

**CITY OF DARLINGTON  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM  
JUNE 5, 2018**

**PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Chuck McNeil, Ms. Antoinette Muldrow, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. T.C. Sawyer, Officer Sharon Blakney, Officer Jimmy Davis, Mrs. Rosena James, Mr. Robert Thomas and other visitors.

**NEWS REPORTERS**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of May 1, 2018 Council meeting, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman John Milling to approve the Minutes of May 3, 2018 meeting. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus to approve Minutes of May 21, 2018 Council meeting.**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK**

Mrs. Rock said on Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> the DDRA will continue its “Bringing Downtown Alive concert series at Liberty Lane and Pearl Street. The Bout Time Band of Darlington will perform with the Darlington Kiwanis Club staffing the event. She said Pepsi of Florence and Wilson Senior Care have already committed to assisting with this project. Papa John’s will be site selling pizza by the alongside Kona Ice selling snow cones and C&C Ribs & Bar-B-Que selling ribs and bar-b-que. Dustin James and Hank Edwards will perform on July 12<sup>th</sup>; they will hold a community karaoke party with S&T Entertainment on August 9<sup>th</sup> and Radio Vibe will perform for the final concert on Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> during race week. She said the concert committee is in the process of securing additional sponsors and vendors so if anyone is interested in being a vendor/sponsor or helping to organize the events should contact her office. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about their programs and give feedback on future projects at their monthly members breakfast. The next monthly breakfast for members is 8:00 AM Wednesday June 27, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of \$5.00 towards the meal for nonmember businesses. Those meetings will continue monthly through October on the last Wednesday of the month. The DDRA still has funds available for improvement incentive program. The 50/50 matching grant of up to \$1,000 can go towards façade improvements such as a fresh cost of paint, or repairs to the front entrance or adding new awnings or signage. The grant application is available on the City website at [buildupdarlington.org](http://buildupdarlington.org) or from her office. She said the Board has approved \$5,000 for calendar year 2018. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mrs. Rock if there is a reason why she does Bringing Downtown Alive on Thursday vs Friday. Mrs. Rock said last year she tried having it on a Saturday and a Friday and there were mixed results. She said a lot of people are out of town on Saturday. She said what she found by looking at FaceBook for downtown Florence and Hartsville Main Street and their events a lot of the folks from Darlington were in Florence on Fridays so when we had an event they weren’t here they were in Florence instead. Mrs. Rock said we were doing it on Thursday to avoid Florence because they have first Friday, final Friday and third Friday. She said that only leaves one Friday of the month that isn’t taken by an event so we decided to try Thursday this year.

**B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MS.  
LIZ GAINY**

Ms. Gainey said on Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce sponsored the first “Open House Darlington” and it was a huge success. Ms. Gainey said they did have one property sale during the Open House. Ms. Gainey said the planning stages for Freedom Fest is almost over and that time is almost here. She said to mark June 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 on your calendar for Freedom Fest.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK**

**Mr. Boyd Jackson – Green Waste Pickup**

Mr. Jackson said he was at the water board and he asked them why they didn't pick up the leaves and branches and the lady said because he doesn't have a water meter on that property. Mr. Jackson said he told her if he's paying taxes on that lot why can't they pick up the debris and she said that's how they have it and maybe he can go talk to Council and maybe they can explain it to him. Mayor Hines said what we usually do is if you are paying a water/sewer bill we will pick up, but not just for paying taxes. Mr. Garland told Mr. Jackson he would have to pay a sanitation fee which includes yard debris, recycling and regular garbage pickup. Mr. Jackson said, “So what you're telling me is because I don't have a meter on there and don't pay sanitation, you're not going to pick that up”? Mr. Garland said, “No Sir, I said if you want it you have to pay the sanitation fee to get the yard debris picked up”. Mr. Jackson said, “Then why do I pay school taxes if I've never had any kids in school”? Mr. Garland said, “All I can do is tell you the ordinance which says if you want to have your yard debris picked up you have to pay a sanitation fee”. Mr. Garland said, “I can't answer a question about school taxes”. Mayor Hines told Mr. Jackson what he can do is bring the debris to his house on Pine Street. Mr. Jackson said, “Ok”. Councilman Gardner said and if you were to pay the sanitation fee I'm sure they would pick it up. Mayor Hines said, “He pays a sanitation fee for Pine Street”. Councilman Gardner said he's not sure if he can take it from one property to another. He said the fee is only a few dollars a month and Mr. Garland said it's \$23.00 a month. Mr. Jackson asked what's the incentive for people to keep their lot clean. Mr. Garland said it depends on what's on the code and what's enforced on the code. Councilwoman Reed said, “What about considering the fact that he is paying a sanitation fee at one property and the would be inclusive of another price”. Mr. Garland said if Council wants to change the ordinance so that it reads differently he will be glad to include that. He said with something like this, if you make one allowance

then you have to make all allowances. Mr. Garland told Council if they want to change, that's fine, but they will have to change the ordinance. Mayor Hines told Mr. Jackson they will talk about this.

**Mr. Garland – Mr. Bobby Ross**

Mr. Garland said Mr. Bobby Ross passed recently and was a friend to many. He said Mr. Ross loved and wanted the best for Darlington. He said for over 20 years Bobby styled something he called the “Darlington Central Park South” trail which would be a walking, hiking and biking trail which would encompass the entire City of Darlington. Mr. Garland said since Mr. Ross has passed he doesn't want folk to forget his dream of bringing our town together through a biking, hiking and walking trail. He said he would hope Mayor and Council (whether it's this Council or a future Council) would name part or all of the trail for Mr. Ross.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-09 (2018-2019 BUDGET) APPROVAL**

**Councilman Segars made a motion for Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-09 (2018-2019 Budget). Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion.** Mr. Garland said since we have the issue of millage that's before us this evening we need to schedule a special meeting either June 21<sup>st</sup> or June 28<sup>th</sup> depending on what they do this evening with the millage. He said if there's a millage rate increase we need to have a public hearing and then we'll have to have a special meeting to approve that.

**B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-10 BUSINESS LICENSE COLLECTION**

**Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilman Segars, Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-10 Business License Collection, which unanimously carried.**

**C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-11 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTICE**

**Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-11 Tax Anticipation Notice. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A) NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Hines read a proclamation proclaiming June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> as Garden Week throughout the City of Darlington. A picture was taken of Mayor Hines presenting the proclamation to Ms. Linda Beckham.

**B) KEY TO THE CITY – MAYOR GLORIA C. HINES**

Mayor Hines presented Mr. Howard Nettles with a “Key to the City of Darlington”. Mayor Hines said Mr. Nettles donated money to the City of Darlington from Genesis. Mr. Nettles was also instrumental in securing funds for the new “Welcome to Darlington” sign on Highway 52.

**C) PDRTA – MR CHUCK MCNEIL**

Mr. McNeil passed out copies of pie charts which were created as a result of answers from a survey from people that ride the DART bus. Mr. McNeil said the ridership data he has was through April. He said from July 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> they have provided 6,227 trips. In April 2017 they had 500 trips and in April of this year they had 728 trips and it shows that ridership is up 7.5%. Mr. McNeil said it’s clearly beneficial because those folks are going to either earn money or spend money, so it’s economic development in addition to quality of life and other significant impacts. Mr. McNeil said the funding page of the survey shows what the total for them to provide the DART bus and the commuter bus which runs two times a day between Darlington and FDTC (Florence -Darlington Technical College). He said the basic resources to provide that total is mostly federal funds. He said that’s how PDRTA and all public transit works in the country; they can leverage federal grant dollars by trying to secure as much non-federal money that they possibly can. Mr. McNeil said it’s really a significant incentive for them to try to get local investment and support in what they do because it’s a very small percentage of what they actually need to cover the cost of providing the service. He said the request from the City this year is the same as it’s been for the past few years. He asked Council to consider this. Mr. McNeil said in regard to Saturday service in terms of what they would need from a local level to provide the service would be approximately \$700.00 for each hour of service a week the entire year. Mr. McNeil said for four hours on Saturday it would be about \$2,800 for fifty-two weeks. Mayor Hines said, “Are you saying that we need roughly \$2,800 to have four hours for Saturday service”? Mr. McNeil said every Saturday for fifty-two weeks. He said the \$2,800 is not the total cost, but that’s what they would need to access federal funds to make it all work. Mayor Hines asked him if this

extra was for the whole year. Mr. McNeil said for Saturday service above and beyond what they do Monday-Friday. Councilman Milling said, "Are you saying the partnership that you have with Genesis and any other partnerships provide you with \$14,000 a year"? Mr. McNeil said, "Yes". Mr. McNeil said in addition to Genesis, whatever advertising they can sell on the exterior of the buses can contribute to the local revenue they need. He said money collected in the fare box cannot be used as part of the local match. Mayor Hines asked Mr. McNeil if McLeod gives them money and Mr. McNeil said they do, but only for a free downtown shuttle they operate in Florence. Mayor Hines asked if the bus goes to McLeod/Wilson and he said they do, but they don't get any funding. She asked about the drug stores such as Walgreen, Carolina Drug, CVS and Mr. McNeil said, "No". Mr. McNeil said he has tried some pharmacies but he hasn't had any success yet. Mayor asked about Food Lion and Walmart. She said she knows Walmart should give something, but Mr. McNeil said he's spoken to the Manager there and he supports it and allowed them to put the bus shelter there. Mayor Hines the man is not at Walmart any more. Mr. McNeil said he will try to talk with the new Manager at Walmart. He said there are certain doors they haven't avoided, but they haven't been able to do everywhere. Mayor Hines told Mr. McNeil that Council will discuss it.

**D) MS. ANTOINETTE MULDROW – DARLINGTON MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

Ms. Antionette Muldrow said this cemetery is a historical African-American cemetery located on Avenue D & Friendship Street. She said this cemetery has been in Darlington since 1890 and at one time it was the only African-American cemetery in Darlington. Ms. Muldrow said on March 17, 2014 this cemetery was added to the National Register of Historical places with a marker placed in the cemetery including Macedonia Baptist, Bethel AME & St. James Methodist Church cemetery. She said a committee was formed to upkeep the cemetery but at this time most of the members have died or are sick. She said at this time the cemetery has grown out of control. Her concern is there aren't any funds to upkeep the cemetery. She said there are two large trees that have fallen and they need to be cut and removed; grave markers need to be cleaned and the grass needs to be cut. Ms. Muldrow said even though several family members have gone there and have been cutting, with over ninety acres of property, that's a lot to keep up. She said she knows this can't be done overnight and will probably have to be done in phases. Ms. Muldrow said she received a bid from one company to remove the two trees and is waiting on another bid. She said she's talked to several

persons in the Darlington area that's also concerned about the cemetery and want to know if there are any grants that the City has that they can apply for to help with this project. Ms. Muldrow said they are still contacting churches and family members to help with this project. She said anything that Council can do to help with this will be most appreciative. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Muldrow if she's talked with the Warsaw family yet and she said, "Yes". Ms. Muldrow said there are other persons that's on the original committee and there are also some funds there, but the money that's there won't even touch the surface. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Muldrow if she talked to anybody about writing a grant for it. Ms. Muldrow said she wanted to come to City Council first and see if there were any grants that they could get through the City. She said after talking to some of the committee members they will see if they can go through the National Register and see if there's anything they can apply for. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if she knows of any grants they can apply for. Mrs. Rock asked Ms. Muldrow if she talked to the Historic Preservation office in Columbia yet and Ms. Muldrow said she has not. Mrs. Rock told her that might be a good place to start. Mrs. Rock asked her if she has any idea what kind of money she needs to do the upkeep or to do one phase of it. Ms. Muldrow said one of the bids that they got for the two large trees that are down is \$5,000. Mayor Hines told Ms. Muldrow that Mrs. Rock will be glad to give her the information so she can call and see what she can do about getting some grants. Councilman Milling said he's familiar with where the cemetery is and its historical significance but wanted to know who the owner of the cemetery is. Ms. Muldrow said the first church the bought the cemetery was Macedonia Baptist in 1890 and gradually Bethel AME bought several acres, then St. James bought some, but the rest of the property she doesn't know about. Councilman Milling said some cemeteries operate with premise that there's people buried there and charges are made so much of that money is set aside in perpetuity to continue maintenance. He asked if anybody looked at fundraising among the church organizations and Ms. Muldrow said she will check and see. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. Garland if the City gives a donation to the cemetery and Mr. Garland said, "yes, \$200.00". Mr. Garland said Council members have money that's available for them to give so if they want to give some of their community promotions money to the cemetery, they can do that. Mr. Garland said eleven years ago the City worked with that committee that Ms. Muldrow is talking about and we got a grant and a study was done. He said one thing that was suggested by the study was that since the cemetery is half in the City and half in the County that if we wanted to look at helping the entire cemetery, we would annex in

the whole thing. He said he thinks Ms. Warsaw-Capers has that study. Mr. Garland said we would be willing to help from a grant writing standpoint to submit anything to S.C. Department of Archives & History to help with that. Mayor Hines said she thinks the Warsaw's have some money in the bank and if they don't relinquish that we can still go with this? Mr. Garland said the group set up as a non-profit in 2007 to do a lot of this work and the apparatus is there you've just got to find the paperwork. He said they probably need to update the officers and then get it registered with the State of South Carolina to make sure it's a registered non-profit.

**FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-12 TAX MILLAGE RATE**

Mr. Garland told Mayor and Council they told him to put together a three year look back at the City of Darlington millage rate which is allowed by State Law. He said in 2015 the CPI was 1.62%; In 2016-2017 it was .12%; In 2017-2018 was 1.26% and 2018-2019 CPI is 2.13%. (Information was emailed previously to each Council member) He told Council if they look at each year listed it gives a different rate of what we can add. He said everything all together if you include the 3-year lookback and this year CPI increase would give you 6.4125 mils. He said you have the maximum capability of raising the millage \$111,898. He said it's also State Law that if you want to do just a one-year lookback or a two-year lookback, you can do that, but the maximum you can do is three years. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland how many readings would we have to have. Mr. Garland said we would need to have the first one this evening but the second one we need to have at least 15 days from today's date because we have to advertise it in the media and we have to have a public hearing on the increase. Mr. Garland said our current millage rate is 125 mils and a mil is worth \$17,450. Councilman Milling said we currently have only have \$4,445.46 to meet any unknown emergencies. Mr. Garland said that's correct and that money could be transferred from the LOST and from the general fund account to put money back in there. He said we sre still waiting for \$440,00 from FEMA. Mayor Hines asked if this will go in the reserve fund and Mr. Garland said if you want it to go in the reserve fund, we can do that.

**Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the three-year lookback millage rate that Mr. Garland talked about. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Mr. Garland told Mayor Hines they need to make a motion to take the money from the millage increase to go into the reserve fund.

**Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that the money from the**

**millage increase goes into the reserve fund. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Mr. Garland said we will need to meet Thursday June 28<sup>th</sup> since we have to wait 15 days for this. He said we'll have a public hearing at 6:00 and a meeting at 6:30 to approve this.

**F) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-13 ANNEXATION OF 224 BLUE STREET**

Mayor Hines said the owners of a double-wide trailer on Blue Street their well went bad and they wanted to get water from the County but the connect fee was \$1,200 and since the City was cheaper, so they decided to annex into the City. Councilwoman Reed asked if we could annex a trailer. Mrs. Rock said this is not the mobile home it's a house next to the mobile home.

**Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-13 Annexation of 224 Blue Street. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Comment [w1]:

Comment [w2R1]:

**G) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-14 ZONING 224 BLUE STREET**

Councilman Gardner wanted to know the zoning around this property. Mrs. Rock said there are 3 different zoning in that area (General Commercial, R-6 & R-10). Mrs. Rock said based on the definition of what those zoning districts are is how the Planning Commission recommended that Council zone it R-6 – High Density Residential. **Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Baccus, First Reading on Ordinance 2018-14 Zoning of 224 Blue Street to R-6 High Density Residential.**

**H) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-15 WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASE**

**Upon motion of Councilwoman Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Reed First Reading on Ordinance 2018-15 water/Sewer rate increase.** Mr. Garland said the increase is 3% inside City and 3% outside City Limits. **All approved the motion.**

**I) POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS – CHIEF KELVIN WASHINGTON**

Chief Washington said on June 26<sup>th</sup> they will be doing a series of promotions within the police department. He said they are restructuring and reorganizing to bring about better accountability. He said there will not be

any increase to the budget. Chief Washington said the main reason for the restructure and reorganization is to promote accountability and to spread some of the duties out. Chief Washington told Council he would like for them to go ahead and approve the resolution that they tabled at the last meeting. He said and City Attorney Etheridge wanted to determine whether or not they could pass the Mutual Aid Agreement with a resolution instead of an ordinance. He said they called the Municipal Association the next day and they told us we would be able to do it with a resolution. Chief Washington said the way they have written this resolution is that they would be able to give Mr. Garland the authority to go ahead and enter into these mutual aid agreements on behalf of the City. **Councilman Milling made a motion that this resolution allow and approving multi-jurisdictional agreements be passed by Council. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Chief Washington said last week the police department employees participated in courtroom security. He told Council he knows they have seen the metal detector in front of the council chambers for the last month or so and he was waiting to receive training. He said he had a friend of his with the U.S. Marshall's Office come in and conduct training last week and they will begin utilizing the metal detector next week for court. He said they will also be utilizing it for Council meetings as well. Chief Washington said they will also be providing security at all of the Council meetings as well. Chief Washington thanked the members of Council who was able to come and attend the firearms simulator training a couple of weeks ago. He thought it was an excellent training for our officers, members of Council and members of the community to get a general idea of what police officers go through on a day-to-day basis; the limited amount of time that they have to make a split-second decision with many of them being shoot/don't shoot situations. Chief Washington said Todd Williams from the Municipal Association did a marvelous job with the officers. He was able to talk them through some of the mistakes they made and he asked them the reasons why they made some of the decisions during those shoot/don't shoot scenarios.

#### **BOARD /COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mrs. Rock said it's coming to the end of the fiscal year so a lot of board member terms are ending. She said several people have said they are willing to be appointed and some are not. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus to reappoint Mr. Keith**

**Taylor to the Historic Landmark Commission. All approved the motion.**

**Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded by Councilman Segars to reappoint Ms. Catherine Howle to the Historic Landmark Commission which unanimously carried.**

**Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to appoint Mr. George Chase to the Historic Landmark Commission which unanimously carried.**

**Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to appoint Ms. Rose Pruitt to the Historic Landmark Commission, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said that leaves one alternate seat open on this board. She said there is one seat available on the Beautification Board and the Planning Commission Board has several people that are rolling off and there are some open alternate seats. She said Ms. Joan Alston wishes to be reappointed to this Board. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to reappoint Ms. Joan Alston to the Planning Commission Board. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

**Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to reappoint Mrs. Ouida Page to the Planning Commission Board, which unanimously carried.**

Mrs. Rock said that leaves us with one seat and one alternate seat available on the Planning Commission. She said this year it's imperative that they complete the commission membership because they are going to start working on the comprehensive plan. Mrs. Rock said the last appointment is the Board of Zoning Appeals. She said this is a critical board to have full because if they don't have enough people to show up for a quorum it causes an issue with variance requests. She said they have two seats that are open and Mr. William Jackson who previously served on the board would like to be reappointed. **Upon motion of Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilwoman Bruce to reappoint Mr. William Jackson to the Zoning Board of Appeals, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said if anybody has any suggestions or anyone interested in serving on a board can call her office and she can tell them what they will be doing or how often they would meet.

**REMINDERS**

Saturday June 30, 2018 – Freedom Fest Darlington Raceway – 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Wednesday July 4, 2018 July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday – All City Offices Closed

Tuesday July 10, 2018 at 6:30 PM – Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.*

---

Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Clerk & Treasurer