

**CITY OF DARLINGTON  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM  
TUESDAY –DECEMBER 3, 2019**

**PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Mayor Gloria Hines, Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed, and John Milling. Also, present: City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland, Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mr. Ernest Boston, Mr. Winfred & Mrs. Brenda Herrington, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. A.D. Jordan, Mr. Spencer Cheeseboro, Mr. Danny Watson, Mr. Steve Buffkin, Mr. Freddie Kinsaul, Mrs. Rosena James, Mrs. Ouida Page, Mr. Howard Nettles, Mrs. Kim Nelson, Mr. Charles Bailey, Ms. Tonnette Chatman, Ms. Jannie Lathan and other visitors.

**NEWS REPORTERS**

Also present was Mr. Bobby Bryant, News Reporter from the News & Press and Mrs. Tonya Brown with WPDE TV15.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman John Segars did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Council Meeting. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. Councilpersons John Segars, John Millings, Elaine Reed, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion.**

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

Mrs. Rock said the Beautification Board's Grab a Bag SC Litter Collection Day on November 16<sup>th</sup> was a success. She said volunteers removed more than 300 pounds of trash from the streets. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA Shop Darlington Contest kicks off as they encourage folks to shop local this holiday season. She said you can shop at five (5) different Darlington businesses between Thanksgiving and Christmas, send in copies of those receipts with an entry form and you will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 gifts cards. (She said fuel and prescriptions don't count) Mrs. Rock said every five (5) receipts counts as an entry. She said entry forms can be found at local businesses, online, at the News & Press and on Facebook. Mrs. Rock said the City Tree Board and Darlington Garden Club will hold the Annual Arbor Day Ceremony on Friday at 10:00 AM on S. Main Street at Patience Street (Across from Walmart Gas Station). On Sunday, the Darlington Rescue Squad's Christmas Parade & Festival will begin at 4:00 PM followed by the Darlington Kiwanis Club's Annual Carol Lighting Ceremony at 6:00 PM on the Square. The Annual DDRA Golf Tournament is Wednesday April 8, 2020 at the Darlington Country Club. The "Taste of Darlington" will be Thursday April 23, 2020.

### **B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MS. HARRIETT HOBBS**

Ms. Hobbs said Light Up Darlington is still working on getting Darlington lit up. She said they have purchased more lights and decorations and they have already started working on plans for next year. Ms. Hobbs said on Tuesday December 10, 2019 at 6:00 – 8:00 PM one of the greatest linebackers to ever come out of the State of South Carolina is coming back home. She said Levon Kirkland of Lamar, SC will be in Darlington at Dominion Church to speak to our youth and our adults. Ms. Hobbs said Mr. Kirkland is going to speak about his great NFL career, his career at Clemson University, his career at Seattle, his career with the Pittsburg Steelers, Eagles and the Seahawks. Ms. Hobbs said Mr. Kirkland will speak about the life lessons you learn from losing games and being a good Christian athlete. Ms. Hobbs said we need to get as many children to this event since it's free to children (students). She said he's a life coach and he go around talking to students about what it means to win and what it means to lose. Ms. Hobbs said they will have a hot dog supper and Mr. Kirkland will speak from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The event is being hosted by the Chamber and Dominion

Church, but it's being presented by Fitness World Gym. Ms. Hobbs encouraged everyone to attend. On Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> they talked about Light Up Darlington hosting the first Annual Christmas on the Square from 5:30 – 8:00 PM. They will have pictures with Santa, free hot chocolate, cookies and candy canes for all the kids. Ms. Hobbs said they are lighting up a different part of Darlington (out towards the Carnegie Library) with lights, blowups, and places to have pictures taken. She said on the other end of town they have a breathtaking live nativity scene. She said they are looking for carolers to come and sing that night and if anyone would like to volunteer one of the choirs from their church, give her a call.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)**

Mr. Curtis Boyd said he brings good news and bad news. He said in October Ms. Baccus brought up about purchasing playground equipment for Bowens Manor. He said during that time he and Mr. Lee Andrews had been talking about different things. The CEO from Pee Dee Electric asked to have a meeting with him, so he invited Mr. Andrews to go with him for that. Mr. Boyd said he went to speak to Mr. Fuller, not about the playground but about a different situation and while they were discussing things, the ballfield at Bowens Manor was brought up about how it was grown up. He said Mr. Fuller brought up about how he played out there with the team for Pee Dee Electric and how disheartening it was to him because he saw the kids out there and they were playing in the trash can. Mr. Boyd said during the last part of the meeting when they were getting ready to leave Mr. Andrews told him about how Council voted on trying to get the playground if they could do it legally with hospitality tax funds. Mr. Fuller said he could make it happen with a 1% loan. Mr. Boyd said Mr. Andrews explained to Mr. Fuller that there was a deadline and if the playground wasn't bought within a week, that they would lose the opportunity to get it saving \$41,000 because we're getting it half price. Mr. Boyd said Mr. Fuller was onboard to see if he can make it happen. Mr. Boyd said he and Lee went back and talked to Kevin and with Howard and they were in agreeance to try to see if they can make it work. It has to be agreed and voted on by City Council next month. Mr. Boyd said his understanding from Mr. Etheridge is it's not going to be given, so that's the bad news. He said Ms. Baccus won't be able to get the playground. He said the kids over there will still be playing in trash can because there won't be a playground over there. Mr. Boyd said it's been secured with a purchase order, so the playground company has agreed to hold it so therefore that time limit is over now, and

you've got it secured as long as Council votes on it next month. Mr. Boyd said, "Then to proceed with it if they decide to do it legally, you'll be able to get the playground and there will be activity over there where the kids will have something to play with". He said he just wanted to share that because it's great news. He said there was a chance we were going to lose it. You can't have enough playgrounds, you can't have enough ballfields, you can't have enough activities for citizens to be able to do, but you have to make sure it's done correctly. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Boyd if he would be bringing information about the terms and repayment. Mr. Boyd said he thinks the payment will be a little over \$500.00 month for seven (7) years at 1% interest. He told Mr. Milling he would bring that information.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-23 ZONING DESIGNATION FOR BLUE STREET (164-06-01-078)**

**Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-23 Zoning Designation for Blue Street property parcel 164-06-01-078 and it be rezoned as R-10 Low Density Residential. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Baccus, Bruce, Reed, Milling and Segars approved the motion.**

#### **B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-24 ZONING DESIGNATION FOR OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY, AVENUE D AND FRIENDSHIP STREET (165-04-01-005) & (165-00-02-010) BI-BASIC INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT**

**Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-24 Zoning Designation for Old Florence Highway, Avenue D and Friendship Street 165-04-01-005 and 165-00-02-010, BI Basic Industrial District. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Baccus, Bruce, Reed, Milling and Segars approved the motion.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A) OUTGOING MAYOR PRESENTATION – MAYOR GLORIA C. HINES AND OTHERS**

Mayor Hines said we will do the "And Others" first. Mr. A.D. Jordan with Senator Tim Scott's office presented Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce with a Plaque for her distinguished career of public service to the people of Darlington having served four years on Darlington City Council and a

Certificate of Excellence in recognition of her outstanding achievement. Mr. A.D. Jordan also presented Mayor Gloria Hines with a Plaque for her distinguished career in public service to the people of Darlington having served fourteen years on Darlington City Council in addition to her four years as Mayor and her tireless work in the community and a Certificate of Excellence in recognition of outstanding achievement and senior service. Mr. Jordan said, “On a personal level, Mayor Hines has always been very kind to me, and I appreciate that but also as a former elected official I’d like to say my personal thank you because I know what you and your families go through just to serve in public office”. “So, on a personal note from me, Thank you”.

Mayor Hines made surprise presentations to Officer Steve Buffkin with a “Key to the City” for forty (40) years of service. Officer Buffkin has been employed with the City of Darlington since October 1978. Mayor Hines took a picture of Officer Buffkin along with his wife and daughter. Chief Kelvin Washington said Officer Buffkin is not retiring, this was just something Mayor Hines wanted to do before leaving office. Mayor Hines also presented Clerk & Treasurer Gloria Pridgen with a “Key to the City” and what she called the “Mayor’s Award” which was the framed and matted article that ran in the Diversity Works Magazine.

**B) PEE DEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – MS. KATIE WILLCOX & MR. JEFF SINGLETARY**

Mr. Singletary said they came to present Council with Pee Dee Electric’s 80<sup>th</sup> Year History Book. He said they wanted everyone to have a copy of the book.

**C) 2007-2017 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Garland said he checked the minutes from 2012 -2013 and they never adopted an update to the Comprehensive Plan originally done by Dan Vismor in 2007 and updated in 2012. Mr. Garland said Jannie Lathan has updated this plan and several characteristics have been updated but we really can’t do a true new Comprehensive Plan until the 2020 Census comes out. So that we’ll be in compliance with the ordinance he’s asking Council tonight to adopt the 2007-2017 plan update. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the 2007-2017 Comprehensive Plan Update. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Baccus, Bruce, Reed, Milling and Segars approved the motion.**

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Council John Milling** told Mayor Hines on behalf of the entire City Council they have enjoyed working with her as Mayor and Councilwoman Bruce as Mayor Pro-Tem these last four years and he wish them well as they engage in new endeavors. He said they look forward to working with Mayor Elect Curtis Boyd and Councilman Elect Howard Nettles.

**Councilman Bryant Gardner** said he shares the same sentiment. He told Mayor Hines it's been an honor to serve with her and he told Councilwoman Bruce he can't thank her enough for the hours she's given him and the personal phones calls.

**Councilwoman Elaine Reed** said she wanted to thank them both for the way they have taken her under their wings and guided her through a lot. She said it's been a pleasure for them to be her friends and being very supportive.

**Councilwoman Sheila Baccus** thanked Mayor Hines for her eighteen (18) years of service and she is still looking forward to her participating in the City events they will be having and staying active with them in City Council. Councilwoman Baccus thanked Councilwoman Bruce for her time and her service on City Council.

**Councilman John Segars** said, "Ditto" I can't add anything to that".

**Mayor Hines** during her tenure as Mayor they have made history twice; 1<sup>st</sup> as the first Black Mayor and 2<sup>nd</sup> as the first Black female Mayor of the City of Darlington. Mayor Hines said when she got on Council, she went to a beautification meeting and they talked about the lights and they knew at that time she loved lights. She thanked Bryant Gardner for the time they went out and redid all of the old lights and they did great with lights around the Square. She said as each year progressed, they added on lights and they dressed up Darlington around the Square and all the way out to Walmart. After that they went on each side and Darlington is looking great. Mayor Hines said under her leadership some wonderful and great things have happened: They secured a \$2.5 million in grant money in the City of Darlington's Storm Water Bond; Storm Water project beginning from Fleming Street to Short Coker Street which is now completed; The

infrastructure project which eliminated the stinky smell coming from the Oil Mill draining into the ditch on Chalmers Street. Lathan consulting Company wrote the Ria Grant for this project; The EDA Grant totaling \$821,000 in sewer lines for the By-Pass which if we have any problems will carry the sewer to Florence; The CDBG Grant for sewer line improvements in Southwest Darlington totaling \$530,000 replacing sewer lines on six (6) streets next to S. Main Street; The CDBG for multiple community improvements in Southeast Darlington as part of Renaissance Grant and as part of the grant façade improvements were made to six houses, five dilapidated houses were demolished, stormwater improvements were made in the Southeast Darlington area. Project has been completed and the grant was written by Lathan Consulting Corporation; Construction on a new Walmart was completed in April 2016 and Darlington Walmart opened for business May 16, 2016 offering over 300 jobs; In July the City Council approved the purchase of a new vactor truck. The vactor truck has made a big difference helping out from Hurricane Florence and other storms coming to Darlington and it's being used all over the City of Darlington; In 2016 we hired a new City Attorney, Mr. Kevin Etheridge; In 2017 we hired Mr. Robert Stucks as our new City Judge; In 2018 we hired Chief Kelvin Washington as Darlington's new Police Chief; In February, 2019 SCDOT began the installation of four hundred linear feet (400') of sidewalk on S. Main Street stretching from F Avenue to Walmart. She said Senator Gerald Malloy was very instrumental in securing the grant for this sidewalk; In December 2018 Darlington approved the installation of two new playgrounds in the City of Darlington – The Sgt. Terrance Carraway Memorial Park on Southern Pine Street and the park on Siskron & Hampton Streets, which has not been named yet; The Darlington Garden Club has placed more than thirty (30) decorative pots in the downtown area; In February 2017 Darlington Fire Department acquired a new 2017 fire truck replacing an aging fire truck; Tractor Supply opened in 2016; Little Caesar's Pizza open in 2016; Fahrenheit 225 opened on the Square; Genesis Healthcare completed their project on Exchange Street; Construction continues on the new Carolina Bank; Chianti's Wings & Things opened April 2, 2019; S.C. Carolina House of Wings opened in 2019; there are new store fronts around the Square with new businesses that we located - a new tax office, Ward's Unique Flowers, MUSC Doctor's Office and Sonic is almost complete. Mayor Hines said there have been a lot of accomplishments under her tenure as Mayor in four years. She said, "Thank you and may God Bless the Citizens of Darlington. God sit's high and looks low and can see very well what's happening in Darlington, thank you".

**REMINDERS**

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Christmas Holidays; All City Offices Closed

January 7, 2020 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.*

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer