

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 6, 2017 – 6:30 PM**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, Coleman Cannon, John Segars and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, Mr. Alex Gainey, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mr. Norman Steadman, Mrs. Rosena James, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Causey, Ms. Betty Jackson, Mr. Will Isgett, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mr. Frank Coefield, Ms. Sarah Floyd, Ms. Saviah Miller, Ms. Sheila Jones and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

PRAAYER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Coleman Cannon, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve minutes of May 2, 2017 Council meeting, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Coleman Cannon, to approve minutes of May 9, 2017 Council Meeting, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Coleman Cannon, to approve minutes of May 23, 2017 Council meeting, which unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman Coleman Cannon, to approve the City Council Meeting Agenda, which unanimously carried.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said they had a great crowd for the Bringing Downtown Alive! Concert on May 12, 2017. Ms. Rock said they will have another concert this Friday with The Bout Time Band. She said the DDRA will have a Members Breakfast will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017, 8:00 AM at Takis Diner. She said the breakfast is free for members and a \$5.00 donation toward the meal for nonmembers who would like to participate. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA Facade and Sign Grant Fund has \$2,500 remaining. She said this is a 50/50 grant. Mrs. Rock said any business, civic group, church or individual who would like to be a part of any of the events or projects can contact her office.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MR. NORMAN STEADMAN

Mr. Steadman said the “I Love Darlington” coozies are in stock at the Chamber and are on sale for \$3.00 each. Mr. Steadman said the “Taking it Further Than Paper” Gallery is installed and ready for viewing. He said Darlington native and FMU student Ms. Rhonda Gandy has created beautiful photographs of local areas, culture and industry. He said the gallery will be open until June 16th during normal business hours with the entire lobby displayed with Ms. Gandy’s work. He said the Chamber is continuing to seek other artists to display their work in their lobby. Mr. Steadman said the June 22, 2017 “Lunch & Learn” will be noon at the Darlington County Library with featured speaker from Constant Contact. He said Freedom Fest will be held July 1, 2017 from 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL

A MS. ELIZABETH NOCK

Ms. Nock said she is concerned about Blue Sky’s painting on the Square because it seems to be fading. She said she thought maybe we can contact him and have him touch it up now rather than later because it might be cheaper to do it now. She asked Council’s opinion on this. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Rock if Blue Sky did anything to the mural when he did the other work for us. Mrs. Rock said he did a couple of things, but there are some repairs that need to be made. She said the last estimate that she got from Blue Sky to do a full restoration will cost approximately \$30,000. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if there was anything we can about this right now. Mr. Garland said we don’t own that building and would need permission from the church to do this work. He said we could talk with the church

about this. Ms. Nock also asked when the trash trucks are coming. Mayor Hines told her we just got a new cherry picker and Mr. Garland said the old cherry picker will be back online tomorrow, so hopefully things can get back on a regular schedule.

B) MR. FRANK COEFIELD – TRASH PICKUP

Mr. Coefield said he heard them just say we've got a new cherry picker, but still the guys that supposed to pick up the trash just ride by it and he knows this because he and other people sit and watch them all the time. Mayor Hines said she knows in the past month or so the men were riding and looking for large piles because they didn't have the cherry picker. Mr. Coefield said they have pitch forks on the trucks and they can get out and pick it up. Mr. Garland said they have addressed several times in the last few months about the need for our street department employees to get out with the pitch forks and pick up the piles of yard debris, but when they were doing so, there were complaints that they weren't sweeping them up or raking them properly. Mayor Hines said in the past before they got the cherry picker, the workers would pick up the debris with the pitch fork, rake the area and then sweep it. Mr. Coefield said the workers make it worse than it is when they pick it up. Mayor Hines said we will have to check on this and she told Mr. Garland to talk with the workers again.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**A) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCES 2017-19 APPROVAL
2017-2018 BUDGET**

Mr. Garland said we have to have a Public Hearing on the Budget before we can have Second Reading. He said we will the Public Hearing on June 27, 2017. Mr. Garland said there are some adjustments to the 2017-2018 Budget. He said on the general fund side the previous estimate we received on the insurance was 12%, but it was reduced to 10%. He increased line item 620-272 in Codes Department from \$40,000 to \$50,000 for demolition. Line item 580-381 was increased from \$10,000 to \$15,687. In the Water & Sewer Fund, line item 912-288 was increased to \$222,515. Mr. Garland said with Council's blessing any increases that we get will be added to housing demolition. He said we have an increased plan for water, sewer and sanitation rates.

**B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-20 TAX
ANTICIPATION NOTICE (TAN)**

Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman Coleman Cannon, Second Reading on Ordinance 2017-20, Tax Anticipation Notice, which unanimously carried.

C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-21 BUSINESS LICENSE COLLECTION

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman John Segars, Second Reading on Ordinance 2017-21 Business License Collection, which was unanimously approved.

D) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-23 SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES AND CONSUMPTION

Mayor Hines said Council is not voting on this, they are just voting to have this put on the ballot in November so the citizens can vote on it. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman John Segars, Second Reading on Ordinance 2017-23 Sunday Alcohol Sales and Consumption, unanimously carried.**

E) DEMOLITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said he getting ready to start demolition in the City of Darlington and is proposing that we adopt a Demolition Assistance Program that will help low income people that have property in the City and just can't afford to tear them down. He said he brought to Council last month for information, but he made a few revisions to it. (Mr. Gainey did a PowerPoint Presentation) He said homeowners will have to qualify to be in the program and must meet certain criteria. Mr. Gainey said how the program will work is qualifying property owners will pay \$500 fee, the City of Darlington will remove the structure from the property and the property owner will maintain ownership of their property once the homes are removed. Mr. Gainey said the property must be identified as unsafe and uninhabitable by the Building Official; Property owner must have owned the property for at least two and years and property taxes cannot be delinquent. He said the program fee is based on property owner's income and will be calculated on a sliding scale similar to what HUD uses. Mr. Gainey went over benefits of the program. Mr. Gainey said Sumter, Hartsville, and Rock Hill have had similar programs that have been successful. Mayor Hines asked what happens if a homeowner pays the \$500.00 what happens with the demolition fee at the end of the year, is it added onto their taxes? Mr. Gainey said whatever the amount that the homeowner qualifies for is what they will pay and the City absorbs the difference. He said this is a way for the City to get rid of a lot of

dilapidated houses. He said if the City doesn't have a Demolition Assistance Program then what is going to happen is the City will end up tearing the homeowner's house down and if they don't reimburse the City the money back, they will end up putting it on their taxes to try and collect it. He said this way, we will be getting something out of it. Mayor Hines said she needs more understanding on this.

NEW BUSINESS

A) MISS DARLINGTON 2018 – MS. SARAH FLOYD

Ms. Floyd who is from Hartsville, SC said her platform is promoting the Arts in our schools in the County and in our communities. Mayor Hines presented Ms. Floyd with a “Key to the City of Darlington” and also had a picture taken together.

B) MISS DARLINGTON TEEN – MS. SAVIAH MILLER

Ms. Miller is from Florence, SC and she attends S.C. Virtual Charter School and her platform is The Importance of Literacy. She plans to showcase in Darlington how important reading is by going to schools and telling students how amazing reading can be and how it can bring you into a new world. Mayor Hines presented Ms. Saviah Miller with a “Key to the City of Darlington” and also had a picture taken together.

C) MUNICIPAL JUDGE DAN CAUSEY RETIREMENT – MAYOR HINES

Mayor Hines thanked Judge Dan Causey for 30 years as Municipal Judge for the City of Darlington. Judge Causey said it has been a pleasure to serve the City of Darlington and is proud of the progress and improvements our Court has made. Mayor Hines presented Judge Causey with a “Key to the City of Darlington” and also had a picture taken with him as well.

D) FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2017-22 TAX LEVY

Mayor Hines said we have not heard from the County yet so they can't do anything with the millage. Mr. Garland said we will have to wait on this.

E) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-24 WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE

Mayor Hines said the proposed rate increase is 3% increase per year for in City rates and outside City Limits a 5% rate increase. Mr. Garland said this was discussed at length at our budget work sessions. **Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilman John Segars, First**

Reading on Ordinance 2017-24 Water & Sewer Rate Increase, which unanimously carried.

F) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-25 SANITATION FEE INCREASE

Mayor Hines said current sanitation charges for residential and commercial customers is \$20.00 and will increase to \$23.00. There will be a \$10.00 charge for each additional cart. **Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman John Segars, First Reading on Ordinance 2017-25 Sanitation Fee Increase, which unanimously carried.**

G) BOARDS & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Lisa Rock said there are several open seats on various city boards and commissions that need to be filled. She said Ms. Linda Beckham is interested in serving on the Design Review Board. She said this Board has not been functioning for about 6 years and this appointment will help to reconstitute that Board. **Upon motion of Councilman Segars, seconded by Councilwoman Reed to appoint Ms. Linda Beckham to the Design Review Board, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said Mr. Howard Nettles has expressed interest in serving on the Design Review Board. **Upon motion of Councilman Segars, seconded by Councilman Cannon, to appoint Mr. Howard Nettles to the Design Review Board, which unanimously carried.**

Mrs. Rock said Mrs. Linda Byrd is currently serving on the Planning Commission and her term expires June 30th, but she wishes to be reappointed for another term. **Upon motion of Councilman Segars, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, to reappoint Mrs. Linda Byrd to the Planning Commission, which unanimously carried.**

Mrs. Rock said three members, Mrs. Carolyn Abbott, Mrs. Kay Pierson & Mrs. Rosanne Brasington terms expire June 30th and they all wish to be reappointed to the Historic Landmarks Commission. **Upon motion of Councilman Segars, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, to reappoint Mrs. Carolyn Abbott to the Historic Landmarks Commission, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said the next person to vote on is Mrs. Kay Pierson who is currently the Chairman and her term expires June 30th as well. Councilman Milling said he noticed that Mrs. Kay Pierson is currently a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mrs. Rock said according to our ordinance a member of the Historic Landmarks Commission has to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilman Milling said it seems like a potential conflict of interest. Mrs. Rock said it does, but that's how our

ordinance is written. Councilman Milling said we probably need to take a look at our ordinance. Mayor Hines told Mr. Milling we will take a look at this. She asked Councilman Milling if he wants to wait on this one and he said, “Yes”, because whenever we have one person serving on more than one committee, we need to take a look at it. Mr. Garland said Mrs. Pierson was being considered for being back on the Landmarks Commission so we should still vote her in on that. He said we’ll change the ordinance for Board of Zoning Appeals, but we’re trying to reappoint her to the Historic Landmarks Commission which she is currently on. Councilman Milling said his concern is that she is asking to be appointed to something where she’s already on something else and that position has expired. Mrs. Rock said she is only appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals because she was on the Historic Landmarks Commission. Mr. Garland said if she was no longer on the Historic Landmarks Commission she couldn’t serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilman Milling said until we figure out which comes first, we need to pass on this. Mr. Garland said she’s Chair of the Historic Commission Board. Mr. Garland said he wouldn’t want to “cut off the head” just because we might have an issue with another Board. Councilman Milling said we’ll do that and every time we have a zoning appeal we will have to deal with the issue of whether or not there’s a conflict and that issue will be raised by whomever the appellant is. **Upon motion of Councilman John Segars, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, to reappoint Ms. Kay Pierson to the Historical Landmarks Commission, which unanimously carried. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilman John Segars, to reappoint Mrs. Rosanne Brasington to the Historical Landmarks Commission, which unanimously carried.** Mrs. Rock said they have multiple seats open on the Tree Board so they can’t have a meeting at this point to discuss any issues.

H) MUNICIPAL ROOF REPAIR BID APPROVAL

Mr. Garland said they had a preconstruction meeting on May 16th and six companies attended but only two submitted bids. The bid opening was May 30, 2017. Mr. Garland said they received a bid from Roofco of Sumter, SC for \$196,722 and a bid from Gardner Roofing from Hartsville, SC with a base bid of \$167,900. Mr. Garland went over the three (3) alternate bids submitted by Gardner Roofing. Mr. Garland recommend approval for all of the bids for work to be done on the municipal buildings (includes 410 Pearl Street, 404 Pearl Street, 400 Pearl Street & 586 W. Broad Street). He said this does not include the gymnasiums, they will be bid separately. Mr. Garland said pending Council’s approval, we have a preconstruction

meeting with Gardner Roofing Company tomorrow morning at 9:00 AM. **Upon motion of Councilman John Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve low bid of Gardner Roofing Company for \$167,900, which unanimously carried.**

D) STREET & SANITATION EQUIPMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Mr. Garland said we were hoping to make it through the rest of the budget year with our old cherry picker (one from 1999 & one from 2001), but they have broken several times over the last few weeks, and pending verbal Council approval we ordered one cherry picker which was delivered last Thursday. He said we want to get two additional pieces of equipment; a trash truck which will be delivered in July, 2017 and another cherry picker. He said the total for all pieces of equipment is \$415,154. Mr. Garland recommends payment option #3 from United Financial of \$50,423.18. Mr. Garland said we have applied for a USDA grant on the second cherry picker which we feel like it's very close to being approved. He said once that's approved, we will take the \$50,000 grant funds to make the first year's payment. Mr. Garland said we plan on having the new garbage truck in July and as soon as USDA approves the grant we will go ahead and get the second cherry picker in. Mr. Garland recommends that Council approves this. **Councilman Milling made a motion that we enter into the equipment purchase agreement with United Financial. Councilman Cannon seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Garland said in his management report for this month there is a report on the pros and cons of merging our water & sewer system with Darlington County Water and Sewer Authority. He told Council if they have not read it, please do so. (For Info Only).

Mayor Hines offered condolences to Mr. Garland on the loss of his Mother-in law.

REMINDERS

Monday June 19, 2017 at 6:30 PM – Swearing in Ceremony for Judge Robert Stucks at City Hall; Thursday June 27, 2017 at 6:00 PM will be a Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 budget followed by a Special Meeting at 6:30 PM;

Saturday, July 1, 2017 – Freedom Fest at Darlington Raceway from 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM;

Tuesday, July 4, 2017 Holiday – All City offices will be closed;

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM-Regular Monthly Council Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer