

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, Ms. Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Assistant Fire Chief Charles Bailey, Fireman James Jett, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Albert James, Mr. Norm Stedman, Mrs. Rosena James, Ms. Sheila Baccus, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Goodson, Mrs. Dyan Cohen, Police Chief Danny Watson, new Building Inspector Mr. Alex Gainey, Mr. Ed Hardy, Mr. Lee Andrews, Ms. Rosa Hudson, Mr. Francis Parnell, Ms. Rhonda D. Brown, Mr. Albert James, former Mayor Ronnie Ward, Policeman Michael Cooke, former Fire Chief Jim Stone, former Councilman James Cooper, Mrs. Linda Byrd, 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 John Milling did the invocation in absence of Mayor Pro-Tem Cannon; which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner, to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting on August 2, 2016, special meetings on August 11, 2016 & August 23, 2016, which unanimously carried.

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

Mrs. Rock said one of the two Build Up Darlington loans have been repaid. She said they now have \$27,000 available to loan out to new or existing small businesses for a variety of purposes. The Market on Darlington

Square will have their Annual Showdown on the Square Chili Cook-off on Saturday, October 1, 2016. Mrs. Rock said they are looking for individuals, churches, groups, clubs or businesses to compete for cash prizes with the top prize being \$250.00 plus a trophy. She said wrist bands will be sold \$5.00 for the public to choose the People's Choice Award which is \$150.00 prize. The DDRA will revive the Yam Jam on Friday October 7, 2016 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, 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 Band as the main act. Admission is \$10.00 and food and beverages will be available for purchase. The DDRA will partner with the Darlington County Recreation Department for "The Scare on the Square" which is planned for Thursday, October 27, 2016 from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. She said they are looking for churches, civic clubs and other businesses not located on the Square to join them for the Trick or Treating event downtown. She said there will also be a costume contest for the businesses participating or decorating and dressing up for Halloween. Mrs. Rock said on Thursday, December 1, 2016 the DDRA will hold its Shop Small event, a Downtown Open House with music, pictures with Santa and more. Mrs. Rock said they will hold multiple Face Book 101 seminars in the coming months and will have more details on this shortly.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MR. NORMAN STEADMAN

Mr. Steadman said The Chamber welcomed two more Board members in August: Mr. Kerry Tharp, the new President at Darlington Raceway and Ms. Lisa Page, the Director of McLeod Health. Mr. Steadman said with the two new members, this now completes their Board. The Chamber's Annual Retreat will be October 19, 2016 sponsored by Nucor Steel. He said the Board of Directors will use this retreat as an opportunity to set the course of work for the coming year and develop strategies to take the Chamber to the next level. Mr. Steadman said the Chamber took part in a Ribbon Cutting on August 20, 2016 at The Place of Healing. Mr. Steadman thanked Mayor Hines for attending this event. He said this is a home for disadvantaged expectant mothers and infants. He said they are accepting tax deductible donations right now and they also have a donation wish list available. place -10:00 AM for The Place of Healing located at 712 Pearl Street. Mr. Steadman said "The Toast of Darlington" is the Chamber's next major event which is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2016 from 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM. Tickets are \$35.00 and may be purchased from the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber hosted a "Lunch & Learn" event in August to inform members

about the changes to overtime laws in 2017. Mr. Steadman said the next “Lunch & Learn” will be September 28, 2016 at the Darlington Library from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM. The speaker will be Toyinda Smith who will speak on the impact of leadership and employee engagement on businesses. Mr. Steadman said the Chamber’s Annual Membership Banquet will be February 9, 2017.

MR. FRANCIS PARNELL – LED OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Mr. Parnell told Council that people within the lighting industry has never told people in their position or ordinary citizens that our eyes are extremely sensitive to short wave length blue light at night. He said in order to make the lights more efficient they have to load them up with more short wave length blue light, and even though the fixtures put out only half the amount of energy per light, our eyes perceive it 3-5 times brighter. Mr. Parnell said this is why the AMA came out against LED lighting in July, 2016. (Lights were turned off) Mr. Parnell did a lighting demonstration using an ordinary 6-volt lantern vs a small LED flashlight which emits blue light. He said with LED’s, it’s not the amount of light, but what’s in the light. Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked Mr. Parnell what was his suggestion as far as the City is concerned. Mr. Parnell said in 2015 the City decided to hold off on Duke Power install lighting until they get the correct wave length of light for our visibility at night. Mr. Parnell said he is still suggesting the same that the City hold off until Duke Energy gets it right.

MS. KIM BRYANT – HOMELESS SHELTER

Ms. Kim Bryant, Director of Kid Stop said her nursery has been in the same neighborhood since 1988. She said she is speaking on behalf of concerned parents, children, neighbors and staff members. She said they are very sympathetic towards the homeless and anyone who needs a helping hand, but this is not the appropriate place for the homeless shelter. Ms. Bryant said one of the neighbors, Ms. Margaret, gave them a pamphlet about the shelter because no one introduced themselves to them. She said after reading over the pamphlet, Ms. Bryant said she called and asked what type of facility this would be and she was told a homeless shelter. Ms. Bryant said she called a few weeks later and asked for more specific information on what it would be exactly and she was told a 90-day facility. Ms. Bryant asked if this facility would be for the homeless, child molesters, drug abusers and was told, “Yes, anyone in need in search of Christ”. Ms. Bryant said she commends anyone who is in search for Christ, but she doesn’t think this is the proper place for the shelter. Ms. Bryant said one of the staff

members forgot her phone (it was after hours), and when she went back to get it, she saw a man looking in their window so she didn't stop but kept going. She circled back around and saw the man going into the homeless shelter. Ms. Bryant said the second problem they had was the kids were on the playground one afternoon and a man standing on the shelter property had his phone focused on the children as if taking pictures or videotaping. She said they immediately brought all the children inside. She said they did not think the Flowers Ministry has been truthful or forthcoming to their neighborhood that's full of small children, older people and a daycare. She said they have not been very forthcoming to the City of Darlington. Ms. Bryant had pages of petitions signed by everyone that has children, extended family, grandparents, uncles, aunt, etc.

“KEY TO THE CITY” PRESENTATION – MAYOR GLORIA HINES

Mayor Hines presented City Attorney, Mr. Albert James with a “Key to the City” for two years of service and for being instrumental in getting Wal-Mart here and for clearing the court docket of over 300 cases. (A picture was taken of the Mayor and Mr. Albert James)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONNAIRES FOR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Rock if she was looking for Council to have the questionnaire back to her by next Council meeting and she said they would be fine. Mr. Garland said the questionnaire is 24 questions to help the City of Darlington and help Council determine our vision process and where we need to focus our efforts such as economic development, recreation ballfields or working closely with different civic organizations. Mr. Garland said the questionnaire will be posted on the City's website for the public. He said the answers will be available to the public so they can find out specifically what the Council wants the staff to do. Mr. Garland said this will be followed up with a planning session for Council sometime in the Fall so we can find out where we want to move ahead as a town.

WATER/SEWER ESTIMATES FOR RECREATION BALLFIELD SITES – MR. HOWARD GARLAND

Mr. Garland said he has the estimates for the water/sewer hookup for the Lawson Road & Old Florence Road sites. Mr. Garland said for information only-the approximate cost for the Florence Road site water/sewer is approximately \$95,000; water & sewer hookup for the Lawson Road site is approximately \$476,000. Mr. Garland said we may be able to get help from

the State with some of the water/sewer hookup cost, but we have been told by our delegation that we have to choose a site before they are going to weigh in on what they will help us with. Councilman Milling asked if we still had an annexation issue on Lawson Road and Mr. Garland said, "Yes". Councilman Bryant Gardner said from the people that he's spoken with told him that we should do a pump as far as well water. He said the sewer is what we would need because we will have the well for the water side. Councilman Milling commented that we still don't have access to Lawson Road without annexation and Councilman Gardner said, "Correct, as of today". Mayor Hines asked, "wouldn't you want water rather than a well"? Councilman Gardner said, "No, because you're going to be pumping so many thousands of gallons with all of the green space, irrigation, splash pad and other resources". He said we will have the option of tying in to the County Water which runs right in front of the property.

**WETLANDS/ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - LAWSON ROAD
PROPERTY – MR. LEE ANDREWS**

Mayor Hines asked who was going to do this report and Mr. Garland said Mr. Lee Andrews. Mayor Hines said they need somebody who can explain the report and answer their questions. Mr. Garland said Mr. Andrews is more familiar with the report than anyone else there. Mayor Hines said Mr. Andrews is in recreation and they need someone there from the company who can better explain the report. She asked who prepared the report and Mr. Lee Andrews said SM&E Environmental Agency did the report. Mr. Andrews said he will see if someone from the company can come to a meeting. Mr. Garland told Mr. Andrews to tell Council what questions he asked. He said he asked how much of the land is buildable and they gave him 50 plus or minus acres because they have not done the delineation yet as to how much of the land is wetlands. He said there has been no dumping and no major spills. Mr. Milling said he read the report and it mentioned some contaminants near there but Mr. Andrews said it's about a half mile from here the proposed property. Mr. Milling said from reading the report, he got the impression that they were saying this was so far out that there was nothing to worry about as far as a pollutant standpoint. Councilwoman Bruce wanted to know if someone from SM&E can come to a meeting so Council can ask him questions about the report. Councilman Bruce and Mayor Hines said this would be their suggestion. Councilman Milling said to put someone from the company on the agenda for October if they are available to come. Councilman Gardner said they are licensed by the Corp of Engineers. Councilwoman Bruce said she is not questioning that, she just

wants to get someone from the company who can answer can questions because Mr. Andrews said himself that someone from the company can speak on this a lot better than he can. Councilwoman Bruce said SM&E prepared the report, so let someone from the company come to a meeting and speak. Councilman Gardner said when he had a meeting with Pee Dee Land Trust they said this company is highly reputable. Councilwoman Bruce said she SM&E's reputation is not in question. Councilman Milling suggested that they move on to the next agenda item.

NEW LIGHTS FOR TENNIS COURTS – COUNCILMAN GARDNER

Councilman Gardner said last year Council had an estimate for \$25,000 to replace the back two tennis court lights and he would like for us to ask that Council approach the individual and see if they will still honor that amount and we move forward with it. If not, since the price is over \$5,000 for the new lights, we get three new bids and see what the price is now. He said if the Council is interested in doing this, he thinks we should look into it. Councilman Milling asked if the School District helps the City with this. Councilman Gardner said the School District usually helps with 50% of the cost and he also asks that that City approach them and see if they will honor this request. Mr. Garland said the School District has been approached, but they have to take it to the Board before they let us know. Mr. Garland said anytime we've had any paving work done on the courts, the School District has paid for half the costs, so he would think they would honor this request as well. Councilman Gardner asked Council's feeling on this. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland when this estimate was given for the \$25,000. Mr. Garland said about fifteen or sixteen months ago. He said this was brought up by the Camellia Garden Study Club because they wanted the pole moved from the rose garden because it got in the way, so after getting the quote for it and it was too much money at that time. Mr. Garland said when talking about putting up lights we would have to consider if we would put the lights on the existing poles, would we move the pole or would have the wiring put underground. He said there are a lot of different questions that would have to be answered. Mayor Hines said we will wait on the School Board's decision as to whether they will pay for half of the cost.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Lisa Rock told Council that she sent them a list of the Boards & Commissions that have vacancies. She said there are several names that have been put forward. She said they will not fill all of the vacancies tonight, so if Council knows of anyone who would like to serve on any

board can contact her office or download the application from the City website. Mrs. Rock said she would like to take each Board individually so Council can discuss and vote on them separately. She said according to our City Code one member from the Historic Landmark Commission is tasked to serve dually on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Historic Landmarks Commission. She said Ms. Kay Pierson who is the current chair of the Historic Landmarks Commission said she is willing to serve on both boards and asked that Council approve this so that they will have a full Board.

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Bruce, to approve Ms. Kay Pierson to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals, which unanimously carried.

Mrs. Rock said Mrs. Beatrice Wilson has asked to serve on the Beautification Board as well as her name was provided by a council member. Mrs. Rock said this would fill all of the available seats on the Board if Council allows her to serve. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to appoint Mrs. Beatrice Wilson to the Beautification Board, which unanimously carried.**

Mrs. Rock said currently there are 5 women that serve on the Planning Commission, and there are two alternate seats available. She said there are three people that are interested in serving on this Board. Mrs. Rock told Council that the applications for the 3 people were included in their packets. The first is Ms. Sheila Baccus, second is Mr. Brenton Dana and third is Ms. Christy Williamson. Councilman Bryant Gardner said since all women are on the Board, he would like to get a gentleman on there. He said Mr. Dana is young and can bring a new perspective on the Board. He said he doesn't know the two ladies, but someone brought it to his attention who Ms. Sheila Baccus was. **Councilman Milling made a motion to appoint Mr. Brenton Dana to the Planning Commission as an alternate, Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.** Councilwoman Elaine Reed said Ms. Christy Williamson is willing to serve at any point, so they may put her in another vacant seat. Mrs. Rock said they have plenty of vacant seats. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to appoint Ms. Sheila Baccus to serve on the Planning Commission, which unanimously carried.**

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR

Mr. Linwood Epps said his understanding that the City Manager's contract comes for renewal a year from October and recommend that Council seriously consider giving Mr. Garland a one-year extension so that he'll still have two years left. He said Mr. Garland has done an excellent job and he would like to see him stay. He told Council they may even consider giving Mr. Garland an extra dollar or two. Mayor Hines said they will receive this as information.

Mr. Gaskins wanted to know where do we stand with the Evans property off of Barfield. Mayor Hines said when Council met with him Mr. Evans is supposed to consider R-10 zoning designation and also 900 square feet in the houses he plans to build, but he has not brought the information back to them yet. Mr. Gaskins wanted to know how and when will the public be advised before Council votes on this. Mrs. Lisa Rock said the public notification for the zoning of property has to be posted on site, which it was previously before the Public Hearing that was originally for 6:00 tonight, but was cancelled when Council tabled the issue. Mrs. Rock said it will appear in the News & Press as well as on site at the property. Mr. Gaskins said this does not answer the question. He told Mrs. Rock that she is talking about zoning and he's talking about annexation. Mr. Gaskins said you can't zone the property before it is annexed into the City and his question is, when will the citizens be advised as to where they are headed with the proposed annexation. Mrs. Rock said if they were to have a public hearing it would be in the County paper of record as a notice. Mr. Gaskins said he will take that for now.

Ms. Elizabeth Weatherford

Ms. Weatherford said she was at the public hearing two weeks ago and wanted to know when council is going to move forward with the sports complex on Lawson Road. Mayor Hines said Council is not ready yet and when they are, they will let the community know. Ms. Weatherford asked how long will they have to wait because their children are growing up. Mayor Hines told her she is sorry she feels that way, but they have to make sound decisions. Mayor Hines told her she does not know the finances of the City. Ms. Weatherford told her she knows there's about \$300,000 in the hospitality tax fund and Mayor Hines told her it will take more than \$300,000 to get the sports complex off the ground. She said buying the land might be one thing, but there are other things to consider. Ms. Weatherford said that what the \$1.5 million bond is going to be for. Councilman Milling said we have to address the annexation issue and we cannot make Lawson

effective as a complex unless we can annex it into the City. Councilman Milling said the revenue bond will be paid back by the hospitality tax. Ms. Weatherford said her question is, "how long will they have to wait". Councilman Milling and both Mayor Hines said they are working on this. Councilman Milling said if they can't get property owners to agree to allow us to annex the property, the City won't be able to annex. He said the City has different issues that needs to be considered before they can make a wise decision. Ms. Weatherford said there are a lot of people that want the complex. Councilman Milling said everybody on Council wants the complex, but they have to decide where is the best place, what's the best land, what's the best layout. He said the School District is talking about wanting to close elementary schools, but he doesn't know how many years down the road that will be. He said Brunson-Dargan would be a potential site if they close various schools. He said he hopes they will have an answer before the year is out. Councilman Milling said the Mazingo option expires soon and Mr. Garland said at the end of this calendar year.

Ms. Julia Patrick said during discussion about the softball complex they have already answered her question.

Ms. Ernestine Lyde said she lives on 108 Flynn Circle and has been calling the City for so long about them cleaning the street. She said she lives at the dead end and it's covered with leaves and people throws their trash there. She said she has been cleaning it for a while, but she is not able to keep doing that. Ms. Lyde also wants the street to be paved because they keep putting tar in the holes, but that's not effective. Mayor Hines told Ms. Lyde that they would have to check and see if it is a State owned or City owned street. Ms. Lyde said a sign was just put up last week that says, "End State Maintenance". Mr. Garland is supposed to check on this next week and get back with Ms. Lyde.

Ms. Margaret Dolford

Ms. Dolford said the homeless shelter is located in her neighborhood and she has nothing against the homeless shelter, but it doesn't need to be in a neighborhood where there's elderly people, children, daycare and single women. She said she has seen people hanging around outside the shelter and she has stopped and asked them why they are sitting outside and they will say they can't get in the building. Ms. Dolford said there's plenty of land and places that are far off where they can open a homeless shelter. Ms. Dolford said they are already saying they are not checking the residents

background. She said if she goes to rent a house from someone, the first thing they are going to do is get her social security number so they can do a background check. She said if she has to do a background check to rent a home, they need to do a background check on who they bring into the neighborhood.

Mr. Jason Price

Mr. Price said his daughter is only two years old, but his responsibility as her father is to make sure her well-being is taken care of. He said the information he's gathered about the homeless shelter is that nothing stable about it. He said nobody seems to know where these people came. All they know is that they are from Charlotte and they are "shady". Mr. Price said he doesn't want his little girl to be a statistic and asked that Council make a decision not to put the homeless in their neighborhood once they go over all of the information. Mr. Price said he has been here for a year when he moved here for his job at Nucor and he loves his neighbor and his neighborhood. He asked that Council take this into consideration when they make their decision.

REMINDERS

Saturday, September 17, 2016, 9:00 AM - Williamson Park Road Race - Public Square;

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

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7:00 PM – Regular City Council Meeting

Meeting was over, but Mayor allowed these 2 people to speak

Ms. Joan Austin said she would like to be on an investigative team for the shelter. She said she has run shelters in New York City for 25 years. She said something is going on unhandled and they need to take a look. She said she is more than willing to work with the City to see what is going wrong with this shelter and get back with Council.

Mrs, Beatrice Wilson said she is not scheduled to speak, but she would have been there if the situation had not happened today. She said if you are going to have someone to do something in a block you supposed to have a person to oversee that that particular company is doing it the right way and not just "screwing things around". She said it takes forever to get something done

and when you get something done, you want somebody from the City to go behind them. She said when you're spending good money, you need to have an overseer to see that the job is done right. She said as a resident she shouldn't have to come and go behind them and say they aren't doing this right and that right, but yet they take the money when the time comes. Mrs. Wilson said the company that's putting the road down in front of Cain School is leaving cracks and crevices and different things. She said she is not in no position to do like she used to. She said someone from go behind what you're paying for. Mrs. Wilson asked who is responsible for doing that. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Lathan to address this. Councilwoman Reed asked Mrs. Wilson what was the problem. Mrs. Wilson said she didn't see anybody the whole day except the company that was doing the work. Ms. Lathan told Mrs. Wilson she was talking about Phase III of the Village Renaissance Grant. Mrs. Wilson said everything should be done right for the same person on one side of the street as you do for the other. Mrs. Wilson then asked Ms. Lathan where was she today. She then told Ms. Lathan to speak up because she couldn't hear her. (Mayor Hines used the gavel) Ms. Lathan said there is a construction company that's responsible for the construction at the site and there's an engineering firm that's responsible for overseeing the construction to make sure it's properly done. Mrs. Wilson asked Ms. Lathan if she's gotten in her car and driven the site to see if it's right. Ms. Lathan said she's driven the site within the last two hours. Mrs. Wilson then asked Ms. Lathan what color is her car. (Mayor Hines had to use gavel to get order) Ms. Lathan told Mrs. Wilson she is not going to engage with this type of conversation. Ms. Lathan said to answer your question there is someone overseeing the construction, but you might not see them every day. (Mayor Hines used gavel to maintain order). Mayor Hines went back to reminders and Mrs. Wilson spoke out again and Mayor Hines had to use gavel again to maintain order. Mayor Hines said if you come to City Council meeting you need to sign the sheet before 7:00 and she knows she has let people speak the last two times, but it is not going to happen anymore. Mrs. Wilson said she agrees, but she was late (Mayor Hines had to use the gavel again) and summoned for Chief Watson to escort Mrs. Wilson out of the courtroom/council room because she kept talking even though Mayor Hines was tapping the gavel.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Gloria C. Lurie
Mayor

ATTEST:

Maria B. Prichard
Clerk & Treasurer