

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM
JANUARY 5, 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, Assistant Fire Chief, Charles Bailey, Mr. Albert James, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mr. Freddie Kinsaul, Mr. Henry Chapman, Mrs. Sabrina Derry, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mr. William Jackson, Mr. John Wallace, Ms. Sheila Baccus, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Elaine Reed, Ms. Anna Dewitt, Mr. John Gardner, Mr. Spencer Cheeseboro, Michael Cooke and a number a guests that stayed from the Swearing in Ceremony of Mayor Gloria C. Hines.

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.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

City Attorney, Mr. Albert James, III administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Carolyn Bruce, Mr. John Milling and Mr. Bryant Gardner.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to nominate Councilman Coleman Cannon as Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Mr. Cannon, seconded by Mr. Bryant Gardner, to approve the minutes of December 1, 2015 regular City Council Meeting. All approved the motion.

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

Mrs. Rock said the Beautification Board working with DDRA and Kalmia Garden Study Club has garnered two Palmetto Pride Grants for the City of Darlington. The first grant, which will be in the amount of \$4,894, will fund the completion of the Rose Garden which is between the Dargan House and the Council on Aging Building. The second grant in the amount of \$2,500 will fund one of the final legs of the Trees on the Square project adding pot and trees down Pearl Street. The DDRA held the Downtown Christmas market on Saturday, December 12th at Trinity United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall and it was a wonderful extension of their Market on Darlington Square events. Mrs. Rock said they had free face painting and a coloring station for the children and donated the revenue from vendor fees to the church. “The Shop Darlington” promotion received 32% more entries than last year. Mrs. Rock said three local shoppers will be drawn from those entries and awarded \$100 fuel gift cards for shopping locally. The Build up Darlington program has closed on two loans to date so they’ve loaned out \$16,000 of the \$40,000 loan pool to assist city businesses. She said at the end of 2015 more than \$400 had been repaid into this fund. The DDRA is holding a membership drive during January, February and March and new members will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$500 advertising credit and drawing will be held at our Annual Taste of Darlington on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at Darlington Raceway. She said businesses that renew their DDRA membership for 2016 will be entered into a separate drawing for another \$500.00 advertising credit and the winner will be announced at the annual golf tournament. Mrs. Rock wanted to remind everyone that they have established a grant fund for businesses that want to invest in their properties or new signage. The DDRA Incentive Improvement Program 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. She said all of this information can be downloaded from the City’s website. Councilwoman Bruce asked if this was a grant or a loan. Mrs. Rock said it’s a loan to the business and as the money is repaid the City will still have the loan pool to continue to loan out to new businesses. Councilman Bryant asked if the same person can get a second loan. Mrs. Rock said it would probably be up to the committee to decide this. Mrs. Rock said the posted interest on the application has a ceiling interest rate of 9%, but the rate has come no where near this. Councilman Milling asked Mrs. Rock how much the membership dues for DDRA are. She told Mr. Milling a membership

application is included in council packets. She said large industry/business can join for \$500, individuals can join for \$50; civic groups/non profits are \$100; and regular small business can join for \$150. Councilman Milling asked about the cycle for the \$5,000 Improvement Incentive Program. Mrs. Rock until they run out of the \$5,000. She said the DDRA raised this money during race week events. She said they had a race week kick-off party and they raised \$5,000 from that and all of the funds they raised will be going back to the community through this improvement program.

GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MRS. SABRINA DERRY

Mrs. Sabrina Derry said the Chamber membership continues to grow and they are continuing to distribute applications and member benefit information. Mrs. Derry said the Chamber Annual Awards Banquet & Celebration will be Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the Darlington Country Club. The chair for this event is Ms. Fran Knotts and co-chair is Ms. Harriett Hobbs. Mrs. Derry said they are planning “Lunch & Learn sessions as well as Business after Hours for 2016. She said she will continue to visit Chamber members each week in Darlington, Society Hill and Lamar areas. Mrs. Derry said she is attending Society Hill and Lamar council meetings to get them more involved. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Derry to let everyone know how much it costs to join the Chamber. Mrs. Derry said it depends on the category. She said if you’re a non-profit it can range from \$70.00- \$150.00; individual membership is \$100.00; businesses start at \$225.00, but it depends on the number of employees and if it’s a hotel it will be based on the number of rooms, etc. Mrs. Derry said feel free to contact her or visit the Chamber and she can give them the information.

MS. ANNA DEWITT

Ms. Dewitt said she was born and raised in Darlington and is an avid runner and would like the City to start enforcing code of ordinance article 1, section 74-2 (Depositing Trash refuse on streets & Sidewalks) which states, it shall unlawful for any person to throw in manner, to place upon any of the streets, public roads, pavements, walks or paths, any timber or material of any kind whatsoever, etc. Ms. Dewitt said it’s already an adventure in itself to make it through an entire run without tripping over broken sidewalks and now we’ve added yard debris. She said she knows many runners who have fallen in the past couple of years, herself included, and it was a mixture of a broken street light and an uneven sidewalk that ended in an urgent care visit with bruised ribs and a great deal of skin missing. Ms. Dewitt had two pictures of

the sidewalk blocked by yard debris in 700 block of Cashua and two pictures of yard debris blocking the sidewalk in front of the dentist office on Pearl Street. Ms. Dewitt said there is no where to run around the debris pile without running into the road and into oncoming traffic. She said her understanding is that runners are not allowed to use the roadway when a sidewalk is provided. Ms. Dewitt said she is not asking for a new ordinance to be passed, only the ones that we already have to be enforced and who enforces them. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Dewitt what day her trash is picked up. She said on Friday. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he knows the day that yard debris is picked up on these two streets. He referred the question to Mrs. Carroll and she said yard debris is picked up on Thursday on Pearl Street and on Cashua Street it's either Monday or Tuesday depending on which side of the street it's on. Ms. Dewitt said the yard debris on Pearl Street has been there as long as two weeks and Cashua Street will be there as long as a week if they put it out on Friday or Saturday. Ms. Dewitt said she is asking the City to have them move the debris off the sidewalk and into their business driveway or into their yard and keep the sidewalks clear. Mayor Hines told Ms. Dewitt to talk with Mrs. Carroll and give her the names and she will take care of this for her.

**PHASE II RENAISSANCE GRANT REPORT – CITY MANAGER,
HOWARD GARLAND**

Mr. Garland said we have had correspondence with Stone Engineering and we've met with Breakwater Construction concerning Phase II, but with Christmas and New Year's holidays, the engineering company and construction company were closed, so other than the initial meeting with them and them making an offer to do some improvements we have not had a chance to get back with them. Mr. Garland said they offered to meet today, but with everything that's going on they decided to table that for a few weeks until we had enough time to get everybody back together again, so he doesn't have a report to give them at the present time. He said he understands that Breakwater Construction has made an offer to fix some of the issues with Phase II Renaissance Grant relating to the sewer. He said there are still some things we need to talk over with Stone Engineering. Mr. Garland said when he's talked with Stone Engineering they have been in transit to different meetings and have not come to South Carolina yet, but they are working to resolve this issue.

COUNCIL ON AGING BUILDING REQUEST – MR. LEE ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews said Council on Aging has outgrown the McCullough House next door to City Hall and they have approached the City Manager in seeing if there is a building large enough for them to utilize for their feeding program. Mr. Andrews said they have discussed and looked at letting them use the Harmon Baldwin Center and in return, the Recreation Department would use the office space at the Admin Building. Mr. Andrews said this will give them a chance to feed their constituents there. He said this is something they have discussed, but not at length. Mr. Andrews said they are still looking for a building. He said in the talks they've had, Council on Aging would utilize the building everyday from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM for feeding times and they would use the office space. He said the building will still be open to the public for walkers, for use of exercise room and they would still use it during basketball season. Mayor Hines said if Council on Aging moves to Baldwin Gym, what about the Recreation Department moving into the Council on Aging Building since this is where they were at one time. Mr. Andrews said they've talked about that as well, and the building is in disrepair. He said if they move into the McCullough House or Admin Building they still have to do repairs on either building. Mr. Andrews said this could work out two different ways; first, all of administration would be on one block and we could revitalize the McCullough House and rent it out and make money off of it. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Andrews if he thinks the house is safe enough with the other chimney being compromised. Mr. Andrews said that would be up to Council because they building would have to be repaired before anybody moves into it. Mr. Milling asked Mr. Andrews from an operational standpoint, can he operate his programs that he needs to without conflicting with Council on Aging. Mr. Andrews said Council on Aging is finished everything at 1:00 and they only ask that no one is walking or exercising while the seniors are eating. Mr. Andrews said the only thing that will change is their offices would not be located there anymore.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ASSESSMENT – MR. HOWARD GARLAND – INFO ONLY

Mr. Garland said on October 2, 2015, because of all the rain and water intrusion, the back chimney in the Admin Building fell and caused significant damage. He said emergency stabilization has been done on the building. FBI Construction of Florence, SC spent \$12,400 on the chimney removal which they took out by hand. He said the chimney fell, but it didn't

go through the joist. Mr. Garland told Council they have a historic assessment done by Cummings & McCrady which lists not only issues from the storm, but issues of upkeep with the outside of the building and plumbing issues. He said insurance has pledged \$75,000 toward the repair of the building. He said we are looking at a total cost of approximately \$125,000 to fix everything. He is hoping FEMA help us out with funding also. Mr. Garland said we will be applying for a State Historic Preservation Office Grant in the amount of \$30,000 and we can match the grant with insurance money. The deadline for the grant is February 5, 2016. Mr. Garland said it's staff recommendation that we not stay in that building. He said except for him, we all stay in the City Hall Building until we are ready to move on the Square with a joint City-County Complex.

FEMA RADIO GRANT APPLICATION – CHIEF PAT CAVANAUGH

Chief Cavanaugh asked Council's permission to seek a grant from FEMA for radio communication upgrade. He said the current system they are using is a VHF system which they've had for years. He said the Federal Government will be mandating and requiring all public safety across the country to go to 800 megahertz system that will provide better operability from State to State and agency to agency. He said Darlington City Police, Hartsville Police, and Hartsville Fire have gone to 800 megahertz. He said he has held back because of the cost of it. He said if FEMA mandated today, it would cost us over \$324,000 to make this switch. Chief Cavanaugh said there is a FEMA Grant available right now with a 5% cost share and he would like the opportunity to grab. We could make the switch over for less than \$16,500 and be in compliance. He said his biggest goal is to head this off quickly and cheaper if something happens. Mayor Hines asked Chief Cavanaugh where \$16,000 would come from. He said from his radio communication budget. He said right now he budgets \$12,000-\$13,000 for radio communications, which is for buying them, repairing them and paying service contracts. He said this is a little increase, but we can benefit from this system if we get the grant. Mr. Garland wanted Chief Cavanaugh to explain the cost per month for the system. Chief Cavanaugh said there are drawbacks to all of this. He said right now it's \$18.00 per radio to stay on the Palmetto 800 system. Mayor Hines asked how many radios he has. Chief Cavanaugh said forty-two radios and you're looking at approximately \$9,000 a year to maintain the system. He said with the \$12,500 that he budgets each year for buying and repairing radios, we are still saving a little money. He said with their current system, if the repeater goes down they

have to get the radio person to contact Time Warner and it takes them an hour or two to come unlock the tower so they can get in to work on our equipment. Chief Cavanaugh said usually every big storm if the lights or cable goes out, they don't have any radio communication, they have to switch to the back-up at the Fire Station. **Councilman Milling made a motion to give Chief Cavanaugh permission to apply for a \$16,200 grant from FEMA to upgrade the radio communication system. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

DOG OWNERS REMOVING PET WASTE

Mayor Hines said she has seen pet stations in parks, but she has not seen pet waste stations on every street. She said she don't know how we would be able to accommodate this because we have a lot of streets and dogs in Darlington. Mayor Hines said this is a communication issue because if a dog is pooping in your yard and you know the neighbor, she feels you should go to the person and talk with them. She said when a person goes to walk their dog they need to get a bag and a scooper. Mayor Hines asked if we have an ordinance in place for this... Mayor Hines said Mrs. Lisa Rock did a "Dog Waste Report" for us it listed towns and/or if they had an ordinance, the fines and how they dealt with this problem. Mr. Garland said waste stations can cost up to \$600 per station. Mayor Hines said we need to educate the public on this.

REMINDERS

Monday, January 18, 2016 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – All City Offices;

Tuesday & Wednesday, February 2, 2016 and February 3, 2016 – MASC Legislative Action Day, Columbia, SC;

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Milling, seconded by Mr. Cannon, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer