

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Coleman Cannon, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, and John Milling. Also present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, Police Chief Danny Watson, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Albert James, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mr. Freddie Kinsaul, Mr. Henry Chapman, Mrs. Sabrina Derry, Ms. Sheila Baccus, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Elaine Reed, Mr. Hoyt Campbell, Ms. Karen Carroll, Mr. Cecil Ward, Mrs. Joyce Thomas, Mrs. Rosena James, Mrs. Dyan Cohen, Ms. Rhonda Brown, Mr. Chip Wile, Mr. David Brown, and other guests.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

PRAYER

Councilman Coleman Cannon did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Mr. Milling, seconded by Mr. Segars, to approve the minutes of January 5, 2016 regular City Council Meeting. All approved the motion.

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

Mrs. Rock said Darlington County will be a part of the 2016 South Carolina AG + Art Tour, the largest self guided tour in America. She said Chesterfield, Darlington and Horry Counties will be featured June 4th-5th. Other counties will be on different weekends in June. She said tourist will go to different farms in those counties and at the farm the farmers will show them what they do, sell them some wares and artist will be at each location. Mrs. Rock said Darlington County's team consists of Black Creek Arts Council, Main Street Hartsville, DDRA and Clemson Extension. Each

participating farm will be featured online and the consortium will be purchasing billboards across the State to promote the event. She said the Market on Darlington Square will have an information table with promotional materials about the Ag + Arts Tour on June 4, 2016. Mrs. Rock said the Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at Darlington Country Club. The event includes a buffet lunch and prizes. Carolina Bank and Darlington Raceway have already committed to this year's tournament. Mrs. Rock said the Annual "Taste of Darlington" will be held Thursday, April 21, 2016 at Darlington Raceway. DDRA will announce the winners of its membership drive for 2016 at the "Taste of Darlington". The Build up Darlington program still has \$24,000 available in its loan fund. Mrs. Rock wants to remind everyone that DDRA established the Incentive Improvement Program which is a 50/50 reimbursable grant that will fund awnings, facade improvements, exterior painting and signage for commercial property in the City. The deadline is the 24th of each month until all of the funds are exhausted. Councilwoman Bruce said the dollar amount in the grant fund is the same amount as last month (\$24,000). Mrs. Rock said the last applicant that applied for the grant was located in Darlington County. Councilwoman Bruce asked about communication to the public about the grant. Mrs. Rock said the information is on the website and they also have new brochures printed which they have mailed out to quite a few businesses.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MRS. SABRINA DERRY

Mrs. Sabrina Derry said the Chamber membership continues to grow and has grown by 10%. Mamma Mia's recently joined the Chamber. Mrs. Derry said she has resigned from her position at the Chamber so this will be the last meeting she will attend. She said they have a new Executive Director which she is sure they will enjoy working with. She said they have a new board member Ms. Deborah Harrell, which will represent Society Hill, SC. Mrs. Derry thanked Mayor & Council for the City's participation and sponsorship for the Chamber Annual Awards Banquet & Celebration. She said it was a successful event. Administrative Professionals Day will be held Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at the SIMT Building and would like the City's support for this event as well. She said they will partner with the Florence Chamber of Commerce again this year. She told council they will hear more about "Freedom Fest" later in the meeting. She said the first meeting for "Freedom Fest" will be February 24th at Darlington Raceway. Mrs. Derry said the new Director will continue with the "Lunch & Learn

sessions as well as Business after Hours and visiting Chamber members in Darlington, Lamar and Society Hill. Mayor Hines thanked Mrs. Derry for the work she has done at the Chamber.

MR. BURT JORDAN – WATER ISSUE

(Mr. Jordan passed out pictures) Mr. Burt Jordan, Real Estate Broker in Darlington, said he is trying to assist Ms. Polly Hubbard and Ms. Kay Odom with selling their home, but they have a water situation that has been going on for years and years. Mr. Jordan said he has reason to think that the City has an easement behind Mr. Cecil Ward's house running over to Maryland Drive and the pipe is stopped up. He said they are trying to get some relief by unstopping the pipe to see if they can get the water off. Mr. Jordan said the water was removed in the last few days because Mr. Ward had someone come and pump the water off. Mr. Jordan asked if they can get some relief from the City to clean the pipe out. Mr. Milling asked Mr. Jordan if the picture of the grate was the one on Maryland Drive or the grate on Tennessee. He said the picture of the grate is the one on Tennessee, but there are two grates; one on either side of Tennessee and both of them are full of water and it's not moving. Mayor Hines told Mr. Jordan she was sorry for this problem, because we are having this problem over the entire City. Mr. Garland said they have sent crews out to check on the drains in the street, but we haven't been on private property though. Mrs. Carroll said the drains on either side of the street have been rodded and the drains are clear. Mrs. Carroll said it hardly ever floods on the side of the street where Mr. Ward lives, but on the opposite side of the street it is really bad. She said her crews have gone in and rodded the drains and saw that the water was flowing. She said if there is a problem in the line, it's probably further back and on private property. Mr. Cecil Ward said there's a catch basin on the corner of his lot and it's stopped up and full of dirt. Mr. Jordan said there is an issue between Mr. Ward's house and Maryland Drive. He said he doesn't know when the City went out there, but he has reason to believe the drains are stopped. Mr. Milling requested that the City investigate this and come back with a report. A lady had pictures of an area behind Mr. Cecil Ward's house to show that water is still sitting in the drains and also of a broken pipe. Mr. Gardner asked Ms. Carroll if they had to have permission to go on private property and she said, "Yes". Someone stated that the clean-out box is on the property next door owned by Ms. Barbara Seals. The lady speaking said someone spoke to Ms. Seals before and she said unless you are going to take care of the whole issue, I don't want my yard torn up. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul what do you do in a case like that; one

person is saying they don't want their yard torn up and the other has no problem. Mr. Kinsaul said that's an issue for the City Attorney, because we must have a clear easement from property owners we can't go on their property. Mr. Jordan said from what he understands, the reason Ms. Seals didn't want it done because they weren't going to do the entire area and she was afraid she would be messed up. Mr. Jordan said he will talk with Ms. Seals and he's sure she will agree to have this done. Mayor Hines told Mr. Jordan to talk with Ms. Seals and in the meantime Ms. Carroll and Mr. Kinsaul will study it some more before they can do anything about it.

MR. HOYT CAMPBELL – CHANGING OF FILING FEES

Mr. Campbell said it's cheaper to run for office in the City of Darlington than any other municipality in Darlington County. He said Lamar has adopted the same fee schedule that the County and State, which is 1% of your salary times the number of years. Mr. Campbell said when he talked with Mr. Garland about the vacancy, if the fee would be prorated for that seat, but he said there was nothing in the ordinance that would allow this. He suggested that the City change the filing fee, then prorate the fee if we had a vacancy to occur. He said Lamar went from a filing fee of \$10.00 to \$78.00. Mayor Hines said we will receive this as information tonight and then have 1st and 2nd reading on it.

MR. BOBBY ROSS – MAN STANLEY LEGACY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Mr. BoBBY Ross said he sent letters to Mayor and Council approximately two years ago concerning the Man Stanley Legacy Leadership Institute, but nothing ever came of that, but he would like to get this started back up again. Mr. Ross said he would like Council to appoint a committee to help him organize this and get things together. Mayor Hines suggested that Mr. Ross get his committee and if anyone on council wants to help him with it, they can. Mr. Ross sang a song that he wrote some years ago, entitled "One Darlington".

SCDOT APPLICATION TAP SIDEWALK GRANT

Mayor Hines said this grant is for the Southeast side of Darlington to Wal-Mart. Mr. Garland said this application was prepared by Davis & Brown, which is a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Grant. Mr. Garland said Senator Malloy strongly suggested that we apply for this grant because we need to do something for this side of the County. He said the sidewalk would run from F Avenue to McIver Road. Mr. Garland said the total grant

cost is approximately \$482,000 and the City's match is roughly 96,403.00. Mr. Garland said Senator Malloy suggested that we approach CTC (County Transportation Committee) to help with the match. He said we would be responsible for maintaining the ditches created from the project. Mr. Garland said we will eventually apply for a TAP grant for the West Side of Darlington. Mr. Milling asked Mr. Garland how much he thought the City could get the CTC. Mr. Garland said he thinks we will get all of it. Mr. Milling said, "If we can't, are we in a position within our own to be able to do some of the work ourselves and Mr. Garland said, "Yes". Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland what account would we take the funds from and Mr. Garland said "801-279". Mr. Garland said just because we send the application in doesn't mean that DOT (Department of Transportation) will start on it right away. Mr. Garland said DOT will do all of the engineering work. **Upon motion of Mr. Cannon, seconded by Ms. Bruce, to move forward with grant application, which unanimously carried.**

USDA GRANT APPLICATION FOR YARD DEBRIS HAULER (CHERRY PICKER)

Mayor Hines said it's been a number of years since the City purchased a new cherry picker, but we have the opportunity to apply for a grant to get a new one. Mayor Hines said the USDA grant is \$50,000, and the City's part is \$77,314.00. **Upon motion of Mr. Cannon, seconded by Ms. Bruce that the City applies for the USDA Grant to purchase a new cherry picker, which unanimously carried.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2016-02 PET OWNERS AND DOG WASTE

Mayor Hines said the City has been trying to establish a fee for pet owners that don't clean up behind them because this has come before Council about three years now. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock about her findings when she did research about what other towns were doing. Mrs. Rock said to do the pet stations, you would have to know the circuit that most of the dogs are walked on and have adequate stations along that route. She said Williamson Park has three pet waste stations at various locations around the park to eliminate this issue. Mrs. Rock included in Council packets a copy of a draft ordinance for pet owners and dog waste. She told them they can make any changes they want to. Mayor & Council continued to discuss the draft ordinance. Mr. Milling said there are issues with this draft ordinance and he proposes that the City either not create an ordinance or we will have to rewrite this one. He said it doesn't address how you make a determination

that the person is in fact guilty of whatever charge. Mr. Milling said if a dog has pooped in someone's yard and the homeowner can prove it, they can charge someone with trespassing. Mrs. Rock said various municipalities cover this issue under "litter". Mr. Milling asked if Council can get a copy of a draft ordinance that addresses "litter" and get it to them at least ten days before the meeting so they will have time to study it and give it some thought.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Chip Wile, appeared before Council on behalf of the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce to request that the City of Darlington give them \$15,000 again this year to help offset expenses associated with "Freedom Fest". Mr. Wile said "Freedom Fest" will be on Monday, July 4, 2016.

Upon motion of Mr. Cannon, seconded by Mr. Gardner, to give \$15,000 to the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce for "Freedom Fest", which unanimously carried.

FLATS REPRESENTATION (Florence Area Transportation Study)

Mayor Hines said Mrs. Cohen was the City's representative in the past, but since she is not on Council any longer, we need to appoint another representative. Mayor Hines said the committee meets four times a year and discusses sidewalks, streets, etc. Mr. Bryant Gardner volunteered to serve on the committee.

STORMWATER DISCUSSION – MS. JANNIE LATHAN

Mayor Hines said some years ago the City asked Lathan Consulting Company to do a Stormwater Study and they received a very good, very detailed study. Mayor Hines said it's time for the City to use the plan that Ms. Lathan compiled. She said on October 3, 2015 we had heavy rains all over the City and we need to address the issues. She said we need to stop doing and paying for things in the City and not using them. Ms. Lathan said the study was done in 2011 and she took a comprehensive approach to look at all of the storm water issues in the City and after doing that they broke the City into four quadrants and prioritized them according to which had the most severe flooding in them. Ms. Lathan said they then transferred the four quadrants into four phases because the magnitude of the problem was so complex they knew it would take seven to eight years for the City to address the issue. Ms. Lathan said they identified in Phase I the most severe area was Southeast Darlington. She said this comprehensive plan was utilized in

getting the City a Phase 2 and Phase 3 grant. Ms. Lathan said they were able to do some storm water improvements in Phase 2. Ms. Lathan said Phase 3 is based on the modeling in the comprehensive plan it helped support the funding because not a lot of municipalities our size have taken the initiative to put together a 5-year comprehensive plan. Ms. Lathan said the comprehensive plan also addresses maintenance issues. She said what this means is that once you define what your maintenance plan should be, you will routinely clean out the storm drains and you will routinely reshape your drainage ditches to help some of the water to move off. Ms. Lathan said a series of recommendations are in the plan and a list of what needs to be done in Phase 1 and Phase II. She said the City retained Ervin Engineering to do surveying because we don't have a lot of electronic data in terms of what our underground infrastructure looks like. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Lathan if the drainage will be better once the work is finished in Southeast Darlington. She said that the drainage would be better. Ms. Lathan said they submitted a grant to RIA (Rural Infrastructure Authority) during the last funding round but because of the Volvo Plant coming in they disproportioned the funding. She said she will be resubmitting our application next month. She said they have been looking at the best possible way to deal with some of the drainage issues and the current design closes up the ditch where the terrible smell was coming from. Ms. Lathan said the City of Darlington is a designated MS-4 and it allows for a revenue stream to come in, but they have to approve that. She said that's another way that the City could have revenue coming in. Ms. Lathan said most municipalities have gone to storm water fees and she has done a storm water fee assessment for the City of Darlington in terms of what neighboring municipalities are charging and bringing in. Ms. Lathan said she is applying for a storm water grant to deal with the Chalmers Street issue. She said Lathan Consulting is doing a management and project administration of a \$500,000 of which \$380,000 is for storm water improvements. She said they are planning to apply for another \$500,000. She said the MS-4 designation does allow for a source of income to come in. Mayor Hines said if we don't do this through the MS-4, it could take us 15 to 30 years to correct this problem. Mayor Hines said she doesn't think there's anybody that didn't have a problem with water standing on their property. Mayor Hines said she feels the City needs to do something about this. Mr. Milling asked if all of this was specifically for storm water or can it be piggy backed with anything else. Ms. Lathan said they are working on Phase 3 now which is the Village Renaissance Grant, and they are doing some of that now. She said of the \$500,000, \$380,000 is specifically for storm water. Also with this grant they have 8 houses that they are rehabbing

of which they can allocate \$10,000 per house, they are putting in sidewalks around the Elementary School. Mr. Garland said the County tried to tackle this 25 years ago. Ms. Lathan and Mayor Hines said that project is dead and has been a while ago. Mr. Garland said if we get together with Hartsville and go to County Council and ask them when they are going to fix this. Ms. Lathan said this project has been closed out as of last summer. She said the project had been open for almost twenty years and it was completely closed last August, 2015. Mr. Gardner asked if we are running the water to an area where it's just going to back up. Ms. Lathan said the short answer to his question is, "Yes". She said most, but not all of the water that's leaving Darlington is going southward into the County. She said the County has recognized that there's Darlington County issue and they have been trying to tackle this for decades, but as of August, 2015, that project has been closed out. Mayor Hines said if the City can get some of their problem fixed, what would that do for the water in the County. Ms. Lathan said she doesn't know if the County has a comprehensive storm water management like the City does. Mr. David Brown said he wanted to emphasize that storm water management would be our first priority. Mayor Hines said this is an issue that they can discuss in a workshop.

REMINDERS

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Milling, seconded by Mr. Segars, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer

