

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 12, 2019**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, and Elaine Reed. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Ms. Rosena James, Ms. Gladys Jules, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. Robert Thomas, Mr. George and Mrs. Andrea Knapp, Mr. Frank Willis, Mr. Coleman Cannon, Mr. Chuck McNeil and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, Seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2019. All approved the motion.

Mr. Garland asked Mayor Hines to strike item 8-B and ask that it be moved to February 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve the meeting agenda for February 12, 2019 with the changes made to 8-B. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. All approved the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said in lieu of her DDRA report she wanted to take time to honor Retired Fire Chief James C. Stone, Jr. Mrs. Rock said she need to take a moment to remember someone who forever changed the landscape of downtown with one gesture, one donation that he and his wife didn't have to make; Retired Fire Chief James Casper Stone, Jr. who passed away last week. He helped turn the tragedy and destruction of a downtown blaze that destroyed multiple businesses into the beauty that is the Darlington Veterans Memorial-a place downtown that people enjoy every single day and a place that recognizes the dedication and sacrifices of so many to our nation. Jim Stone served this City for more than five decades in the fire service. He served our State in the National Guard and our nation in the Air Force Reserve. He served Darlington on County Council as a councilmember and as Chair and worked to establish the 911 communication system we use today for our first responders. He was a father figure to many more than his biological children. He was a coach, mentor, leader, Kiwanian, member of the DDRA and lifelong member of First Baptist Church and so much more. Mrs. Rock said Jim Stone changed the face of downtown and the hearts of many whose lives he's touched. She said she's sure he did more for this town than what she said in this brief time. Mrs. Rock asked that everyone take a moment of silence in his honor.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MRS. HARRIETT HOBBS

Mrs. Harriett Hobbs said the Chamber's Annual Banquet will be held February 28, 2019 at the Darlington Country Club. She said they put out the call for nominations for their annual awards and she was thrilled because they received quite a few nominations. Ms. Hobbs said the social hour will begin at 6:30 with dinner immediately following. Mr. Bryan Gandy with the Historical Commission will give a brief talk during the banquet. She said Bryan and the Chamber will be doing some things together this year. Ms. Hobbs said awards will be presented in the following categories: Community Pride, Business Leader of the Year/Business of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award. During the social hour they will have a silent auction. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber or at the door for \$35.00. Ms. Hobbs said they are in the process of getting ready for Bowties and Pearls on April 26, 2019 which they started last year at South of Pearl in the backyard. It's a bar-b-que buffet and they will have a band. She said tickets are \$25.00 and it's all inclusive-food,

drinks, etc. Ms. Hobbs said in May they are going to have a Business Expo and she just talked to Frank Willis about that. She said they want to showcase our businesses. She said Darlington is more than our racetrack. Ms. Hobbs said they are thinking about using Edwards Street to have the event. She said we've got Covered in Cotton, Nucor, The Raceway, Carolina Rice, etc. Ms. Hobbs said when she says Darlington, she doesn't just mean the City she means the County. She said if Hartsville businesses would love to come in, she would love to have them. Ms. Hobbs said if you're a manufacturer, a farmer or if your product is made or produced in Darlington, come join us. Ms. Hobbs said they will have the racetrack there, the dragstrip will be there, and Georgia Pacific will be there. Ms. Hobbs said Georgia Pacific rejoined the Chamber after eight years. She said she got a call from the Vice-President of Georgia Pacific and he's meeting with her next week. She said he wants to do more in the community. She said they want to showcase all of that and they want to upload it on YouTube so when you search Darlington, SC you're going to get a nice-looking YouTube video from DCIT. Ms. Hobbs said anybody that want to assist, comment, or volunteer to be on the committee to assist please call her at the Chamber (843) 398-2641 or call her cellphone number (803) 606-5188.

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

Pee Dee Vikings – Football Season Coach Woodberry, along with Jay Charles, Head Coach, Mr. Brantley Jett, Office Coordinator and a couple other Captains appeared before Council to thank them and the City of Darlington for supporting them these last two years. Mr. Woodberry said he feels that they have brought a successful program to the City of Darlington which is something that hasn't been done in a long time. He said they traveled to Fort Lauderdale this year to compete for a National rank and finished ninety-three in the league. Mr. Woodberry said they went to Charlotte and was able to compete for the CCFL Championship. He said they hold their players to a very high standard. Mr. Woodberry said they not only police their behavior on the field, but off the field as well. He said that is one of the biggest things that makes their organization so special. They are trying to help guys that have the dream of going to the next level but could not afford to go to college and play at that level and possibly make it to the NFL. Mr. Woodberry said they are one step under the NFL and a lot of this could not be done if they didn't believe in God. He said God heads them and they pray for the safety of the fans and for the safety of the players. Mr. Woodberry said they were not able to bring the National Championship

Trophy with them tonight because it is getting polished, but he asks that they take the time to stop by the Recreation Department because that is where it will be housed. Mr. Woodberry said a lot of organizations like theirs weren't blessed the way Darlington blessed them this year allowing them to have the band, the police department, first responders like EMS and giving them their all. He said they have never had an altercation at their games and not only do they demand their players not to do this, the fans that come out to support the players, he asked his players to be responsible for them too. Mr. Woodberry said bringing back the 2A National Championship is something that has never been done in the State of South Carolina by a Semi-Pro team. He said they didn't win it for them, they won it for Darlington. Mr. Woodberry said now Darlington is on the map. He said they are now ranked 25th in the nation and next year they plan to be 10, hopefully #1.

Pink Thumb Ladies Garden Club – Rosalind Boakye Hudson, but she goes by the name of Na Na. The Pink Thumb Ladies Garden Club has been designed with a desire to provide information and experiences that will enhance the development of future leaders by providing opportunities with national sponsored and local sponsored contests and awards in the field of youth gardening programs. Ms. Hudson said this garden park is a gift from her to the community. It is being offered so that the children will have a place to create, explore, learn and discover the world of sustainable eco living as well as into a world of kidpreneurs. She said this is a space designed by and for the children. Ms. Hudson said this will provide opportunities for the young ladies to learn about nature and how all of nature fits into the maker of life, from seed to supper. She said with sustainable living an important part of living in this part of living in this region of the country the mission of this venture is to teach how to grow your own healthy food, how to protect and love the wild life, recognition of plants, trees, shrubs, flowers and creatures that help your garden grow. Other areas covered will be banking, branding, marketing, how to prepare and cook organic foods and how to maintain the earth in a strictly organic manner. Their vision is to instill dignity, integrity, pride and knowledge of the local agricultural environment. Ms. Hudson said the vision of organization is to open the doors to the opportunities that will assist in the growth, both cognitive and physical of these young girls in the world of natural horticulture. Ms. Hudson said their goal is to ensure that the abilities to function in a responsible manner in society is achieved while providing a safe environment for self-expression and cognitive development of social

skills. Ms. Hudson said in two years they visualize two small landscape garden ventures created for business purposes by the young ladies which they believe will lead to future business leaders and career in the future for the young girls. The girls are ages 9-12 and they come to the garden on Guess Street. Ms. Hudson asked for Council's support and she said up to this point she has done all of this on her own. She said they had a lot of people that offered to help them; some have given tires, and the ladies at the farmers market gave them straw. Ms. Hudson said she started this in 2014, but then the hurricanes came, and the floods came, and it turned into a little swamp and trees fell over everything. She said some members of the community brought thins and Clemson University came and helped them with their water to learn how to do water without using someone's spigot. She said then the community thought they were creating mosquitoes and she tried to explain to them that there were things in the water to keep the mosquitoes from growing, but at that point it was so much rain they had to stop and slow down for a while. Ms. Hudson said she asked around about dirt because they needed to it to build up the land because it was flooded out. She said she was told the City had dirt but could never get a direct answer from anyone about it. She said they need dirt, rocks and a lawn mower. Mayor Hines asked Council their thoughts about this. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "I love what you're doing. Are you a non-profit"? Ms. Hudson said, "No we don't have non-profit status because student loans sat on her head and stopped her". Councilman Gardner said, "I know we usually have an issue with giving out funds unless it's a non-profit". He said, "I'm sure we could look out into the community and maybe find other routes to help you". Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked Mr. Garland if we have access to dirt that we could give to Ms. Hudson or some rocks? Mr. Garland said, "I'm not sure about the rocks, but the dirt we have. Councilman Baccus told Ms. Hudson to get with Mr. Garland so he can get her some dirt. Ms. Hudson thanked everyone. She also said the kids are also registered with the S.C, Youth Garden Association.

Mr. Curtis Boyd – Tyner Building - Mr. Boyd said, "we've had an eyesore for four years or more that was left by Mr. Tyner to Jamie Tyner. He said they have invested into a Darlington Investors Club that has come on board. He said they've come to the conclusion of purchasing that building with the understanding of taking it down. Mr. Boyd said he just wanted to give an update and let them know that as of tomorrow they are supposed to be on site to start doing some minor work to it and then Thursday the excavator will be there. They are supposed to come to the City to get the permit

tomorrow. They have already gotten the asbestos permit and applied for the State permit. Mr. Boyd said, "So hopefully by within the next two to three weeks that building will be clean down and become the landscape and hopefully make something better for the City of Darlington on that whole block that we have there at that point". Mr. Boyd said, "I just wanted to give an update to let you know it was in your interest to make sure it was taken down and I wanted to let you know that we've come together to have that cleared off and the progress on that should be starting Thursday of this week". Mayor Hines said, "Well thank you for that because I've been talking about that for over four years". She said, "That was a pet peeve of mine and every time I talked about it, they said they couldn't do it because something happened". Mayor Hines said she's glad it goes down. Mr. Boyd said, "All things are possible through Christ who strengthens us; anything is possible, it can be built up or it can be torn down". Mr. Boyd said, "that one is coming down, so Lord willing, nobody won't have no problems with it". He said it did have asbestos in it which caused a delay, but all of that has been taken care of and all of the permits have been pulled.

Mayor Hines said Mr. Garland asked if it's Ok to move Ms. Bernadette Reed up next. Everyone agreed that it was ok.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – MS. BERNADETTE REED

Mayor Hines said on January 22nd she got a call from Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Bruce asking if she had seen the news about a lady from Darlington that was noted as a hero for saving a bus load of kids, but at that time she had not seen the news. Mayor Hines said when she looked at the news she realized Darlington was on national news. She said a bus driver 45 days on the job with 40 children. Mayor Hines said one little child said they smelled smoke and the bus driver took heed and reacted and was able to get all 40 children off the bus and to safety. Mayor Hines said the headline said, "Just a Mother that got 40 kids off the bus after a fiery crash-Driver hailed as a hero. Mayo Hines presented Ms. Reed with a "Key to City of Darlington" for the heroic act that she did in getting the 40 children off the bus and to safety.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) CAMERA, ROOT CUTTER FOR VACTOR TRUCK

Mr. Kinsaul said Mr. Garland asked him to check on prices for a camera. He said the quote of 110,826.97 is for a complete camera outfit that comes with everything we'll need and it's in a trailer with the generator and

everything. Mr. Kinsaul said he couldn't see putting \$100,000 in a camera and riding it around on the back of a pickup. He said we can have this one mounted in the trailer. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul how much is in the capital fund and he said a little over \$700,000. Mr. Garland said there's \$98,000 in the Street Department Capital Fund. Mayor Hines asked if the payment would be \$55,000 out of each fund? Mr. Kinsaul and Mr. Garland both said the \$110,826.97 was not for the root cutter. Mr. Kinsaul said you're looking at approximately \$120,000 if we buy the root cutter also. Mr. Garland said the root cutter adds another \$10,000-\$12,000 to the cost. Mr. Kinsaul said the cost will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$120,000 and he said they may be a little wiggle room in the price. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "So, we're looking at \$200,000?" Mr. Kinsaul said, "No, \$120,000 for everything". He said the root cutter is approximately \$10,000. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus asked, "How far does this camera go"? Mr. Kinsaul said it has 600 feet of cord. He said this one pulls itself along, but the one Councilwoman Reed looked at you had to push it. Mr. Kinsaul said, "This camera will do good up to a 30-inch pipe. He said most of our pipes are 18", 24" and there may be some 30" pipes and a few 36" pipes. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul, "Since your department has the most money, could we take a little bit more out yours"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "I'll only use it very little". He said, "I won't use it half so really sanitation should put about 80%-90% in it". Mr. Garland said, "Why don't we do 60%/40%. Mr. Kinsaul said, "I'm not going to argue one way or the other; personally, I don't need it". He said it City money (the citizens). Mayor Hines said, "Well, I'm quite sure the citizens, as much as they have been talking and some of them have been talking about the water and they have a problem with the roots in the sewer line, it needs to be cut in order to free it up". Mr. Kinsaul said, "When we talked before, we can't do root cutting without a camera". He said the root cutter attaches to the vac truck. They take the spray nozzle off the vac truck and attach the root cutter. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "So when you say you don't need it, what do you mean"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "I have very little use for it in sewer, not stormwater". Councilwoman Reed said, "I do understand, but you are water and sewer though, right?" Mr. Kinsaul said, "Yes, but we would use it very little in sewer". Councilwoman Reed said, "You're responsible for the water lines up in there". "I mean, it was you that came to us about the vac truck, period. Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "No, we came to him". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I was asked to look at this". Mr. Kinsaul asked Council if any of them has seen the vac truck since they've done the decorations on it? He told them if they haven't seen the truck yet, they should make a point of

looking at it. Councilwoman Bruce said, “So this new camera at \$100,000 can do what we need it to do when it goes down in that hole those guys can see what they’re cutting”. Mr. Kinsaul said, “Well, you go down and video it or look and see what’s in there; you have to take it out and put the root cutter in. You can go through the pipe and see whether the pipe is broken, or whether there’s a rock in it or a gas line or a root”. Mr. Kinsaul said, “Our concern is Wells Street right behind us. We videoed it one day and we got about 15-20 feet up in it and we got this pretty nice yellow plastic pipe’s in the storm drain (a 4” high pressure gas line)”. He said had you run that root cutter up in that pipe Darlington wouldn’t be here. Mr. Kinsaul said they drill those pipes blindly under the ground and we find them in sewer lines and storm drains, so you want to know it’s a root and not a chunk of concrete or a gas line or a power line. Councilwoman Reed said it was quite eye opening to her when she saw the demonstration. She said she knows it’s costly, but it’s needed because of the kinds of problems the City is encountering almost on a daily basis and you see what the value of the vac truck has done, but it’s limited, and we could do so much more if we had all of this. Mr. Kinsaul said the equipment is measuring as the cable runs off, so they know how many feet they will have to go. Councilman John Segars said, “From a financial standpoint, can we afford this”? He said we still got the vac truck and we’ve got expenses on that mid-year. Mr. Garland said the only way we’re able to afford this and afford the match on the EDA grant that’s coming up soon is we have to take the payment that we have for the two above ground tanks (\$388,040), the company that did that work has agreed to let us take that lease payments which is the same company for the cell tower (on top of N. Main Street tank) and we just sign that check over to them, for ten plus years (10+ years) and that way we keep our reserve for the water and sewer fund; we just lose the revenue for the cell tower on N. Main Street. Councilman Segars said, “We’ve got some equipment expenses coming up we’re going to have to pay for and we’ve delayed those payments until this budget year and we also got (once that Joe Louis Blvd. Lift Station comes in we’re going to have some grant match on that). Mr. Garland said, “That’s what I was talking about the match on that”. He said, “By taking the revenue away from us (the \$38,000 a year we get) and signing it back over to the company that did the utility painting that saves us \$388,040 right now that stays in our W&S Reserve Fund. Councilman Gardner said, “That’s comes out to about \$38,000 a year and Mr. Garland said, “Correct”. Councilman Gardner asked if after 10 years we get those funds back and Mr. Garland said, “Yes”. Councilman Segars asked, “Can we afford this”? Mr. Garland said, “with the money we have in the bank right now, Yes, we can.

Can I answer what's going to happen in the future, "No". But right now, at this point, it's something we can afford as to what happens two months from now, I can't tell you. Mayor Hines said we have this expensive vac truck and it's not doing everything that it can do because it lacks the camera and the cutter. Mayor Hines said if we don't get it, we are still going to get a lot of calls from people about the water backing up and we can't do anything about it if we don't have a cutter to help it, that's a chance you have to take. Councilman Gardner said with the storm water fund and the project we did over there at Subway, we've exhausted our funds for the next twenty years (20 years) with that fund, so that vac truck is our future as far as our storm water maintenance program and being able to keep that, so he's in favor of it and it's smart for our future. Councilwoman Bruce said, "Even from a safety standpoint, we don't want our guys going out digging and don't know what we're digging or hitting". Councilwoman Bruce said, "The problem we're having because we have so many roots or whatever else might be down there blocking the flow. Councilwoman Bruce said, "They can continue doing what they're doing with the vac truck but it's not serving the purpose if we don't have all of the attachments that we need". Councilman Segars said, "There are companies that we can hire that can come in and do this until we get to a better financial situation". Mr. Kinsaul said that's what we've done in the past. He said all the work he has done, he's hired a contractor to come in for a day or two. Councilwoman Baccus asked, "At what cost"? Mr. Kinsaul said, "They will come in for two days for \$3,000-\$4,000". He said he's used them twice. Councilwoman Bruce said with all of the flooding and water problems we're having twice a year doesn't seem like that's sufficient to take care of our problems. Mr. Kinsaul said speaking from the sewer side and as far as sewer, he has used it twice. Councilwoman Reed asked, "did you try to use them for Broad Street there where you know there's such a terrible blockage right there. Mr. Kinsaul said we haven't brought anybody in because we've been talking about cameras. Mr. Kinsaul said, "You can make a list of a street or block and you can hire a contractor to come in for a couple of days and go to the different spots and do it. He said it's not owning your own, but it gets you by. Councilwoman Baccus said, "So as bad as this City has gotten, why haven't we done that in prior years because everything is falling apart all over the City and now we're saying we should have done, we could have done". Mr. Kinsaul said, "done what, Videoed"? Councilwoman Baccus said call in whoever you just said and got it done". Mr. Kinsaul said, "I've videoed sewers where I've had to, but up to the last year there's really no major storm water work done and that's when the vac truck was brought". Mayor Hines told them to go ahead

and call a vote. She said they can vote it up or vote it down, but we need to move on. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion that we purchase the camera and the root cutter with 60% coming from the water & Sewer fund and 40% from the Street & Sanitation. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman John Segars who voted against the motion.**

Mr. Chuck McNeil – PDRTA said he spoke recently with Mr. Garland and he suggested that he come and give an update on Saturday bus service. He said they have been operating it now for three months. Mr. McNeil said the DART service in general in for the entire week has been growing tremendously. He said when you compare this year to the previous year ridership has increased by 25%. This time last year they had over 4100 trips and this year it's over 5100 trips. Mr. McNeil said most of the folks are getting on at Washington Square Apartments and a popular stop for people on to start their trip is at Walmart. Other common destinations include IGA, Roses, Bi-Lo. Mr. McNeil said they started the Saturday bus route on November 3, 2018 for four hours and the numbers have not been too bad. He said they started with 27 people the first week and it went up and down since then. But overall for the 14 Saturdays they had a total of 267 trips which averages about 19 trips a day for Saturday. Mr. McNeil said the high number was back on November 10th when they had 36 trips for the 4 hours on Saturday. He said clearly people are using it and taking advantage of the investment for Saturday bus service and hopefully this is good news. Mr. McNeil told Council he will keep them posted and be back later in the Spring to give them another update, and they can consider whether they want to continue Saturday bus service.

NEW BUSINESS

C) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2019-02 ANNEXATION (164-05-02-046) TALLULAH WILLIAMS: 504 YOUNG STREET

Mayor Hines said this is right off N. Main Street. Mr. Garland said she needs sewer service that's why she wants to annex into the City.

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion that we approve First Reading on ordinance 2019-02 annexation (164-05-02-046) Tallulah Williams, 504 Young Street. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-03 CITIZENS APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Hines said she has noticed over the past year that some of the comments made by citizens and others have become personal and very offensive. As Mayor of Darlington I have a responsibility to all citizens of Darlington and not to a select few. These comments have gotten out of hand and must cease at once if we are to move Darlington forward. We as a community must lay aside our personal differences and do what is in the best interest of our beloved community. Like many of you, I am a lifelong resident of Darlington and I love this community and its people dearly. I am asking each of you to let's please come together as a united front with one sole purpose in mind and that is to make the City of Darlington all that we know that it can be. Mayor Hines said, "I would like to recommend to my fellow members of council that we change our current policy on citizen's comments". **Mayor Hines made a motion that anyone wishing to come before Council to make a comment should meet with the City Manager at least six (6) days before Council meeting to state your concerns. If approved, you will be allowed two (2) minutes to address council pertaining to the subject that you gave to the City Manager. During these comments there will be no personal attacks or offensive remarks made about the Mayor, any member of City Council, any employee of the City or any citizen of the City of Darlington. Councilwoman Sheila Baccus seconded the motion.** Councilman Bryant Gardner said, "I think we previously had added in here 'citizen of Darlington', that's not in here. I don't know if we're going to continue to do that, but I don't care to weigh in on that side of it". Councilman Gardner said, "When it comes to this, I'm fine with us changing the citizen comments, but I would ask that we give the citizens the ability to see the agenda before the meeting so if there's something on the agenda...He said there's some things we vote twice on, but there's other things like this attachment for the vac truck where we just voted once and it's done". Councilman Gardner said he would love to give the citizens the opportunity to be able to address Council on the subjects that are going to be on the agenda for the month. He said if we do the meeting with the City Manager six (6) days before a regular scheduled meeting, that our agenda be put out seven (7) days before the regular scheduled meeting. He said, "I don't care what the days are, I just like the citizens to be able to see what's on the agenda and then have the opportunity to sign up to speak on that subject". Councilman Gardner said, "Another thing I'd like to add is two (2) minutes is a little short; 4 or 5 minutes, I'd appreciate; meet in the middle somewhere if we need to". Mayor Hines said, "The City of Hartsville don't do it at all. Citizens are not allowed to speak at all. The County, they have to call and ask to be put on the agenda". Mr. Garland and

Mayor Hines said they get two (2) minutes with the County. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce said, "Maybe we need to stick with the two (2) minutes because most people go over two (2) minutes anyway". Mayor Hines said, "Most people go over five (5), but I give them leeway". Councilman Gardner said, "I'm fine with it not being five (5) minutes, but maybe we meet in the middle around three (3) minutes because two (2) minutes is a little short". Councilwoman Bruce said, "this says citizens of Darlington, but I think I read in the Municipal Code and it said, "Citizens in the City of Darlington". Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "That's fine, I feel like they should have access to the agenda". Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland his thoughts on having so many days before? Mr. Garland said, "The ordinance says I can participate in full discussion without a vote, so I'll just go ahead and put in my opinion". He said, we've amended the agenda a dozen times in the last two (2) years, so if we put the agenda out seven (7) days before and it's a six (6) day limit, if it's amended you're still going to run into the same problem with citizens not knowing it's amended or having a change to comment on the amended agenda". Councilman Gardner said, "I guess in that matter we would have to give the citizens the opportunity to speak on the amended subjects". Councilman Gardner said to not give citizens an opportunity to speak on a subject that we're speaking on that month all because of the possibility of an amended agenda, though I understand it's a good point, we want to make sure we're being transparent". He said, "We're not Hartsville, we're Darlington. We can do it our way a little bit and kind of morph what they're doing and take what's good and adjust it a little bit". Councilwoman Reed said usually the citizens that want to comment have their own personal business and it's usually not about what's on the agenda. Councilwoman Reed said, "When the citizen contacts the City Manager at that point they have the agenda available and they see they want to talk about that, then that's fine". Councilwoman Reed said, "Anything may get amended; anything can happen, and it shouldn't be based on the amended thing". Councilman Gardner said, "that's fair and just allow them the opportunity to see the agenda and three (3) minutes". Mayor Hines asked Councilman Gardner if he's fine if she change it to three (3) minutes and he said it's appropriate and he would appreciate that. Councilman Gardner said, "And we're also going to give them the ability to see the agenda before the meeting and several councilmembers said, "Yes". **All approved the motion.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST – PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR
KELVIN WASHINGTON

Police Chief Washington said if it's ok, he's going to let Fire Chief Cavanaugh make this presentation and if he needs any assistance with it, he will assist. Fire Chief Cavanaugh said he's asking Council's blessing to come up with something called the Fire Department Cost Recovery Fund which will help them alleviate him coming to them asking for money. Chief Cavanaugh said years ago they brought a company in here to talk about this, but after discussion they felt like they were worse off because they didn't understand what they were asking to do. Chief Cavanaugh said they are asking to set up a separate fund that's a revolving fund that every year they can recoup some cost and put it in this fund. He said cost recovery is a way for them to recover cost for repairs caused by accidents. He said there's a way out there now that they can get people to go on the insurance of the person that does the actual "at fault" and we can try to recoup some of this money back. Chief Cavanaugh said it's been in business for seventeen (17) years and there are over forty (40) states in the country that's doing cost recovery. He said South Carolina is one of the better states as far as cost recovery for these companies to get something back for the Fire Department. Chief Cavanaugh said how this works is they'll go to a run and if something gets damaged or used, they submit this bill to the "at fault" person's insurance. He said this does not affect the local agent, this goes into the national headquarters. He said what will happen is stuff gets filed and the insurance company will either say, "Yes we're going to pay you or "No". Chief Cavanaugh said Darlington County has had an ordinance in place for years. The City of Hartsville has an ordinance in place; West Florence Fire Department does it; Surfside Beach & Garden City does it. He said it's nothing new, it's just something they have been trying to figure out how to do it without burdening the citizens. He said they have researched this the last couple of years and it finally hit hard in the past couple of weeks that we can do this. Chief Cavanaugh said in 2002 or 2003 the fire department had a large fire at the Hartsville Oil Mill and they stayed there ten (10) days and when they got finished they have twenty-five (25) to twenty-six (26) sets of turnout gear that was damaged and they had no way to recoup this. He said with the help of Mr. Garland and others, they got a FEMA grant for \$175,000 to help recoup all this back. Chief Cavanaugh asked Council to allow him to move forward and hopefully next month submit to City Attorney Kevin Etheridge for them to look at an ordinance that they can put in place so when this happens again, we can go after the "at fault" people to help alleviate some of the cost. Councilman Gardner asked if we need a

motion to approve or do we just tell them to go forward? Mr. Garland said since it's something that we will actually be collecting, it's just for informational purposes tonight. Mr. Garland said we will need to have first and second readings on it because it involves a fine even though it's not something we're charging the citizens, we're charging it to the insurance companies. Mr. Garland said we will have first reading will be in March and second reading will be in April. Councilman Segars said when we talked about this a couple of years ago there was a situation about when you respond to auto accidents and wanted to know if we can get repaid for visits to auto accidents. Chief Cavanaugh said depending on what happens. There has to be some physical work done. He said such as leaking fluids, they have to obey the hazard. He said the biggest things right now are auto accidents with extrication, hazardous material incidents and commercial fires. Chief Cavanaugh said there are some things in small structure fires for folks built in their policy, but their biggest concern right now is those big incidents because if somethings happens we'll have a leg to stand on.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said she went to Chief Stone's service the other day and he will be greatly missed. She said when she and Chief Stone ran against one another whenever they ran into each other they were still smiling. She said when they saw each other they joked, and they smiled. Mayor Hines thanked the City workers for what they're doing in the City of Darlington because they work really hard. She said Councilmembers went to Legislative Action Day in Columbia and they received a lot of great information.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked if there's any update on our grant for the lift station on Joe Louis Blvd. Mr. Garland said the shutdown was 35 days and we don't have any type of word from them other than we're waiting. Mr. Garland said EDA was shut down for over a month. Mayor Hines asked if they moved the deadline up from March? Mr. Garland said, "We've gotten no official guidance from anybody on that". He said we made a phone call and had a request and they asked for clarification on letters for job commitments. Mayor Hines said the deadline was March 10th or March 15th, and Mr. Garland asked for EDA? Mayor Hines said for the RIA Grant. Mr. Garland said Councilwoman Reed was asking about the update on the EDA Grant. Mr. Garland said, "Ya'll are mixing grants up now". Mr. Garland said the RIA grant is something completely different, that's March 15th. Mayor Hines asked, "We can't do the EDA grant"? Mr.

Garland said we have the EDA application that's out and we haven't heard back in that yet.

REMINDERS

Tuesday March 5, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

Mayor Hines said we need to go into Executive Session to discuss Project Peach: Economic Development Possible Sale of Property (The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed executive session.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to go into executive session at 7:45 PM to discuss Project Peach: Economic Development Possible Sale of Property (The Darlington City Council may or may not vote after closed executive session). Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion.

5 Minute Break Before Executive Session

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, Executive Session ended at 8:19 PM.

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-00-020-10) 13 acres between Old Florence Road & Friendship Street for \$127,626.00. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-04-01-005) 4 acres on D Avenue & Sixth Street for \$39,774.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. All approved the motion.

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we sell parcel of land (165-00-02-011) 5 acres at 323 Old Florence Road (Baseball Field) for \$20,000. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilman John Segars, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer