

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:00 PM
AUGUST 2, 2016**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland, Councilman John Milling, Councilman Coleman Cannon and Councilwoman Elaine Reed. Also present was Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mr. Mark Face, Ms. Rosa Hudson, Mr. Don Blakney, Mr. Robert Thomas, Mr. Ronnie Brunson and other guests.

Mayor Hines informed the audience that Council learned at the Annual meeting they attended in July that they can't ask the citizens to stand for Prayer and they can't pray for them, but only for the Council. She told the audience it was their choice if they wanted to stand with Council as they prayed. The meeting was opened with Prayer led by Mayor Pro-Tem Cannon, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hines said the purpose of the Public Hearing was to get input from citizens about the water rate increase. She then opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Linwood Epps said the City has had a lot of sinkholes he's in support of the rate increase because we have a problem in the City with old pipes and old sewer lines and we might as well start addressing the problem. Mr. Epps said if he's done his math correctly, the City will increase the rates \$4.10 over a 5-year period. He said he'd rather start paying his \$2.00 now than to wait four years from now and they hit him up for \$50.00 on his taxes, so go ahead and address the problem now.

Mrs. Joyce Thomas said she is not in favor of the increase and her purpose for speaking is she's thinking about people that can't afford the increase. She said she's been trying to get the number of cut-offs per month from the City, but she guesses this is privileged information and she couldn't get it. She said when you work with children who says, "My mom didn't have any water so we had to go stay with grandma", this bothers her because she's a people person. Mrs. Thomas said she can't understand why this is the only means we have (raising fees) to pay for this. Mayor Hines told Mrs. Thomas that all of the pipes over the City are about 75 years old and they are

deteriorating and when you fix one line another one breaks. She said she would rather pay the \$2.00 now rather than later because she doesn't want her house to fall into a sinkhole. Mayor Hines said she's not far from City Hall and they've already had about nine sinkholes. She said there's sinkholes all over the City. Mayor Hines said nobody wants to go up, but the City has the lowest rates in the area. Mrs. Thomas said she also feels that the services are not up to par. She said there are things that can be done on a daily basis, but it just doesn't happen. Mrs. Thomas said crews dug up the street in front of her street about two months ago and the rocks are still there. She said once a crew comes and does the work, you can't anybody to come back and fix it back like it was or better. She said water has been on her street for about a month and no one has come to check on that. She said she really gets tired of calling the City about every little problem. Mayor Hines said she thinks this was probably done by the demolition crew, but Mrs. Thomas said this was done before the demolition crew started. Mrs. Thomas asked Council if this increase will help the services that the citizens receive. Mayor Hines and Mr. Garland both said they hope so. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland to check on this and see if the City did any work on Reid Street. Mr. Garland said the lady who had a waterline burst in front of her house filed an insurance claim and that's the extent of what we've done. Councilwoman Reed said once coming on Council and finding out what is needed and the cause of the problem, they are addressing these problems. Councilman Cannon asked Mrs. Thomas if she had a solution for us to doing what needs to be done without raising the water rates. Mrs. Thomas asked Council how did they come to this particular point of raising the fees. Councilman Cannon said if the City doesn't do this we won't be able to get any grants to help fund this. Mayor Hines said we haven't raised water rates in three years and she doesn't know of any other way to do this. **Mr. Charlie Gaskins** wanted to know the total revenue that will be collected over the next six years based on the rate increases. Mr. Garland said approximately \$500,000. Mr. Gaskins said his biggest problem with this whole thing is that you can't put but so many patches on anything. He asked if there was any alternative to go in and replace certain sections through the City working toward replacing the entire antiquated system that we have. He asked if the City looked at possibly coming up with an impact fee for every new house that's built in the City of Darlington? He said this impact fee would encompass strains on the water & sewer systems, added police protection, added sanitation, streets and maintenance. He said we need to look at something like this to generate a bigger revenue that we can actually put toward replacing the worn out parts of the system we have. Can

we borrow the money on a tax bond or are we going to keep patching the system? Mayor Hines said whenever we go in, the City always put in new pipes. She said starting with \$2.00 is a good place to start. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland how much it costs for each house to tap into the City. Mr. Garland said \$1,200 for the tap fee. Mr. Gaskins said he's talking about an impact fee and not a tap fee because an impact fee would go more toward the entire system and the City's infrastructure rather than just that individual house. He said he feels there are other alternatives that we could get creative with and use. He said he doesn't have a problem with the bills increasing incrementally at a reasonable amount, but there are alternatives we can do to push some of this burden on to the new homes that are going to be built in the City. Mayor Hines said if the new home owners have to pay a lot they are going to complain about that. Mr. Gaskins said let them complain and if they don't want to be a part of the community, let them build somewhere else and that's the way we're going to have to look at it.

City Manager, Mr. Garland said when he was working in the City of Mullins, they got major grants to fix the water & sewer system and spent over \$4 million in improving it. Since he's been with the City we have gotten more than \$7 million in grants just for the water & sewer needs. The City has had to match this with approximately \$1.5 million of our own money. Mr. Garland said we have been working on grants, but one thing about grants is that they can only be used in low to moderate income areas. He said the Mill Hill, Southeast & Southwest Darlington that are not considered as low to moderate income areas we will not be able to get grants for. Mr. Garland said this is where we will have to use real money to fix those problems. He said last year 17% of our 2015-2016 budget came from grants (mostly water & sewer grants). He said we have so many grants going on right now, that we are having a hard time matching them. Mr. Garland said we are doing what we can with what we have. He said impact fees is a great idea, floating a bond if we have to; we will look at all of this.

Mr. Don Tracy Blakney said there's a busted sewer line behind his house and toilet paper, feces and everything is coming out onto the street. He said he wanted to bring this to Council's attention and that this is a serious problem that really needs to be looked into. Mayor Hines said this problem has been there for a long time and she brought it to Mr. Garland's attention last year in October, 2015 when the storm came through. She said this problem has been flowing like this a long time and it been there for years and it needs to be taken care of.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Bruce, to close the Public hearing at 6:22 PM, which unanimously carried.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016 – 7:00 PM**

The meeting of Darlington City Council was held on Tuesday August 2, 2016, 7:00 PM in the Courtroom/Council Chambers with the following persons present:

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Coleman Cannon, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, Ms. Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Albert James, Mr. Norm Stedman, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mrs. Rosena James, Ms. Sheila Baccus, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. BoBBY Ross, Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Goodson, Mr. David Brown, Mrs. Dyan Cohen, and an overflow of visitors (standing room only in courtroom/council chambers and in hallway).

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 Cannon, seconded by Mr. Segars, to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting on July, 12, 2016, which unanimously carried.

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

Mrs. Rock said this Saturday the Market on Darlington Square continues from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM with live music, arts & crafts, produce, food and

other vendors. She said the featured event will be a free over-sized Scrabble Game for kids and adults to enjoy. In September during Labor Day weekend they will have their Annual Kid's Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest. The DDRA will hold a special Race Week Kickoff Party on Friday August 26, 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at Liberty Lane. She said this limited ticket event which will feature great food, beer, wine, music and race cars. The commemorative tickets are \$50.00 each. In October, the DDRA will revive the Yam Jam on Friday October 7, 2016 the night before the Sweet Potato Festival at Palmetto Furniture on S. Main Street. Music will include the Recollections Band to open and Jim Quick and the Coastline Bad as the main act. The Scare on the Square is planned for October 27, 2016 and they are looking for churches and civic clubs to participate on the Square with them to create one central evening of Halloween fun for Darlington. The DDRA has set a schedule for 2017 free concerts; Friday, March 17, 2017, Saturday April 29, 2016, Friday, May 19, 2017; Friday June 9, 2017 & Friday, July 21, 2017. The free concerts will feature local musicians and offer food and beverage for purchase. The concerts will be at Liberty Lane.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MR. NORMAN STEADMAN

Mr. Steadman said The Chamber welcomed two new businesses as members in July: Hartsville Balloon Company & Carolina Business Equipment. The Chamber will have additions to their website (a community calendar). They will add a blog to celebrate the new members. Ribbon Cutting/Open House for Genesis Healthcare in Lamar, SC on Thursday, August 4, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Mr. Steadman said the Chamber will take part in a Ribbon Cutting on August 20, 2016-10:00 AM for The Place of Healing located at 712 Pearl Street. The Toast of Darlington is scheduled for October 6, 2016 from 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM.

MS. JANNIE LATHAN – STORM WATER PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Lathan passed out information to Council concerning the storm water update. Ms. Lathan said in the 4th quarter of 2004, the Council approved the City of Darlington's Storm Water Ordinance and in June approved the storm water fee, which led the basis for developing and implementing a storm water management plan. Ms. Lathan said #3 shows the 6 major areas that needs to be implemented and well documented, but she has asked to focus Items A & B which focuses on public education and outreach and public participation and involvement for the near term and for the long term focus on Items C through F. Ms. Lathan said they are looking at communicating

with the public getting them involved, participation, awareness of the storm water fee because it will be implemented in October of this year. She said they have prepared information cards and if Council likes them, she will get more to distribute. She said the cards will be placed in with the water bills, and they will make 8 ½ x 11 flyers and ask the local businesses to post them. Ms. Lathan said they will also meet with local community groups and organizations so they can communicate. She said since the City has a strong partnership with PDRTA she was wondering if the City Manager could ask them if the driver could pass out some of the information cards to the bus riders. She said she's doing regular program review with the City Manager so he's guiding and directing the process as per Mayor and Council's request. Mr. Milling asked Ms. Lathan to explain the difference between water & sewer and storm water. Ms. Lathan said they are developing this storm water management program in anticipation of compliance with some MS4 requirements although we are not calling it the MS4 program. She said in order to do this they must track storm water fees that are collected and put them into a separate account. She said the collected fees can only be used to improve storm water infrastructure within the City. Ms. Lathan said the sewer is to get rid of the solid waste when you flush the commode; your drinking water is the nice clean water that you drink, clean and do other things with. She said the storm water comes from the rain, storms and the run offs. Ms. Lathan said as the storm water runs off from our City we don't get and illicit discharge in our public waterways. She said it gives the City funding to create infrastructure of underground storm water pipes and catch basins so that we can control the runoff and send it to the eight outfalls in the City.

MS. KATHY BAXLEY – DARLINGTON FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

Ms. Baxley said appeared before Council to give an update about their services and asked that Council help get the word out about what services are available through them. She said their numbers have decreased recently and if the need is going away, she is excited about that, but she doesn't think that is the situation. Ms. Baxley showed slides of their Hartsville site which is open Monday-Wednesday and Darlington site is open Wednesday afternoon, Thursday & Friday. She said their pharmacy hours remain the same on Tuesday & Thursday and they are available to patients five days a week. She said medications are filled as needed daily. Ms. Baxley said their mission is to provide free permanent care, medications, and pastoral support to the residents of Darlington who do not have health insurance and who don't qualify for government health programs. She said they have 17

medical providers that come in to care for patients. She said they provide primary care for eligible adults between the ages of 19 and 64. They are a medical home for people (acute and chronic medical conditions). Laboratory and radiological testing is provided at our local hospital when ordered by volunteer providers. They also have Orthopedic and Gynecology specialty services on site. She said there is a multitude of other specialist that provide extended medical services to their patients. Ms. Baxley said they have diabetic, nutrition and exercise classes and the clerical workers are all volunteers. She said they have added a mental health service to their list medical care. She said they are first and foremost, a Ministry and they do not hesitate to minister to their patients with prayer and love.

Councilman Coleman Cannon made a motion to table item numbers 11, 12, 13 & 14 until Council gets further information and further study on these items. Councilwoman Bruce seconded the motion. Everybody approved the motion except Councilman Bryant Gardner. Councilman Gardner said in the future he would appreciate that Council do their education beforehand because it's a lot of wasted time for them and for the citizens. Mayor Hines said she intends to let the citizens speak because it might come back up.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR

Mr. Mark Face said he lives at 414 Sheffield Drive and there was representation of homeowners from Camellia Court, Sheffield Drive, Eastburn Court & Gann Drive. Mr. Face said he just learned about the housing development on Sartor Drive on Wednesday night. Mr. Face said he's not opposed to having a new housing development, nor is he opposed to annexing in, but they have many, many questions that needs to be answered. Mr. Face told Mayor Hines during her campaign she stated that she wants transparency from the Police, Fire and other departments, and they are asking for transparency of the Council in this matter. He said they feel this hasn't been the case thus far. He said if this is something the community likes and they agree with, they will be more than happy to help fill those homes. Mr. Face said they really would like this to be tabled and City Council take the lead and meet with Mr. Evans to ask him questions such as what his plans and intentions are, what his 5 year & 10 years goals are for this property.

Mr. Linwood Epps said he is concerned about what is going to happen. He said he doesn't like the R-8 designation and he's led to believe that Mr. Evans wouldn't mind the property being upgraded to R-10. Mr. Epps said

he would like for Mr. Evan's annexation designation be zoned R-10. He said the transparency about the meeting, which he's not saying Council did anything wrong, he just doesn't remember seeing it advertised. He said the community is concerned about the houses that are going there, how large are the houses, how much setback is he going to have, how much space is going to be between each house, what do they look like. Mr. Epps said they just want to meet with Mr. Evans in a casual setting so they can ask some of these questions. He also said as far as item #11, Council really need to do that. Councilman Milling said we are checking to be sure we can get the property annexed into the City to be sure we can get the hospitality revenue to pay the bonds this is the reason we postpone this issue. Mr. Epps said Council should have done this first before we thought about buying it. Mayor Hines said it's a good thing like Mr. Milling said, but it wasn't checked and they are trying to be sure.

Mr. Charlie Gaskins to speak on Item 12 & 13

Mr. Gaskins asked how much cost to the City is it to annex Sartor Drive? Councilman Gardner said there is no cost to the City, Evans Construction is paying for the road, paying for all of the water and sewer lines. How is this going to be laid out? He asked if it was going to be one house to one building lot or will the houses be similar to the ones on Columbian Street? Mrs. Lisa Rock said the first question tonight is whether or not to annex this property. She said if we don't annex this property, nobody in this room gets a say as to what that property will look like. She said if the City stops this annexation, Mr. Evans can still build over there and the County has no zoning. She said Mr. Evans will be able to put a mobile home park, an apartment building, he can put a strip mall. She said if the City doesn't annex this property into the City we have no say whatsoever, but we will still get the negative impact. Mr. Gaskins said this doesn't answer his question. Mr. Gaskins asked if the City annexes this property will it be laid out like the old Springdale subdivision with one house to each individual lot and Mrs. Rock said, "Yes". Mr. Gaskins said so there won't be 2 to 3 houses on any one lot and Mrs. Rock said, "Correct". He asked if this subdivision will follow the same format as Springdale subdivision and Mrs. Rock said, "If it's zoned that way". Mrs. Rock said the zoning designation they are reviewing, is R-8 as their recommendation. She said either R-8 or R-10 requires a single family home to be on a single lot. Mrs. Rock told Mr. Gaskins she can't tell him exactly what the houses will look like because she doesn't have plans. She said Mr. Evans is not required to or supposed to hand her plans if it's not in the City. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if the

houses will look like the ones on Columbian Street and she said, “No, because Columbian Street is zoned R-6 which allows more multi-family housing. Mayor Hines said the ones on Columbian Street are really close together. Mrs. Rock agreed, but she doesn’t approve those plans, the Building Official does. Mr. Gaskins said he hopes they get a chance to sit with Council and have a one-on-one with them. He said there seems to be a lot of questions that won’t be answered until you annex. He said we can say there’s absolutely no cost to the city taxpayers to annex this, but there is additional costs (additional policemen, sanitation worker, etc.) and he is not sure that the taxes will help us recover those costs.

Mr. Chuck Dewitt & Mrs. Mary Ellen Dewitt who lives at 120 Gann Drive said when they bought their house, they bought it because it was on a nice quiet dead end cul-de-sac. She said she was in Lisa’s office on Friday and she showed her some plans and what was on the plans were long, narrow lots with one house per lot that appeared to be very small. Mrs. Dewitt said she doesn’t mind it being rentals, but she does mind the size of the houses with so many of them jammed on top of one another. She said she hates they are going to lose the wildlife and there is going to be a lot more traffic coming through the area. She said she is against it being government subsidized housing, if that’s what it is. She said if the houses will be on half acre lots 1,200-1,400 square feet in keeping with the neighborhood, she can deal with that. Mrs. Dewitt said if the annexation does go through, they will put their house up for sale.

Joshua Stanley lives on Gann Drive and he said most of his questions have already answered. He said they have been told that there will be 35 to 40 homes and if this is the case there is not enough land that was purchased for it to be half acre lots. He said the reason he purchased on Gann Drive to raise their child was because there was not a lot of vehicle or foot traffic. Mr. Stanley said there will be a lot more vehicle traffic coming and going out of their neighborhood and he is against this. He said he has been prepping his house to put on the market due to this annexation request. Mr. Stanley said he is not against the annexation, if it is as Mrs. Rock says.

Eric McElveen – Item 14 said he is in favor of the City purchasing the property off of Lawson Road for a Recreation Complex.

Mitchell & Gloria Goodson said they are not against the recreation complex, but the problem is the location. She said there is a lot of swamp

land there and a gas pipe runs through the property. She said they live on Oleander Drive so they know how the land is behind them. She said it is swamp land and it will have to be filled in with a lot of dirt. Mrs. Goodson said the land is really messy and it has a lot of tree stumps because they went in and cut trees and left the stumps. She said if the land is not annexed, they will have to perk it and she doesn't think it will perk. She said if it does, it would surprise her. She told Council they really need to look at the land and other things before they decide to buy it.

Mr. Donald Myers said the Goodson's pretty much said everything he wanted to say. Mr. Myers said he and the Goodson's are next door neighbors. He said if the recreation complex comes, they will not have and privacy or any peace. Not to mention all the lighting, extra noise and traffic in the area. Mr. Myers wants all of this to be taken into consideration before they purchase this land.

Ms. Susie Berry asked what it would take to annex into the City and what area will it include. Councilman Gardner said he would hope that we could get as many the residents as they can to annex for water, sewer and other reasons. He said what's been done in other cities is that they have annexed the road. Councilman Gardner said Council has some questions now, but they will have more clarity on it by the next meeting. He said as it stands right now, they will annex just the street to the property. Ms. Berry said when she talked with Mr. Garland that about 18 residents on the left side of Lawson Road would have to approve it. Mrs. Rock said there are several ways to get annexed into the City and would be largely dependent on property owners wanting to come into the City. She said one way would be if the property is contiguous to something in the City to come in. She said they could do parcel by parcel down Lawson Road. She said the shortest way to get there would be three property owners and the longest way to get there will be about twenty-two. Mrs. Rock said it will take a lot of knocking on doors of everyone in the area and talking to the property owners. She said she doesn't expect any of this to be completely done before we purchase this property. She said they could do a neighborhood referendum and get 75% of the owners to agree to annex and annex everybody. Ms. Berry said she's all for a recreation facility, but not in this area. Ms. Berry said the back of the recreation facility would border her land which her grandchildren use for hunting.

Ms. Paula Stokes Item #14 lives on Pinewood Drive and she said her back yard abuts Oleander Drive. She said if she wanted to live in the City she would have moved in the City. She said she is concerned with where the entrance and exit will be with all of the traffic. Ms. Stokes said she is very much in favor of a recreational complex, but not in this area. She said she had not heard about this until Monday of this week. Ms. Stokes said it's loud enough on Blue Street and if she can hear it from there, it will be on top of them on Lawson Road. She said some of them are nurses, they take calls, and have to be up 4:00 a.m. in the morning and asked that Council think about the area and try to move it somewhere else.

Ms. Jenny Altman said she doesn't live in this area, but her sister does. Ms. Altman said if you are going to grow, we're going to have to offer housing recreation areas, etc.

Mayor Hines said she's heard everyone concerns and will take them all into consideration.

Mr. Larry McElroy said he lives on the corner of Lawson Road & Oleander Drive and his first concern is the traffic. They have had several accidents and speeders in this area. He said we have a unique opportunity to build something in Darlington, but if you put it in this location you are not going to draw people here because we're off the beaten path. Mr. McElroy said if you build something like this closer to I-95, closer to I-20 or inside the City Limits you're going to draw people in.

MRS. LISA ROCK passed out pictures of what the proposed houses will look like on Sartor Drive. Mrs. Rock said annexation into the City means this Council and the residents of Darlington have a voice in how their neighborhoods are developed and expanded. She said the residents she spoke with feared declining property values the most. A few points about property values to dispel those fears: 1) Mr. Evans wants property values to increase in this area. She said Mr. Evans has built in other area in Darlington. Mrs. Rock said in speaking to Mr. Evans today his focus is going to be on renters who move to the area and young professionals who need a location to stay before they purchase a permanent home. Mrs. Rock said according to research on the impact of rental properties in a neighborhood by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), there is little, if any link between home values and the proximity of rental developments. Ms. Rock said 15% of this neighborhood is rental. She said the bigger factor is whether your

neighbor's property increases or decreases your home's value is condition; she said if you have trash piled up and the grass not cut, your property value is less and if your neighbor keep their property up nicely, the value will increase. Mrs. Rock said the City has a property maintenance code that can be enforced and the County does not. She said without putting this property within the City's jurisdiction, the City and its residents will have no control on how the property is maintained. She said annexation is all about having a say and a voice in development through our land development ordinance and zoning ordinance. She said if the City does not annex this property the City will have no say, but the residents will still feel the impact. She said failure to annex this property is saying "No" to millions of dollars in investment in our community as well as future investments from other developers who may be too scared to approach our town seeing this council be so anti-growth. She said Mr. Evans can build his houses anywhere and he does build them in other towns. Mrs. Rock said the story of our town would have been different if Council had chosen growth over fear. She talked about when the Belk Store, Coggeshall's and BC Moore was on the Square. Councilwoman Bruce asked Mrs. Rock if the picture she passed out was going to be what would be built. She said the picture is the style of the front of the home and it is not a good example because it is from a different town with different zoning regulations. Mr. Mark Face asked Mrs. Rock why is she showing the picture if it's not a good example. Mrs. Rock said the picture is to show the architectural design. Councilman Bruce said when Mr. Evans was here last month he alluded to the house on D Avenue and she is for the City growing, but her concern would be for the homeowners in that area. Councilwoman Bruce said if she was a homeowner with a 1,600 square foot house in this area and someone brought in rental property approximately 800 or 900 square feet, this would be a concern for her as well. Councilwoman Bruce said she didn't get a clear understanding from Mr. Evans exactly what the houses will look like. She said she don't feel comfortable voting for something and she doesn't have clear information on. Mrs. Rock said what Mr. Evans showed her originally was 1,100 square feet. Mrs. Rock said Mr. Evans can build on the property now if he wanted to, with the County. She said if we wait until he builds and then annex him in, we can't change any of the setbacks. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if we allow Mr. Evans to annex into the City will our codes we have in place restrict him. Mrs. Rock said if Mr. Evans annexes in all of our rules will apply; if he does not annex in, none of them will apply.

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2016-08 (WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE)

Mayor Hines said we had a public hearing on the water & sewer rate increase; \$1.00 for water and \$1.00 for sewer. **Upon motion of Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Bruce, Second Reading on Water & Sewer rate increase, which unanimously carried.**

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2016-10 (\$1,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND)

Mayor Hines said the \$1,000,000 bond will be for repairs to the City Admin Building, City Gymnasiums, City Street and Sanitation Building, City Hall and the Council on Aging building **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion for Second Reading on Ordinance 2016-10 (\$1,000,000 General Obligation Bond), which was seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner. All approved the motion.**

MS. CRYSTAL GIBSON – RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Ms. Crystal Gibson, Program Director for the Darlington County Recreation Department spoke in favor of the recreational complex on Lawson Road. She said this facility will allow Darlington to bring many people into the City allow us to capitalize on our proximity to I-95, it will allow us accommodate updated baseball/softball fields, restrooms, playgrounds, walking trails, etc. She said the location allows the traffic to flow past our main economic corridor. She asked that Council be a “hero” for our kids.

Mayor Hines said at a later date we will have two separate public hearings; one for Sartor Drive and one on the ballfields.

MR. HOWARD GARLAND said there has been a rash of people putting out appliances and couches and anything else on our City streets. Mr. Garland said section 70-2 of our City code states that the City **WILL NOT** pick up furniture, household appliances, etc. He said the new code will state that the City **WILL** pick up furniture or household items placed by residents on a reasonable basis. Residents may not place more than one (1) appliance or piece of furniture per month for pickup. Placement of more than one (1) item per month will result in additional charge to resident to be negotiated with City staff.

MR. GARLAND – RESERVE FUND PROPOSAL (STREET & SANITATION DEPARTMENT)

Mr. Garland said this is not a fee increase, this is just a redirection of fees. He said we need to get new equipment and taking a portion of the monthly sanitation fee and place it in a capital fund. Mr. Garland proposes to take \$1,50 from the \$20.00 that we currently each resident and business. We will place these funds into a street/sanitation capital account. **Upon motion of Mr. Segars, seconded by Mrs. Reed, to establish a Street & Sanitation Capital Account, which unanimously carried.**

UPDATED HOUSING DEMOLITION LIST – MR. HOWARD GARLAND

Mr. Garland said the man that won the bid to demo the houses did not honor the contract. Mr. Garland said he only tore down two houses. Mr. Garland said Council needs to rebid this out and re-advertise it. Mr., Garland said we'll need to move money from last year's budget to this year's budget since the contractor never finished the project from last budget year.

MR. BOBBY ROSS

Mr. Ross wanted to see if Council can give him some sort of proclamation to honor Man Stanley for his upcoming anniversary.

MR. GEORGE KNAPP

Mr. Knapp asked Mayor Hines if there was any feedback to his discussion he brought forth last month. Mayor Hines said they have finalized everything and they are great. Mr. Knapp asked if it could be shared with him or the public at any time? Mayor Hines said, "No". Mr. Knapp said he's all for growth and he thinks they could have done a better job of planning some kind of discussion on this. He said about Lisa's comment regarding that we have control over the zoning and we'll manage the zoning He said there are numerous examples in the City where we do not follow codes. He said they have been brought before this council hundreds of times and those codes still have not been enforced, so what Lisa said is false. He said regarding the 100 acres off Lawson Road, why not leave the wildlife alone and use some of the urban blight areas we have and find 100 acres or less someplace else. He said you don't have to have 100 contiguous acres, you can have multiple sites.

REMINDERS

Thursday, September 1, 2016, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM-Darlington Race Fest,
Public Square;

Saturday, September 3, 2016 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Market on
Darlington Square;

Saturday, September 3, 2016 & Sunday, September 4, 2016 Mayo Alumni
Weekend at Wells Stadium and also Saturday, September 3, 2016-VFW
Sports Clips-200 & Sunday, September 4, 2016-Bojangles's Southern 500;
Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:00 PM – Regular City Council Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

**Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman
Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer