

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING (EXECUTIVE SESSION) AT 6:00 PM &
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
APRIL 3, 2018**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington and Chevron Scott.

Mayor Hines called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Councilman John Segars did the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to go into executive session at 6:04 PM to discuss economic development: contract possible negotiations rental of municipal courtroom and contract negotiations - Police Department vehicle lease and Police Department personnel. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed executive session. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved.

Mayor Hines made a motion at 6:51 PM to end the executive session. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion.

Councilman Milling made a motion that we enter into a lease with Enterprise in leasing of two vehicles to be used by the narcotics division and to sell the existing vehicles that we have and to utilize those funds to pay for the first six months of each lease for those two vehicles. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved.

Councilwoman Reed asked Mayor Hines if they could move item 7D up to 7A because Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce was not feeling well and would be leaving right after the second reading on the storm water ordinance. Councilman Milling made a motion to amend that motion that if we are going to move it up, move it up to right after approval of the meeting agenda (item 4A). Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

5 MINUTE BREAK

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT AT MEETING:

All listed above and Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mr. Robert Thomas, Mr. Linwood Epps, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Ronda Brown, Mrs. Rosena James, Mr. Kinsaul, Assistant Police Chief Jimmy Davis, and a number of visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Sheila Baccus did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2018 & March 13, 2018 Council meetings, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, to approve the meeting agenda as been amended, which unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

STORM WATER MASTER BOND

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-06 – Master Storm Water Ordinance.

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. Councilman Milling said we have now entered into a contract for this and he doesn't want the City to be known as somebody that doesn't honor its contract. He said he is going to vote for it, but he would like for Mr. Garland to get together for them where this \$2.78 million is going to be spent (How much is the contract, engineering, how much is consulting, etc.). Councilman Milling said he would like a full breakdown of where our money went. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he has that information. Mr. Garland

said we have some of the information, but we don't have the bond finalized yet. He said once they have everything finalized and everything is signed he will be glad to give a breakdown to Councilmembers. Mr. Garland said we expect to sign this the first or second week in May. **All voted for the motion except Councilman Segars, who voted against the motion.**

Mr. Garland told Council they need to vote separately now on the actual project itself (the bond). He said everything is bundled together, but they need to vote for the bond attorney. Mr. Garland said this is actual storm water bond itself (\$2.75 million for the Southwest Darlington Storm Water Project). **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the \$2.7 million bond to pay for the storm water project. Councilman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman John Segars who voted against the motion.**

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the DDRA is going to make Darlington the place to be on the 2nd Thursday of the month, April – August as they start a series of events. The Annual Taste of Darlington will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the track “Too Tough to Tame” from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the infield garage area. Mrs. Rock said the “Taste” will lead into their 2018 season of “Bringing Downtown Alive” free concerts. She said Johnny Glenn & the Chasers will perform on May 10th to kick off the series; The Bout Time Band of Darlington will perform on June 14th; Dustin James and Hank Edwards will perform on July 12th; they will hold a community karaoke party with S&T Entertainment on August 9th and Radio Vibe on August 31st during race week. Mrs. Rock said the concert committee is in the process of securing additional sponsors. She said they already have Pepsi of Florence and Wilson Senior Care on board. She said anyone interested in helping organize the concerts can call her office or come to the next concert committee planning meeting at Mamma Mia's on Thursday at 5:30 PM April 26th. She said they also invite their businesses to network and learn about the DDRA program and give feedback for future projects at their monthly members breakfast. The next meeting is 8:00 AM Wednesday April 25, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and nonmembers who would like to attend are welcome to contribute \$5.00 towards the meal. Mrs. Rock said on Saturday,

April 28, 2018 they will be meeting at the Chamber at 8:30 AM for Clean Up Darlington Day. She said the more volunteers that show up will determine how many projects and areas they can tackle. She said if you can't attend on that particular Saturday, she encourages people to clean up their street or neighborhood or help a neighbor with their property.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MS. RONDA BROWN

Ms. Brown said she is pleased to announce that they have a ribbon cutting on April 10, 2018 at 10:30 AM for Gentle Care Adult Day Health Services located at 212 Asbury Street. Ms. Brown said the Spring Fling was held on March 24, 2018. She said it took them two hours to hide over 1,000, but it took the children only 30 minutes to find every egg. Upcoming Events: Bowties & Pearls will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 beginning at 6:30 with live music, bar-b-que, sweet tea, adult beverages, dancing and visiting. She said the backyard of South of Pearl is where the event will be held. The tickets are \$15.00 for the event. Ms. Brown said The Chamber of Commerce and the Florence Chamber of Commerce will host an Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon on Wednesday April 25, 2018, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the SiMT Building at Florence-Darlington Technical College. Ms. Brown said on Thursday May 10th the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce is hosting "Open House Darlington". She said the realtors have come together and they will have their properties open and hopefully buyers from all over will come to our historic town dreaming the same dream that we have. She said the opening of the event will start at 1:00 PM and they hope that anybody that has a commercial building(s) and would like to enter them in, would contact the Chamber. Ms. Brown said during the afternoon they will have one of the trolleys from PDRTA giving a historic tour of our downtown area. She said the folks coming in from out of town will not only see our commercial property that's available, but they will get an idea of how great Darlington is. She said at the end of the day everybody is invited back to the Chamber for a cocktail reception and a recap of the day. Ms. Brown said not to forget, but that same night at 7:00 PM is the first concert of the season on Liberty Lane.

MS. ROSE PRUITT – STORM WATER

Ms. Pruitt said she didn't grow up in Darlington, but her family is from here. She said fifteen years ago she rented a house on West Broad Street, which she purchased two years ago. She said she was excited to hear about the storm water ordinance that we passed but for the last two years she thought

that was going to help the drainage problem in her area too and that's not what's happening. Ms. Pruitt said at this point her property has been so severely damaged by storm water that should be running off somewhere else. She said a half inch of rain puts eleven inches of water at the end of her driveway. She can't get out because her floorboards of her car is eleven inches. Ms. Pruitt said one inch of rain brings water all the way to the front steps of her house. She said if there are thunderstorms and any heavier rains than that, the water goes underneath her house. She said it has done this plenty of times. Ms. Pruitt said she has had the entire heating and air system replaced this year. It has damaged the ductwork, it damaged the unit in the backyard. Ms. Pruitt said all of this is because of storm water runoff that she feels this is negligence on the city's part because they have not cleaned out the storm drains. She said when she lived there fifteen years ago, she never saw water up to the front of the stairs except maybe once or twice and now it happens almost every time it rains. Ms. Pruitt said she had a chance to look at a storm water study that was done (possibly the 2011 storm water study) and it mentioned the flooding on West Broad Street and what the problem was. She said the storm water study did not map the storm drains in her area between Player Street and Edwards Avenue and between W. Broad Street and Pearl Street. She said at this point it is costing her a lot of money to support the City of Darlington. She said the heating and air system that she had put back in was not the same kind of system that came out because she had to find something that was off the ground. She said she can't get her mail delivered when the water is high. She said the trash man has a system, but when the water is too high he doesn't come that way either. Ms. Pruitt said she is surprised no one has been killed because the water out in the street can reach two feet or more. She said the City's response to this is they will come out and put up traffic cones, which is not particularly helpful. Ms. Pruitt said while she's excited that some storm water issues are getting fixed (she understands that maybe there's a new vac truck that may help with some of those issues), it's not helping her right now. She said at this point they are damaging her property by taking her property without her permission and using it for a storm water bond. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he knows how many storm drains are in her block. Mr. Kinsaul said there's a drain in Ms. Pruitt's yard that goes across the street through woods to the railroad track. Mayor Hines asked when the last time the drains were cleaned. Mr. Kinsaul said they haven't been since he's been here. Ms. Pruitt said there are two storm drains; one at the end of her driveway, which supposedly runs to Tedder Street and the one across the street is supposed to drain to the railroad track and neither one drains at all. Mayor Hines asked

when the truck comes in and Mr. Garland said, "July". Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if there was anything that he could do before July to clean those drains out. He said they could hire a truck to come clean them out. Mayor Hines asked how much the cost would be to clean the two drains. Mr. Kinsaul said a good guess would be anywhere from \$25,000-\$50,000 because of the distance they will have to clean. Councilwoman Reed asked, "How do we prevent this because Ms. Pruitt said this hasn't been like this fifteen years ago"? She asked do we need to clean the drains on a regular basis? Mr. Kinsaul said we need to develop a storm water maintenance plan that we have never had. Mr. Garland said we are moving to address this as quickly as we can and once we get the truck we will hire people. He said in order for us to accurately take care of the problem we have to develop a list and this would be at the top of this list. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus said, "So if I understand, didn't Ms. Lathan give us a storm water maintenance plan"? Mr. Garland said, "Yes ma'am, yes she did in 2011". Councilwoman Baccus said, "Mr. Kinsaul we haven't been working the plan or doing any maintenance"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "Councilwoman Baccus, I'm not responsible for storm water". Councilwoman Baccus and Reed wanted to know who is responsible then. Mr. Garland said he doesn't think it is good to get into any of that right now. He said just to give a little bit of past history, the previous council voted to fund the storm water ordinance and then rescinded the funding. He said we would be in a much better situation monetarily if the previous council hadn't voted to rescind the fee so that cost us approximately \$300,000-\$350,000 which could have paid for a vactor truck. Mr. Garland said storm water has been a line item in the water & sewer department budget, but it's never been a dedicated plan. He said the plan that Ms. Lathan and Stone Engineering put together was for outflows and MS4 monitoring from DHEC. Mr. Garland said the things we need to do involve hiring two people and a truck and having those folks work 40 hours a week until we get caught up which may take five to ten years. He said we have residential areas that need it and we have commercial areas that need it. Mr. Garland said we're not any different from any other town around here that has the same storm water issues. He said it's not just a decade of neglect, it's a half century of neglect. Councilman Milling said since we know we have the truck coming in July can we go ahead and have Ms. Carroll or whomever is responsible for this to start developing where we go when we get the truck so that we can have a plan in place and not develop a plan after we get the truck. Councilman Milling said we develop a plan and then we start using the truck to address it. Mr. Garland said one thing that we will do is go back and look over the last two to three years. He said

since the flood of 2015 all that water incursion has made our lines much more susceptible to collapse whether it's water, sewer or storm water. He said anything that we've had problems with over those years we will be the areas that we will look at first such as Cross Street, S. Main Street, W. Broad Street, E. Broad and Russell Street, areas on Chestnut Street.

Councilwoman Baccus asked if they could get some clarity from Ms. Lathan about the plan she put in place and Mayor Hines said, "Yes, if you want to". Ms. Lathan said almost everything that has been discussed tonight has been fairly accurate. She said the five-year storm water master plan was developed in 2011. Ms. Lathan said what the plan did was identify the most critically flooded areas in the City which is Southwest and Southeast Darlington. She said in the Northeast and Northwest parts of Darlington they have more storm water infrastructure in other words there's existing curb and gutter and catch basins which allows the flow of water to travel faster to S. Darlington. She said the other thing is the terrain of Darlington, the natural flow of the topography, flows from north to South so when it rains all of the rainwater is naturally flowing from North Darlington to South Darlington. She said couple that with the fact that there's already more storm water infrastructure in North Darlington than South Darlington makes that storm water flow even faster. Ms. Lathan said in Southwest and Southeast the communities flood more often and more severe. Ms. Lathan said within the storm water master plan it looked at the issue of maintenance and it made recommendations to the City to implement a storm water maintenance plan. She said at one point and time they sat and were beginning to address that issue and at the time it was a resource issue with the City in terms of having enough crew to actually go out and begin to implement the plan. Ms. Lathan said it's something that the City has been looking at for many years and trying to address it to the extent the City considered using the labor forces from the local prison to come in. Ms. Lathan said they were actually set up to do that so the City has been looking at other alternatives but something happened and at that particular point and time it was not a wise decision to use that type of labor. She said as Howard has noted this is a common issue especially in rural South Carolina. Ms. Lathan told Ms. Pruitt that she truly empathizes with her, but the City of Darlington is ahead of the power curb compared to a lot of the other municipalities because they haven't taken the time to come up with a comprehensive plan. Ms. Lathan said moving forward we need to put together a comprehensive storm water maintenance plan as Mr. Kinsaul has noted. As Howard has noted it is going to take years, but the equipment that has been purchased is on its way and as Councilman Milling noted we really

need to go ahead and put that comprehensive storm water plan in place so that when the equipment arrives we have it. She said we have to make sure we employ licensed CDL drivers and that we have that plan in place and when the equipment arrives we will be in the position to start the maintenance. Ms. Lathan told Ms. Pruitt where her house is located has been clearly identified in the comprehensive plan as one of the priority areas that the City should address. Ms. Pruitt told Ms. Lathan that she noticed that and if she put that plan together she did a lot of work and she appreciates that, but it's been almost ten years and the plan has not been implemented. Ms. Pruitt said her house is rotting away. She said she is not at the coast nor is she in a flood zone except in front of her own house. Ms. Pruitt said while she appreciates that the City has not been able to fund this, the study but it didn't even include a plan for that block even though it mentioned that that was one of the biggest problems in the area. She said it didn't mention maintenance or any proposed lines, so she doesn't have great confidence that something is going to happen here. Ms. Pruitt said if it costs \$25,000 to fix that then maybe you should look at doing it sooner rather than later because in the long run it may end up costing you a lot more. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland to tell Ms. Pruitt what the City can do to help her out. Mr. Garland said if the Council would vote to approve that expenditure we can do it. Councilwoman Reed said, "I have a problem and I'm not sure what it is because what Mr. Kinsaul said that this is not an area that he's responsible for, so in the City even with all of the plans and everything that we're talking about now that we're going to do, then who's going to administer it if it's not under him"? Councilwoman Reed said this is what she asked from jump street. She said we can do all of this, but how is it going to get administered? She said that is the biggest problem that we have because something should have been done within fifteen years. Councilwoman Reed told Ms. Pruitt she's in the area and there are three houses that is just like hers. She said the bottom of their houses have rotted out and one of the families have other health issues. Mayor Hines told Ms. Pruitt that she is sorry about her troubles. Mayor Hines said there was a lady, who is deceased now and she complained to the City for years about her house on Jessamine Street and because she couldn't afford to pay someone to fix her house water kept settling under her house and the moisture caused the house to deteriorate underneath it because the water had no place to go. They eventually had to tear the house down because the lady couldn't afford to keep fixing it up. Ms. Pruitt said just last month there was a broken water line in front of Belk Funeral Home and after they repaired it they flushed the lines in front of her mother's house at the corner of Edwards Avenue &

Broad Street and when she came home there was water back all the way up to her front steps. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if we have pumps where we can pump people's yard and he said, "Yes". Mayor Hines told Ms. Pruitt if this happens again she hopes the City will pump her yard to help out until they get the vac truck in July. Ms. Pruitt said that's a lot of water but the City had a vac truck a couple of years ago and it took all day to suck the water out of the street. Mr. Garland said that's the sweeper that has a limited attachment to it. Mayor Hines told Ms. Pruitt to go talk with Mr. Garland tomorrow. Councilman Milling said he would like for Mr. Garland to investigate it rather than them trying to do something tonight and take a look at it and figure out what they need to address it, how to address it, and what it's going to cost to address it then they will have something they can really act on if they've got that information.

MS. GWEN DIXON – BUSES

Ms. Dixon said she's a new resident to South Carolina as well as Darlington. She said she lives on Orange Street and one of her concerns is that a hole was dug on her side of the street sometime in November or December and it has not been filled in. She said she was concerned about it then and is extra concerned about it now because her grandson came to visit and fell in that hole. She said it's so dark on the street at night because there are no lights out there. Ms. Dixon said as they were coming into her house he fell into the ditch and knocked out several teeth. She said she spoke with the gentlemen the other day who were out there digging the dirt and she asked them if they were going to pack it and they said no, that was not their job. Ms. Dixon said she called and spoke with someone and was told her someone by the name of Frank was going to investigate it and something would be done about it. Ms. Dixon said that was last week, but she hasn't seen anybody yet. She said the hole is still there and it's very dangerous. Ms. Dixon said her other issue is the bus issue because she doesn't drive. She said when she was working she left at 2:00 but she couldn't get to Darlington until 7:30 every night because of the way the bus system runs. She said the earliest bus is 7 in the morning, 12 noon and then 5:30. Ms. Dixon said she spent a lot of money riding in cabs and she wanted to make it known. Ms. Dixon said she called the bus company and they said they have a plan that they are coming up with but they couldn't discuss it yet. Ms. Dixon said she is really concerned about the hole because it is deep and there's a pipe protruding out of it. She wanted to know if something could be done about it. Mr. Garland said SCDOT did that. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he could call them and see what they plan to do. Mr. Garland

said all the work between Liberty & Wells Street was done by SCDOT. Mr. Garland said he doesn't think the City had to do with that except replace a water line. Mr. Kinsaul said Frankie had to move one water meter and fill it in. Mr. Garland said he will make some inquiries from SCDOT.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2018-01 – DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE

Mayor Hines opened the floor for a Public Hearing on the Digital Sign Ordinance. No one was present to speak, so she closed the public hearing.

B) SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2018-01 DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE

Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-01 – Digital Sign Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus. Councilman Milling said sometimes when ordinances have been done and an ordinance is set and then you've got certain signs that are in noncompliance as to whether or not the noncompliance signs will have to be brought into compliance within five years or some time frame so that everything is coordinated rather than just having some people complying with the sign ordinance and others being grandfathered in forever and not having to make any compliance. He said he would like for Council to take a look at a time frame in which everybody falls under the same digital sign ordinance. **All approved the motion.**

C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-05 – ANNEXATION (164-05-02-020) NORTH MAIN STREET BESIDE DARLINGTON AMUSEMENT COMPANY

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-05 – annexation (164-05-02-020) North Main Street beside Darlington Amusement Company for the Dollar General Store, which unanimously carried.

E) PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION – OAK/NORTH STREETS – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock told Council she included in their packets as requested at the last meeting, addresses of the specific properties on North Street and Oak Street that would be involved in the expansion. She said she also included a map of the current district and what the addition would be and maps of the other historic districts for their information. Mrs. Rock said the Historic

Landmark Commission has been researching using the State's survey of the City of the suggested expansion to our historic districts. Councilman Milling said, "There may be three to six houses or so that would have been considered historic houses that have actually moved to Florence or other areas. If a house is in a historic district and the house gets moved to another community, if somebody bought that piece of property, it's no longer subject to historic requirements, is it?" "You don't have to go back and replicate?" Mrs. Rock said you're still officially in the district so you'll still have to get your plans approved if it was residential property by the Historic Landmark Commission, but you wouldn't have to replicate anything that was previously there. Councilman Milling asked, "If a house is gone and you bought a lot with nothing on it you like Frank Lloyd Wright, but your neighbors don't are we saying now that the person who likes the modernistic approach...Mrs. Rock cut in and said if that historic district area is fitting with the Frank Lloyd Wright era architecture then it would be appropriate, but if it was Victorian it probably wouldn't. Councilman Milling said, So that person because of this ordinance just couldn't...Mrs. Rock cut in and said it's not because of this ordinance, this is based on the U.S. Department of Interior rules for Historic Districts. Councilman Milling said he's just wondering how this gets communicated because this could be tough on somebody. Mrs. Rock said the realtors are supposed to disclose these things if they know it, but they have no way to make them. She said some realtors don't want to take historic properties because they think it's too complicated. Councilman Milling said he's wondering if we could check with the Clerk of Court's office about doing a filing so that the historic district stuff got put on record so that any title examiner that was examining title to a piece of property would end up finding the ordinance in the chain of title rather than making reference to it. Mrs. Rock said she doesn't know the rules about titling to put it in there. Mr. Garland said sometimes there are covenants that are put in as it relates to a particular property, the historic nature of the property or if there is a binding agreement from a tax credit deal from the Department of Interior or The S.C. Department of Archives and History so sometimes the covenants carry over from one property owner to another. Mayor Hines said she agrees with Councilman Milling, but what happens if it doesn't carry over. Mr. Garland said we haven't looked at our Historic Preservation Ordinance since 2007 or 2008, but when we adopted the ordinance it was based on the City of Charleston which was considered a model for most of the country. Mr. Garland told Council they can have a work session and look at our Historic Preservation Ordinances as they relate to residential and commercial structures. Mayor Hines told Mr. Garland we

need to take a look at it. Mrs. Rock asked Council if they would like them to go ahead and prepare an ordinance and prepare the certified letters to send to the property owners. Mayor Hines told her like Councilman Milling said, they need to check on a few more things first.

NEW BUSINESS

A) APPROVAL BID FOR PAINTING PINE STREET WATER TANK – MR. KINSAUL

Mr. Kinsaul said he received a low bid from Utility Service Company for \$197,000. Mr. Kinsaul said this is the same company that painted the tank on North Main Street. He said they will take the money from his capital reserve fund. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Kinsaul how often does he have to paint the tanks and Mr. Kinsaul said every 15-20 years. Mr. Kinsaul said the paint vendor/salesman is an inspector and he comes by every couple of days and inspects the tank to make sure they are putting the proper thickness of paint on the tanks and its done to his specifications. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Milling to approve the low bid of \$197,000 from Utility Service Company to paint the water tank at Pine Street, which unanimously carried.**

B) RESOLUTION APPROVAL: SALE OF PROPERTY TO SCDOT (.19 ACRES) 164-14-02-002 FOR \$15,000

Mayor Hines said this is on North Main Street where they want to widen the bridge. Mr. Garland said this is to the left of Evangeline Street. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the sale of property (164-14-02-002 - .19 Acres) for \$15,000. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

C) RESOLUTION APPROVAL SALE OF PROPERTY TO SCDOT (.318 ACRES) 164-10-01-002 FOR \$12,500

Mayor Hines said this is the Psillos Garden. Mr. Garland said we will move the monuments that are on that site. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve the sale of property to SCDOT in the amount of \$12,500. Councilman Milling seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-07 ZONING DESIGNATION (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) FOR 164-10-02-002) NORTH MAIN STREET BESIDE DARLINGTON MUSIC COMPANY

Mayor Hines said this is the property that we did the annexation on. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-07 Zoning Designation (General Commercial) for 164-10-02-002, North Main Street beside Darlington Amusement Company. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

E) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-08 – ZONING CHANGE FOR 700 ORANGE STREET FROM RG TO BI

Mayor Hines said this is the property where Nytronics was. Mr. Garland gave background history on the property. He said when Nytronics took over the property in the 60's & 70's and polluted the ground. Mr. Garland said a company in India which owns the environmental liability from the Nytronics Company and since 2005 they have been working with SCDHEC to clean up the property. He said in 2008 they took the 4-story building down and in the last seven or eight years they brought in a machine to wash the soil on site. He said they did some additional soil testing and they are still worried that the site is still contaminated. Mr. Garland said he, the Mayor and Councilwoman Reed met with attorneys for the company in late January and they are going to put thirty above ground wells on the site and three underground to clean the area. Mr. Garland said one day they would like to use that site for something, but DHEC is demanding that it never be used for anything residential. He said for the next five to seven years there will be a fence around the area at the end of Orange Street and there's going to be thirty pumps and they will be checking that site to make sure it's clean. Mr. Garland said hopefully one day in the future they can put something there that will bring jobs for Darlington in the future. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance 2018-08 which provides for a zoning change for 700 Orange Street from RG to Business Industrial (BI). Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said today they laid to rest Mr. Earl B. Wilson who worked for the City of Darlington for 62 years.

Elaine Reed asked if we have a commercial appearance code that applies to our storefront? Mrs. Rock said in 2012 Council passed a commercial appearance code to help improve the look of the commercial districts. Councilwoman Reed asked if it was primarily in the downtown area and

Mrs. Rock said it's any commercial property no matter where it is. Councilwoman Reed said as she was looking at her paperwork it looked as if someone was trying to encourage a certain business to abide by the rules. Mrs. Rock said the Planning Commission members were asking about a specific property and what remedies were available through the code and she suggested that they review the ordinance and see if there's any expansion they thought was necessary or if they felt that the ordinance covered everything. Mrs. Rock said they are still reviewing it.

Mayor Hines said former Council member Earl Johnson's son, Earl Jr. passed away.

REMINDERS

Tuesday April 17, 2018 at 6:00 PM – Budget Work Session
Tuesday May 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM – Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer