuesday May 23, 2017 at 6:15 PM. 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.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Mr. Garland passed out handouts of infrastructure spending in the City of Darlington by wards from 2000 to 2009 which showed ward 3 receiving the most money compared to the infrastructure spending in 2010-2017 which showed ward 2 received more. Mr. Garland said wards 1 & 2 is mostly neighborhood spending and in ward 3 its spending in the commercial district. (For Info Only)

Mr. Garland passed out sheets with employer contributions to S.C. Retirement System by departments. Mr. Garland said 5 years from now the City's contribution for SCRS will be 18.56% and PORS will be 21.24%. Mr. Garland said he's spoken with other Managers and they said they are going to go with temp employees because you don't have to pay state retirement on them. Councilman Cannon asked about health insurance coverage. Mr. Garland said for one full-time employee the City pays approximately \$6,980 for medical insurance, dental & vision coverage.

Mr. Garland said all of our cherry pickers are down right now, but we ordered some to be built with one being delivered in July and one in September, but with our current situation we can't wait until then so one will be delivered early next week. He said it's a Peter Built with a load trailer on one side where we can do some scooping with it. Mr. Garland asked for Council's verbal approval to go ahead and put in a purchase order for that. He said this will be a part of the equipment package he showed them earlier. He said the equipment package includes 2 cherry pickers and one rear load trash truck. He said the trash truck will be delivered in July and the cherry

picker will be delivered in September when we get the USDA grant. Mr. Garland said the payments will be approximately \$50,500 a year for 10-years with the first year's payment would be from the USDA grant for \$50,000 which we should get in September. Mr. Garland said the cherry picker that he ordered will be in use within the next week. Mayor Hines said in the past we didn't have a cherry picker and the workers had to use pitch forks to pick up the debris, but now they are passing debris because the cherry picker is broken and they are too lazy to get off the truck and use the pitch fork. Mayor Hines said she asked Mr. Garland about this today because it's making our City look bad and too many people on both side of town are complaining about this problem. Mayor Hines said the workers have pitch forks on the truck but they use the excuse that the cherry picker is broken. Mr. Garland reminded Council that the street department doesn't pick up construction debris. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland the total cost of the equipment and he said approximately \$420,000. Mayor Hines said she thinks the guys are disrespecting Ms. Carroll and that's not right. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mr. Garland if Ms. Carroll is aware of what's going on and he said, "Yes". Councilwoman Bruce said if the workers are disrespecting Ms. Carroll, then she needs to handle that because she's the Supervisor. Councilwoman Reed said she's supporting the workers because she has seen them working in different areas.

Mr. Garland said he is looking at leasing trucks for the street department and recreation department, but he has not gotten any proposals yet. He said he has met with three different vendors for an Information Technology (IT) person but we'll have to put it out for bids. He said he's also met with several vendors for physicals and drug testing and everything will be put out for bid. He said he won't do all of them at the same time, he'll do them one by one. He said roofing bids will be opened a week from today. Mr. Garland said he has a meeting with Granicus on Friday to talk about paperless agendas.

Mr. Garland went over some of the changes that he made in the budget. Mr. Garland reminded Council they have the option for each of them to get \$1,000 of Community Promotion money to spend on whatever non-profit organization or community event they would like. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland when they would have to make a decision and he said they can let him know after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Council discussed possible areas to extend Christmas decorations this year. Mr. Garland said under "Public Building" under LED Bond Payment, we have been able to put that off until August,

2018. Mr. Garland said we will probably have to update our phone system and get a new automated system in. He said we have to redo the tennis courts because there are some major cracks, but the School District will pay half of it. Councilman Gardner told Mr. Garland to talk to the School District about pickleball and drawing the lines. Mr. Garland said this will be one of the things on the list. Mr. Garland said the phone increase in the Police Department because of the officers having to do work in their cars. Councilman Gardner said the City can actually take on internet and provide it as one of the utilities. He said we could give our businesses a higher bandwidth and possibly make it cheaper for everyone. He said we would compete with Time Warner and that way we wouldn't have to have the hotspots. Mr. Garland said he doesn't know enough about it but it sounds like an exciting idea. Councilman Gardner said he would love for us to look into this if the Council is interested. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he checks the phone bills. Mr. Garland said Chief Watson looks at those for the Police Department, but he looks at the ones for the department heads. Councilman Cannon said he thinks Mr. Garland should be the one to check all of the phone bills. Mr. Garland said there's \$40,000 in demolition, and Mr. Alex Gainey has done research on leasing a track hoe where we can take down the buildings ourselves. Mayor Hines said if we have to get other workers that would be a liability to the City. Mr. Garland said it would have to be somebody like Frankie or Kendrick to operate this. Councilman Segars said he thinks this would be a good investment for the City. Mr. Garland said he will invite Mr. Alex Gainey to come to the July meeting to come and talk about this and his strategy for taking down houses whether it's for bid, by contractor or by track hoe. He said Mr. Gainey said he has already identified over 100 houses that needs to be taken down.

Upon motion of Councilman Cannon, seconded by Councilman Segars, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer