

CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 1:30 PM
February 11, 2014

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Watkins, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Cohen, Hines, Segars, and Cannon. Also present: Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Police Chief Danny Watson, Mrs. Lisa Rock, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Building Inspector, Mr. Martin Cavanaugh, Mr. David Vaughan, Ms. Hannah Stanley, Mrs. Samantha Lyles, Mr. Bobby Kilgo and several other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

PRAYER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Mrs. Cohen, seconded by Mrs. Hines to approve the minutes of January 7, 2014 regular City Council Meeting, which unanimously carried.

DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MR. DAVID VAUGHAN

Mr. Vaughan gave Council copies of his monthly report to Council to read at their leisure. The Market on Darlington Square will begin in April, 2014 and continue through October, 2014. Ms. Lisa Rock has agreed to coordinate the activities for this year. The Beautification Board will meet this month and select the “Pride Awards” for the next quarter. The DDRA has begun working with the Darlington Racetrack for the “Taste of Darlington” on April 8, 2014 in the Hospitality Village. The costs of the tickets are \$30.00. The DDRA’s annual golf tournament is planned for Wednesday, May 7, 2014. The Design and Review Committee of the DDRA discussed with Codes Enforcement Officer, Mr. Mike Cavanaugh about approaching the owners of downtown businesses on improving the

facades. Work on the Veteran's Memorial has begun and is expected to be completed on May 26, 2014.

MS. HANNAH STANLEY – GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE

Ms. Stanley brought Mr. Jake Murphy as her guest to the Council meeting. She said the upcoming golf tournament is scheduled for March 28, 2014. She said they have secured hole-in-one sponsors as well as Pepsi's sponsorship to provide soft drinks. Ms. Stanley said they are still assessing the final numbers from their Annual Banquet. Ms. Stanley said they are still working on the "Welcome to Darlington" packets. She said she is still contacting businesses about being a part of the 10% club. Ms. Stanley said several businesses in the area have expressed their willingness to participate in the club. The Chamber gained two new members in January, 2014 – Wendy's of Darlington & Kalmia Garden Study Club. Ms. Stanley said they are working on trying to get everybody on the same billing cycle at the chamber. She said they are getting ready to start billing members through quick books, so they can keep track of billing and payments more efficiently as well as save money on postage.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY FUNDING OPTIONS – LISA ROCK

Ms. Had a visual of the library so council could see the areas she was describing in her report. Ms. Rock said it was brought to her attention this week that there are a couple of additional items we need to investigate as far as costs, such as structural issues with the concrete slab. Ms. Rock said in her initial talks with Historic Architect, Mr. Ben Whitener, mentioned that the structural issue needed to be addressed before we use the building. She said the sprinkler system does not need to be installed. She said the other two issues to be addressed is water pressure. Ms. Rock said we will probably need to bring a new waterline in for fire protection which will be improved and assisted by the N. Main Street waterline project. Ms. Rock said she does not feel comfortable making a recommendation without numbers. Mrs. Hines wanted to know the capacity of each floor of the building. Ms. Rock said there's 3,000 square feet to maintain not needing a sprinkler system, but we cannot have more than 300 people at the facility.

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE #2014-01 – TAX LEVY OF 125 MILS

Upon motion of Mrs. Hines, seconded by Mr. Segars, Second Reading on Ordinance #2014-01 for Continuance of Tax Levy of 125 mils, which unanimously carried.

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE #2014-02 – CONTINUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSE TAX

Upon motion of Mrs. Hines, seconded by Mr. Cannon, Second Reading on Ordinance #2014-02, for Continuance Business License Tax, which unanimously carried.

SCDOT SIDEWALK PROPOSAL ON CASHUA STREET – MS. LISA ROCK

Ms. Rock said SCDOT has proposed redoing the sidewalks on both sides of Cashua Street from the Swift Creek Bridge to Warley Street. The caveat is SCDOT wants the City to remove the trees or trim the roots as needed before installation. She said SCDOT has agreed to remove the stumps when they remove the old sidewalk. She said the condition of the sidewalks on both sides of the road is similar in nature. The majority of the trees in this area are Bradford Pear trees were planted decades ago and have remained beyond their useful life. The City initially rejected DOT's concept of removing 40+ trees, but the idea was brought to the Tree Board at its first meeting of the year and the Tree Board approved the concept of doing this on one side of the street only. The Tree Board recommends that Council approve the project for the east side of Cashua Street. Members of the Tree Board asked that trees be replaced on the east side of Cashua Street before the west side removal begins and suggested a mass planting be scheduled in conjunction with Arbor Day. Consulting Arborist, Ms. Debbie Dickinson of Sylvan Cities in Florence, SC suggested that the City work with property owners and replant trees behind the sidewalks as a better long term solution to keep the sidewalks intact, give the trees adequate space to grow, and still create a positive image when entering town from SC 34. There are 21 Bradford Pear trees that would be removed between McCall Street and the bridge. The cost for the removal and disposal of the east side trees is \$3,500. Ms. Dickinson does not recommend removal of two oak trees and five dogwood trees between McCall and Warley Streets because they have adequate space for growth and has not greatly impacted the sidewalk. The West side of Cashua Street is where Williamson Park is located and the sidewalk ends at the bridge. The condition of the sidewalk is similar to the east side, but there are several portions that are washed out with dirt from the slope, and DOT would not be addressing that problem. Ms. Rock said the

worst part of the sidewalk on Cashua Street is further down Cashua between Spring Street and Warley Street and this project would not address that. There are 21 Bradford Pear trees that would be removed from McCall Street to the bridge and five oak trees and four crepe myrtle trees between McCall and Warley Streets. The arborist does not recommend that any of these trees be removed because they have adequate space for growth and have not impacted the sidewalk greatly. There is, however, once exception a decaying oak tree at 603 Cashua Street that's decaying on both side and rot at the base. Ms. Dickinson suggested that we remove this tree regardless of this project and replace it with another live oak. The Bradford Pear trees on the west side are larger and will cost more to take them out. A quote of \$4,200 has been given for removal and disposal of the trees plus an additional \$300 for the oak tree at 603 Cashua Street. Ms. Rock said staff recommends that council approve the eastside portion of the project as the Tree Board recommended. She said there's not enough money left in budget for this fiscal year to cover this expense so work could not begin until July. She said DOT will wait for Council's decision and will wait until the trees have been removed before they start doing anything to the sidewalks. Ms. Rock said in talking with local DOT officials, since the City is not asking for both sides of the sidewalk to be replaced, the City requests that the sidewalk in front of IGA on S. Main Street be replaced as well. She said there are a limited number of trees at this site that would be impacted. She said the City Planning Commission will address the current condition of sidewalks throughout the City in a systematic fashion and recommend a priority list to Council in the coming year. Mayor Watkins asked if we had a certain time frame to get this done. Ms. Rock said as long as DOT knows the City wants the work done, it will be ok. Mr. Garland said we need to do this whenever it warms up possibly March of April. Mr. Segars asked if anyone on staff would take the trees down. Ms. Rock said the street department could take them down, but it would take the workers off their jobs for more than a week. **Mrs. Cohen made a motion to approve the request from the Tree Board to remove twenty-one Bradford Pear trees on the east side of Cashua Street as soon as possible at a cost of \$3,500. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hines. All approved the motion.**

MAYOR'S DISCUSSION

Mayor Watkins said due to a process of developing of property on Highway 52 necessitates that we annex Patience Street. Mayor Watkins said the retailer is going to extend the O'Reilly's driveway to make it the general entrance into the entire area. Mayor Watkins said the retailer would like to

see their driveway aligned with the truck entrance/exit for CVS-Food Lion shopping center. Mayor Watkins said the difficulty DOT is encountering is that Patience Street is approximately sixty-feet from the proposed intersection. He said there was a proposal to close the street but this would have been an inconvenience to the residents and also time consuming because of public hearings and possible appeals. A suggestion was made by the retailer that the City asks DOT for a “right-in, right-out”. Mayor Watkins said when we put in a request for a permit from DOT, it was denied because Patience Street is a county road. He said they have approached the county and asked if they would be receptive to turn over Patience Street to the City. He said along with this comes the responsible for care and maintenance and it also gives us the ability to regulate traffic patterns and enforce traffic laws. Mayor Watkins said if the County agrees for us to annex Patience Street, we would go back to DOT and repetition them for the “right-in, right-out” traffic pattern change. Mayor Watkins said had a resolution that the County relinquishes control of Patience Street and hand it over to the City which will allow us to change the traffic pattern and facilitate the request from the retailer. He said this will allow the retailer to proceed with confidence and start construction in April. It will also allow the owner of the remaining property to solicit and offer properties that are complementary to the proposed development. Mayor Watkins said County Council is meeting at 3:00 PM today, and he plans to attend the meeting with the resolution, should Council approve it. **Upon motion of Mrs. Hines, seconded by Mr. Cannon, to approve resolution that the County relinquishes control of Patience Street and give control to the City, which unanimously carried.**

CITY MANAGER’S UPDATE

1) Blue Sky has started on the racing mural. He decided to work on the entire side of the H&R Block building. After the pressure washing was done, there was some damage to the side of the building, so Mr. Roosevelt Williams is doing some grout work for \$2,400; 2) Mr. Garland passed around a sample of plastic concrete to possibly use in the Historic District and put around the trees. Mrs. Rock said with the plastic concrete, you can take it up, trim the trees and put it back down; 3) The preliminary audit is complete, but no date has been set for the audit committee meeting; 4) The EDA line of credit at Carolina Bank has been paid off. Mr. Garland said we will apply for another EDA for sewer line funding on the By-Pass; 5) the concrete work on the abandoned water line on Highway 52 is complete; 6) Mr. Garland said Ms. Hines asked that Council consider the “Prayer Chapel”

on Spring Street is in need of repair. Mr. Garland said we will get estimates for repair and present at the March 4th council meeting; 7) Mr. Garland said the “Lion’s Den Boxing Club” work out of A.W. Stanley Gym. The Club grew from three to fifteen boxers which works out at A.W. Stanley Gym. Mr. Lee Andrews said one of the boxers ranked no. 2 in the nation. Mr. Andrews said they are selling tickets for the U.S. Junior Olympic bout on March 1st. The match will be held at A.W. Stanley Gym. 8) The Daddy-Daughter Banquet will be Thursday, February 13, 2014; 9) General Fund Balance - \$334,302.57; Hospitality Tax Fund - \$238,309.39 Fund Balance Account - \$3,273.01; W&S General Fund Balance - \$7,153.81; W&S Fund Balance - \$156,655.84; W&S Capital Fund - \$705,319.42

Mayor Watkins said without objection he asks that Council forego executive session because a lot of the discussion was covered when discussing the resolution.

REMINDERS:

1) Tuesday, March 4, 2014 our Regular City Council Meeting at the City Hall Building on Pearl Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Ms. Hines, seconded by Mr. Cannon, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer