

**CITY OF DARLINGTON  
SPECIAL MEETING AT 6:30 PM  
FOLLOWED BY  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, and Sheila Baccus. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Alex Gainey, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Interim Police Chief Jimmy Davis, Mr. Charles Bailey, Mr. Francis Parnell and a number of visitors.

**VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, to go into Executive Session at 6:30 PM to discuss a personnel matter concerning the Fire Department and Planning Department. The City of Darlington may or may not vote after closed Executive Session.*

*Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to end executive session at 6:50 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce.*

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT AT MEETING:**

All listed above and Mrs. Betty Jackson, Mr. Hoyt Campbell, Mr. Linwood Epps, Ms. Rhonda Brown, Ms. Jannie Lathan and a number of visitors. Councilman John Milling arrived 7:39 PM.

**NEWS REPORTERS**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilwoman Elaine Reed did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, to approve the Minutes of January 2, 2018, which unanimously carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve the meeting agenda, which unanimously carried.**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

Mrs. Rock said 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 garage area. She said they are accepting grillers, table hosts and sponsors. Mrs. Rock said the “Taste” is being held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in April this year which will lead into their 2018 season of “Bringing Downtown Alive” free concerts that will be held the second Thursday of the month (May through August- May 10<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 and Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> for Race Week at Liberty Lane and Pearl Street) She said Johnny Glenn & the Chasers will perform on May 10<sup>th</sup> to kick off the series with Bout Time Band of Darlington performing on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Rock said anyone interested in helping organize the concert can call her office or come to the next concert committee meeting at Mamma Mia’s at 5:30 PM Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Carolina Bank, Darlington Raceway and Fitness World Gyms will present the DDRA’s Annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at Darlington Country Club. She said the DDRA continues to hold a monthly Members’ Breakfast each month at 8:00 AM at Takis Diner (Next Monthly meeting is Wednesday February 28, 2018). She said breakfast is provided for member businesses at no charge and nonmembers who would like to attend the meeting are welcome for a nominal donation of \$5.00 towards the meal.

**B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MS. HARRIETT HOBBS (Not Present)**

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

**A) MS. KAY PIERSON – DIGITAL SIGNS** Ms. Pierson said she is present at the meeting to speak in support of the Digital Sign Committee. She said as Chairperson of the Landmark Committee they have worked and gave input to the Planning Committee as they did the Digital Sign Ordinance. Ms. Pierson said they don't think as it is written it will do any harm to enter the Historic District. She said it's a compromise. She said a lot of Historic Districts have very small signage with no lights, so this is a compromise, but they do support it.

**B) MR. FRANCIS PARNELL – DIGITAL SIGNS** Mr. Parnell said when the digital sign ordinance came up he felt that it needed to be supported and written so it would work. He said we may be the only City in the State that is requiring the sign to be dimmed down at sunset where it won't blind drivers. Mr. Parnell said, "Just pass it and lead the State".

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-01 – DIGITAL SIGN**

**ORDINANCE** Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock about the changes made to the ordinance and she said based on the comments from Council members, number 16 was changed to allow for businesses to operate after 10:00 PM to keep their lights on, but dimmed, until the business closes and then turn them off. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-01 – Digital Sign Ordinance with the revisions. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A) MR. HOYT CAMPBELL – DARLINGTON COUNTY ELECTION**

**COMMISSION** Mr. Campbell said the Election Commission is in the process of building a building to house the voting machines and also a room that would be used in the front part for training, election night reporting and absentee voting. Mr. Campbell said it gets pretty hectic up there when you have about 600 people that come the day before the election to vote. Mr. Campbell said this way they will have all their machines on site and if they have a crowd for certification, they will have enough room to handle the crowd. Mr. Campbell told Council the meeting room is approximately 30' x

40'. He told Council if they need a meeting room to have a meeting and it's not around election time, they are welcome to use it. Mr. Campbell said they are interested in using part of the railroad bed which is about 40" wide. He said they would like to have some extra parking up front and at the back they would like to put a road leaving the City parking lot and come around the building so they can load the voting machines the day before the election and unload them election night. Mr. Campbell said if the City is able to get the walking trail up and running, eleven months out of the year could be a place for people to park because they will have lighting. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Campbell how much of the area do they need? Mr. Campbell said he would think some of the area up front and then some at the back and come around the side of their building. Mr. Campbell said it wouldn't be a whole lot. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Campbell if they will be willing to have a survey done to show exactly what they want to take? Mr. Campbell said, "Yes, but we're not going to take it, we just want to use it". He said they just want to have access to it. Mayor Hines told Mr. Campbell to give Mr. Garland the survey when he gets it. Mr. Campbell told Mr. Garland he will get with him and then he'll talk with his people to find out who they would use to do something like this. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Campbell when the building will be completed. Mr. Campbell said they are moving along pretty fast with construction and the completion date is supposed to be March 1<sup>st</sup>, but the weather held them up on some things. He said as long as they are done by the first of April, that would be good.

**B) MR. JIMMY EPPLING – DIRECTOR DARLINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY, PROPERTY BEHIND LIBRARY** Mr. Eppling told Council he wanted to speak to them about a parcel of property behind the Darlington Library branch building. (He passed out handouts to Council so the could see the property in question) Mr. Eppling said in 2015 the Library was looking at the property behind building on Main Street. He said the property behind the Library was in the possession of the St. John's Foundation. Mr. Eppling said they were interested in that piece of property for a possible future expansion for the library so they went about the process of securing that piece of property. He said they spoke to their County Attorney and went through the process of going to the tax sale. He said at the tax sale the library paid the taxes for the property so that in one year the they will receive a title for that piece of property. Mr. Eppling said on the map in red shows the piece of property they acquired (approximately 1/2 acre). He said it was virtually landlocked by their property and two other properties. He said they found that piece of property as useful to them so that in the future

if they want to expand the Darlington branch, they can more easily expand out back of building as oppose to the sides and front. He said he knows City Council is considering a walking trail. He said looking at the map (a 1968 drawing of the property) it mentions a railroad right-of-way before the Library was built and that right-of-way passes right through the building. Mr. Eppling said the Library was built on the railroad right-of-way that was given to the Library and the County and St. John's Foundation at that time for building. Mr. Eppling told Council in the discussions that they have regarding a walking trail, at this point and time, because they will be taking possession of the property it would be passing across County property. Mr. Eppling said that's not to say they are opposed to a walking trail going behind the Library, but that they have made sure they were able to secure that piece of property for the use of the library for future expansion. He told Council if they want to go ahead with a walking trail they are not averse to sitting down and talking about a "walking trail" and going through this strip of property and around the library. Mr. Eppling said, "Either way, it will be virtually a year before we can do anything about it because only then will there be clear title to the property. Councilman Gardner thanked Mr. Eppling for being open to the trail. Mr. Eppling said, "If you're talking about a 3 to 4-foot-wide gravel or mulch covered trail, I don't see any reason why we couldn't accommodate something like that and have it pass through behind the library for that purpose. He said they saw the need and they took steps to make sure that they secure the property for their purposes.

**C) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-02 PURCHASE OF PROPERTY (165-04-01-005 – 4 ACRES); (165-00-02-010 – 13 ACRES); CORNER OF OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY AND AVENUE D**

Mayor Hines said Council talked about this last month and they are supposed to make a decision on it tonight. Mr. Lee Andrews said nothing has changed. He said the City already owns the property that's adjacent to it at Bowen Manor. He said there's five acres there and this property will bring us back up to Avenue D. It's an "L" shape piece of property and will give us 21.1 acres of land which will be enough to build what we need to build as far as softball fields. The cost is \$161,500. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-021 Purchase of property (165-04-01-005 – 4 acres; 165-00-02-010 – 13 acres, corner of Old Florence Highway and Avenue D for a cost of \$161,500. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

**D) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-03 PURCHASE OF VIRGIL WELLS STADIUM (165-11-01-048); BALLFIELD AND TENNIS COURTS (165-11-01-038 FROM DARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR \$100,000 – MR. LEE ANDREWS**

Mr. Andrews said this is the property that we had in mind to build four ballfields on, but when the property came available at Old Florence Highway and we could get everything in one spot, we didn't want to abandon the property because the neighborhood as a whole really needs it we just need to update the property after we purchase it. Mr. Andrews said this will help with parking at the gymnasium there and we will be able to put our football/soccer program, redo the stadium, redo the bathrooms, put in a park, playground, tennis courts, etc. He said this will give the people of Darlington a place where they can go and have fun. Councilwoman Reed thanked Mr. Andrews for working with this so well and she is pleased that we were able to get the property on Old Florence Highway and Avenue D. She said the kind of thing that we want to do at B.A. Gary. this opens it up so that we can. She said where the old ballfield is, is where we are looking to at least have a beautiful park/playground and update the tennis courts. She said the stadium can be maintained for the football. Mr. Andrews said he wants to move all football to that area, so it will be more centralized there. Mr. Andrews said it could open up in the future to where we're playing football now, for something else there. He said we want to keep the Virgil Wells

Stadium intact and actually go in and upgrade it and look at doing something in future with A.W. Stanley Gym. Councilman Segars said, "This is the same property that the School District was going to give us at one time, and now they want to sell it to us"? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes Sir". Councilman Segars said, "And also, I think the School District, when they build their new school they are going to give us the Brunson-Dargan property, is that correct or are they going to try to sell that to us too"? Mr. Andrews said this has been discussed in the past, but he thinks Mr. Garland has some information on this. Mr. Andrews said what they have said is that they will give us the property that we want if we maintain the water lines that come with it. He said it's not feasible to do that. Mr. Andrews said it would cost us more to fix the waterlines than it would to buy the property at Virgil Wells. Councilman Segars said he was talking about the property at Brunson-Dargan and Mr. Andrews said they want us to take the waterlines with that too. Mr. Andrews said by that time it might be something a little more manageable as far as fixing with the piece of property that we're getting, but as far as just the 100' on either side of the creek, it wasn't worth

it. Councilman Segars said he was concerned more with the actual school site and Mr. Andrews said we still are very much in want of that if we can work it out with them. Councilman Segars said with the baseball field and the football field, that would be a much larger piece of property you could deal with versus Virgil Wells. Councilman Segars said his concern with Virgil Wells is all of the criminal activity that's been going on in that neighborhood for the last 1 – 1 ½ years. He asked if that's going to be conducive for our recreation department? Mr. Andrews said they are actually doing programs over there right now. He said they haven't had a problem with their programs over there. Mr. Andrews said the people that are acting out, are acting out outside of what they are doing. He said they know that when they come into their buildings we police that and our Police Department has been great. Mr. Andrews said we haven't had that type of problem with our programs, but they are well aware of the problems in the neighborhood. Councilwoman Reed said, "Where else is the recreation going on now, do you think we would want to stop because of that"? Councilman Segars said, "You're missing my point, I'm concerned about public perception". "Are we going to have parents wanting to come down there". Mr. Andrews said we've had phone calls when they were looking at doing the ballfields there, parents concerned about what was going on. He said they played baseball over there for years with the Little League and there has been problems, and there's problems everywhere, but they haven't had that type of problem. He said as far as within the program itself, they have 150 kids that play Little League over there and their parents took them to the ball games and practices there at the ballfield. Mr. Andrews said, "I know exactly where you're coming from because I've had to answer those phone calls and I had to answer those questions". He said I cannot tell you that there's not going to be a problem over there. He said I can't tell you that there's not going to be a problem at Old Florence and I can't tell you that there's not going to be a problem at Blue Street tonight. Mr. Andrews said, "If we invest in bringing the quality of life up, not just in that area, but all over Darlington and people take pride in what we're doing, then I think the crime will go down. He said they will take pride in what we've built for them and they are going to want it to be better. Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked Mr. Andrews, in view of everything he just said, has the participation in the recreation program decreased. Mr. Andrews said, "No, but that's a double-edged sword because it has increased a little in one area but it's increased in other areas. Councilman Segars said, "With the improvements that we're going to do on Old Florence Highway (build a softball/baseball complex), if we fund that how are we going to fund this. Mr. Garland said

we have over \$1 million in the hospitality tax fund and we have \$1,870,000 in the bond account. He said the bond payment is currently less than half of what we take in for hospitality tax. He said if we need to look at getting more money with another bond, which is something we can do, he needs to know from them how much they want and then he'll go out and see what's feasible or not. Councilman Gardner said, "Just so we know, we are using about 40% of our hospitality bond to pay off our bond right now". Mr. Garland said it's about 45%. Mr. Andrews said before you go out and get another bond, we could take a look at phasing some things at Virgil Wells and Old Florence Road and we might not have to go out and spend a million dollars just to spend it. He said we can get a playground for approximately \$150,000, which we can do with out having to get a bond. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-03 – Purchase of Virgil Wells Stadium (165-11-01-048); Ballfield and Tennis Courts (165-11-01-038) from Darlington County School District for \$100,000. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion except Councilman Segars who voted against the motion.**

**E) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2018-04 PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE FOR PLAYGROUND (164-15-02-055); (164-15-02-056); & (164-15-02-060) FOR \$80,500 LOCATED AT 207 SISKRON STREET (OLD POBOY'S SEAFOOD BLDG)**

Mr. Andrews said City Attorney Mr. Kevin Etheridge did some checking into whether we could use hospitality tax money to build something there and after talking to some people there doesn't seem to be a problem with that. Mr. Andrews said this opens it up to do some things at Virgil Wells also. He said we're in dire need of having playgrounds. He said we don't have anything for our kids or for the adults to enjoy on a day like we have today. Mr. Andrews said because of the beautiful weather the park by the Admin Building was packed today and this is with limited resources. He said they put two swings up at the Pine Center playground. He said we can do some cool things on the Siskron Street property. Mr. Andrews said they can put a playground there and there's even enough room that we can put a dog park which is something that is not around here. He said he knows the "buzz word" tonight has been trails, but there's grant money out there for trails. Mr. Andrews said a trail doesn't have to be something that's extravagant. He said a trail can be something that going to connect this playground to another playground and so forth and before you know it you have a trail where you can walk to anywhere in Darlington. Councilman

John Segars asked Mr. Andrews what is the vision for the restaurant building that's on the Siskron Street property? Mr. Andrews said they have looked at maybe doing some kind of center (a program area) or maybe even doing away with the center and have bathrooms for the playground, trail or that side of the town. Mr. Andrews said his vision is more on the outside of that where we can put some fitness equipment, playground and golf holes. Councilman Bryant Gardner said somebody in administration was talking about maybe updating that building and renting it out to a restaurant or selling that little piece of property. Councilwoman Elaine Reed said Councilman Segars pointed out about the crime over there that would affect Virgil Wells. She said the last three updates from our City Manager outlined different crimes and the last thing they got from him was that a gentleman was robbed at gunpoint on E. Broad. Mr. Andrews said that's actually right in the middle of Siskron Street and Old Florence Road. Councilwoman Reed asked Mr. Segars if he was aware of that and think they shouldn't go forward with it? Councilman Segars said he's aware of that, but he's talking about repeated instances in one section of town. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made motion to approve the purchase of the Siskron Street property (164-15-02-055); (164-15-02-056) & (164-15-02-060) for \$80,500 – 207 Siskron Street. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion.** Councilman John Milling said he's assuming with all of these condition of our ordinances, that we will be able to get clear titles. Mr. Garland said what he's mentioning is the language in all of the ordinances. **All approved the motion.**

**F) VACTOR TRUCK PROPOSED LEASE/PURCHASE – MR. KINSAUL**

Mr. Kinsaul said he's been asked by Mr. Garland and several Council members to get some prices on a Vactor Truck. He said a Vactor Truck is used to suck out storm water catch basins which has a high-pressure hose to wash pipes. He said they have had to use one occasionally when they have a sewer break or clean out a lift station. Mr. Kinsaul said it will require hiring two highly trained operators with CDL Driver's Licenses which would have to be included into the purchase price. Mr. Kinsaul received two quotes from Jet Vac and he said the only difference between the two is one is before the price increase. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul to talk about the machine and how much it will be able to move debris out of the catch basin. Mr. Kinsaul said Mr. Alex Gainey had Anderson Plumbing come in with a machine to clean out the catch basin at the corner of S. Main Street & Hampton Street. He said this basin probably had three feet of debris and

they removed that and jetted out the lines. He said before this, every time the YMCA back washed their pool filters, it flooded Mr. Curtis Boyd's property at the intersection. Mr. Kinsaul said since we've been done with the rains, there's been no issues with that intersection. Councilman Gardner asked, "How long do you think that people could work going around the City cleaning out all the drains"? Mr. Kinsaul said it would be an eternity. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Kinsaul if he was talking multiple years before they could catch up and he said, "Yes". Councilman Milling asked if we currently have a maintenance system where we can go in and effectively clean out our manholes and Mr. Kinsaul said, "No". Mr. Kinsaul said his crew had to do lift station repair this week and they had to hire Sellers Septic Tank for nineteen hours one day to pump while they worked; therefore, he has a \$3,000-\$4,000 bill for a septic tank truck that this vac truck could have done. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul how much money is he talking about for the Vac Truck? Mr. Kinsaul said the lowest quote is \$367,359.51. The second one, if we should miss that truck, is \$391,348. He said this is for the same year truck, but as of January 1<sup>st</sup> there was a price increase and one truck was ordered prior to that and one was ordered after the price increase. Councilwoman Reed said, "Now that I am becoming more and more aware of what storm water is about and how it has affected this City with this flooding and whatever, please tell me why haven't we dealt with this before"? "Why is it right now, it didn't just happen". Mr. Kinsaul said we use to have an old truck when he first started working here and the little that's been done was contracted out. Councilwoman Reed said whenever you had it, it served the purpose. Mr. Kinsaul said there's never been a storm water program and the old truck was used primarily for sewer work and that's what it was brought for. He said it was purchased to clean out sewer lift stations, not storm water. Councilwoman Reed said, "Ok, so then let me get this understanding now; what you're asking us is the same truck; that's the same thing"? Mr. Kinsaul said it will do both. He said they will co-use it; they will use it in the sewer department when they need it and the crew will use it to clean storm water drains when it's not being used anywhere else. Councilwoman Reed said, "So, the reason it wasn't used before is because we didn't have a storm water plan and we've got a storm water plan now, so now you would like to use it for both". Mr. Kinsaul said we can use it for water/sewer as well as the street department can use it. He said the machine would be bought and paid for by multiple departments. Councilman Gardner said our current method of cleaning out drains is the employees using a shovel. Councilwoman Bruce told Mr. Kinsaul he mentioned getting an outside service to come in and pump out an area. She

asked Mr. Kinsaul how many times during the year would he have to get someone to come in and perform this service and Mr. Kinsaul said five to ten times a year at \$3,000-\$4,000 each time. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul the difference between the lease price and the purchase price. Mr. Kinsaul said they haven't pursued financing. Mayor Hines asked how long does he think the truck will last and he said brand new, 15 to 20 years. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he can use money out of the capital fund. Mr. Kinsaul said his capital fund will be to paint the water tanks. Mr. Garland told Council if this is something they want to do, they can finance it over a seven to ten-year period with payment split between different departments. Councilman Milling said this will help the people on W. Broad Street that gets flooded out every time it rains. Mr. Kinsaul said cleaning any pipe is going to help out. He said a 15" pipe that's clean, flows a whole lot more than a 15" pipe that's 2/3 full of dirt. Mr. Garland said in reference to W. Broad & E. Broad Streets, all of those storm water easements were done in the 1930's & 1940's, some are in people's backyards and there are oak trees on top of some of these pipes. Mr. Garland said we can clean to a certain point, but sooner or later if we really approach this, we have to go in with cooperation of the property owners to get some of these problems solved. Mr. Kinsaul said this is not a fix for everything without major work, but some maintenance will help alleviate some of the flooding in Darlington. Councilwoman Reed said the workers do use more than a shovel to clean out the pipes. Mr. Garland will look at financial options and bring back to Council at the March meeting, if this is the consensus of Council.

**G) APPROVAL BRIDGE LOAN SOUTHEAST DARLINGTON  
STORMWATER PROJECT**

Mr. Garland said this is no longer needed and asked that it be struck from the agenda.

**H) UPDATE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEMOLITION PROGRAM –  
MR. ALEX GAINEY (INFO)**

Mr. Gainey said right now there are four renovations in progress. He said since they've started the demolition program they have had seven people that have come in and applied for permits to fix up their properties. He said they have had four properties that have been removed by the property owner. There have been two properties removed by the City - (702 Washington Street - through the Demolition Assistance Program & 202 Chalmers Street). He said 108 Tallulah Street has been contracted with a demolition

contractor to remove the structure. He said they've got to be able to access the property so he's going to see what they have to do there and give them access so they can tear the property down. Mr. Gainey said right now there are eight properties scheduled for demolition beginning February 19<sup>th</sup> with the last house to be torn down on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gainey said once we get closer to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, he will start scheduling some more houses (8 or 10 more). Mayor Hines said she doesn't see 512 or 514 S. Main Street because that one was on the list before some of the ones on it now. Mr. Gainey said that was a bigger house and would cost the City more to take down. Mr. Gainey said if he's not mistaken, he believes the house is in probate. He said he will have to get with Sheila about it because she has been in contact with a family member. Mr. Gainey said they had the property cleaned up and one of the family members sent a check for cleaning the property up. He said he doesn't know if they want to tear it down or fix it up. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Gainey to give an update on the commercial properties. Mr. Gainey said when they started the demolition program they had 504 Lamar Highway (the old gas station) and when they sent them letters the property owners went ahead and took it down. Mr. Gainey said they went to court on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January and the Honorable Judge Stucks continued the case until March 28, 2018. He said Judge Stucks wanted both the sister and the brother to appear in court in front of him. Mr. Gainey said the sister said on March 10<sup>th</sup> that they were in contact with Burt Jordan Realtors and was ready to sign a contract to sell the property. He said it's now the 15<sup>th</sup> of February and he hasn't seen a "for sale" sign yet. He said he's had several people call him about purchasing the property and doing several different things with it, but none of that's come to pass either. Mr. Gainey said Judge Stucks wanted to give them until the 28<sup>th</sup> of March to seek legal representation if they wanted to, but his personal opinion, is he doesn't think he wants to make a decision; so, the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, we're going to help make a decision. Councilman Milling said he saw something on the news two or three months ago where the Assistant City Manager in Hartsville was talking about the demolition program over there and it seemed to him that they were speaking in terms of having received a large grant for doing that type of work and he doesn't know if the entire amount was the grant or whether it was a matching grant. Mr. Gainey said he thinks the Byerly Fund foots a lot of the bill for the demolition, but he knows they did just receive a grant to tear down 11 houses but he doesn't know how much it was for. He said the problem you run into is whenever you start getting grants for demolition, it falls under the greater project so then you have to do your asbestos sampling and asbestos abatement and that's one thing we were trying to avoid to save

the City money and that's why we went the route we did. Mr. Gainey said he thinks Hartsville tears houses down every year with grant funds, but this pushes them into the greater project criteria and that's why it costs them so much to tear those houses down. He said they took the house down at 202 Chalmers and they had a price before of approximately \$2,900 to tear the house down if we sub it out and he thinks we spent about \$1,100. Mayor Hines said, "So we still not checking for asbestos"? Mr. Gainey said we're staying out of the greater project criteria. Mayor Hines said what if one of the houses has asbestos in it. Mr. Gainey said we're not doing the sampling so we don't know if it has asbestos or not. He said as long as you're not in the greater project then you don't have to worry about it. Mayor Hines said, "But wouldn't that be kind of dangerous. I mean what if it has asbestos in it and you take it to the landfill, I thought you had to take it to a different place". Mr. Gainey said if you have property that has asbestos whenever the asbestos abatement contractor comes in he's going to put plastic in the dump truck and put the asbestos contained material in the dump truck and take it to the same landfill that we're taking our construction debris to. Councilman Milling said, "As I remember when you went through that with us, we've got an enclosed thing that's operator protected and I think Ms. Bruce had some concerns about that and you took care of those concerns". Mr. Gainey said we've got the enclosed cab and he told his operator to make sure they keep the cab closed when tearing down a house. Mr. Gainey said there's heat and air in the cab, so there's no need to have the cab open and it has HEPA filters in the filtering system.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mayor Hines** said the "Shower Ministry" at Trinity U.M. Church provided food, shelter and showers for the homeless during the snow and cold months. She said the homeless goes in at 6:00 PM and come out at 8:00 AM the next morning. Mayor Hines said she had the opportunity to go there one night and they had 10 homeless that were there. She said they feed them breakfast before they leave in the morning and they give them coats. Mayor Hines said she wanted to thank Trinity and Mrs. Angie Stone Godbold for doing an excellent job for the homeless.

**Mr. Garland** said County Council is going to have a work session next Monday, 2:00 PM at the Administrative Annex at the Sheriff's Department to talk about the future of the County Courthouse. He said they are giving strong consideration to splitting the duties of the court up, but at the meeting they are going to be proposing to keep the court functions downtown and

building a new courthouse but also building a new facility near the Sheriff's Department where the Treasurer's Office, the Assessor's Office and different of the County Government. Mr. Garland said if you want to find out what they are doing, the work session is next Monday at 2:00. He said he's been told that County Council wants to have a joint work session with Darlington City Council to discuss these options next month.

**Bryant Gardner** said we just had a new restaurant open on the Square "Fahrenheit 225" and he went there today for lunch and they have wonderful food. He said they are open Tuesday through Friday for lunch and dinner. He told Council to go and support it.

**REMINDERS**

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.*

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer