

**CITY OF DARLINGTON  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM  
MAY 3, 2016**

**PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Coleman Cannon, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, Ms. Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Mr. Lee Andrews, Mr. Freddie Kinsaul, Ms. Karen Carroll, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Albert James, Mr. Norm Stedman, Mr. Roger Gore, Mr. Chuck McNeil, Chief Danny Watson, Mr. Jim Stone, Mr. Willie Pearson, Mr. Chevron Scott and a number of 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. Bryant Gardner, to approve the minutes of April 12, 2016 regular City Council Meeting. All approved the motion with the requested change.**

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

Mrs. Rock thanked Carolina Bank and Darlington Raceway for their support of DDRA's Annual Golf Tournament at Darlington Country Club on April 13, 2016. Mrs. Rock said that same weekend the Beautification Board had approximately thirty-six volunteers to show up for "Clean-up Darlington Day" on April 16, 2016. She said we will see Kalmia Garden Study Tree's on the Square near completion. She said on Monday, twenty pots will be installed along Pearl Street. Mrs. Rock thanked everyone who attended the annual "Taste of Darlington" on Thursday, April 21, 2016. Mrs. Rock said the Market on Darlington Square kicks off this Saturday from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on the Public Square with music by Rusty Henderson, Johnny &

Susan Iseman and Sandy Banks. She said the first event sponsored in part by Kilgo Law Firm will be held from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM on Saturday, May 21, 2016 with Radio Vibe of Darlington performing. The second concert, sponsored by Darlington County Sherriff Wayne Byrd and Kilgo Law Firm from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM on Friday, June 10, 2016 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM with local beach music group The Recollections. Admission to both events is free and there will be food and drinks for sale. She said the Darlington Lion’s Club is partnering with them on these events and sponsorships and vendor spaces are still available for these events. Mrs. Rock told council she included a copy of the application for their Improvement Incentive Program in their packet, so if they know any business that may want to update their signage, paint their building or do façade improvements, get them this application because they still have funds available.

**GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –MR. NORMAN STEADMAN**

Mr. Steadman said Ms. Elizabeth Gainey has been hired as temporary assistant to the executive director. He said she fulfilled this same role last year. The Administrative Professional’s Day Luncheon on April 27, 2016 at Florence-Darlington Technical College SIMT Building, was very well attended and very received by the attendees. Mr. Steadman said the Darlington chamber is excited to continue this partnership with the Florence Chamber in the future. He said The Business after Hours at the Hampton Inn was rescheduled at the request of the host. Mr. Steadman said Darlington Bait & Tackle at 2037 S. Main Street and the Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina joined the Chamber in April. Mr. Steadman said the Golf Tournament will be at Darlington Country Club on Friday, May 13, 2016. He said Freedom Fest” which will be July 4<sup>th</sup> at Darlington Raceway from 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Mr. Steadman said the “Business after Hours” has been rescheduled to Thursday June 2, 2016 at 5:30 PM at Hampton Inn on Highway 52 sponsored by Raldex Hospitality.

**ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR - PDRTA**

Mr. James Stubbs, and Ms. Hannah Dixon spoke on behalf of PDRTA and the importance of the City continuing to fund the bus service so that the people that don’t have a means of transportation will have a way to doctor’s appointments, work, school and shopping.

## **WATER BILLS**

Mr. Calvin Coefield appeared before Council to ask why the people that live off of Joe Louis Blvd. have to pay two water bills. Mr. Kinsaul said the people get a County water bill and a bill from the City for sewer and sanitation. Mr. Coefield wanted to know why and Mr. Kinsaul said because the County has water out there. Mr. Coefield said Walmart is there and they are in the City and Mr. Kinsaul said that water wasn't there then. Mr. Kinsaul said unless the County relinquishes the water the people will have to pay two bills. Mr. Coefield said the City has been doing this for years and he's talked to some people and they have said the City is not right in charging them two bills. Mr. Coefield asked how the City can determine how much the sewer bill is. Mr. Kinsaul said it's based off the same reading that the County charges for the water. Mr. Kinsaul said this is the same way it's done in the City; the sewer bill is based off the water reading. Mr. Coefield said he doesn't see why those people have to pay two bills. Mr. Coefield said, "forget the question" and stormed out of the meeting.

Mrs. Gracie Lyde, who lives at 206 B Avenue, appeared before council to talk about her high water bill. Mrs. Lyde said last month she got a water bill for \$72.58 and the meter was checked and she has no leaks. She said instead of her bill going down, this month she got another high water bill for \$76.77 and she wants to know why. She said she lives alone and she doesn't mind paying for something she uses, but she's sick and tired of coming down here for the same thing. She said her neighbor's water bills are fifty something dollars. She said somebody needs to fix her meter and somebody is not doing their job. She said if they fix her meter she won't have that problem. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul if he can go personally and check Mrs. Lyde's meter. He said he and Frankie will go tomorrow. Mr. Kinsaul told Mrs. Lyde what happens if they put a new meter in and it's still reading high. Mrs. Lyde said she's not using any water. Mayor Hines asked Mrs. Lyde if she's checked to see if she has a leak and she said she had a plumber come out last month and she doesn't have a leak. She said Charlotte from the water department had the workers to check and they didn't find any leaks either. Mr. Cannon told Mr. Kinsaul to switch Mrs. Lyde's meter and see if that will fix the problem because there could be a malfunction in the meter.

## **PDRTA**

Mr. Calvin Byrd who lives at 600 Washington Street wants to know why the bus can't come by the senior building so they will have some place to stand in case of inclement weather. Mayor Hines said the City doesn't have

anything to do with the route. Mr. Byrd directed his question to Mr. McNeil. Mr. Byrd asked if the City can work on having the bus route to run on Saturdays.

**MR. CHUCK MCNEIL – PDRTA**

Mayor Hines said Council discussed PDRTA in our budget meeting and in the process of deciding what the City can afford to give because we have not finished our budget yet, she call Mr. Kevin Lane, Manager of Wal-Mart and he agreed to give \$1,000 to PDRTA since the bus will be taking riders to Wal-Mart. Mr. McNeil passed out copies of the 2016-2017 Darlington Urban Transit Services summary for the DART and the Darlington-Florence Commuter Bus routes. Mr. McNeil said they've developed more partners to try and supplement what the City provides. He said approximately \$44,000 in local funds to maintain the current service levels in Darlington. He said the City of Darlington has been the main supporter of these funds. Mr. McNeil said Adult Education is very supportive and provides approximately \$8,000 of the \$40,000. Florence-Darlington Technical College provided approximately \$10,000 this past year. Mr. McNeil said Genesis Health Care has become a major supporter of the bus service in the past few years. He said Genesis Health Care approached him last summer and that led to discussions because they wanted to provide more money and after a lot of hard work since last summer led to the introduction of a new service that began this past January in towns where they have other satellite clinics (Lamar & Olanta). He said every Monday they run a bus that goes four times a day connecting Darlington to Lamar to Timmons ville. He said on Tuesdays they connect Olanta with Coward, Scranton and Lake City. On Wednesday they have a bus that take people from Olanta, to Timmons ville to Darlington. He said all of this new service is made possible exclusively by Genesis Health Care. Mayor Hines asked Mr. McNeil how much Genesis gives and Mr. McNeil said approximately \$5,000 a month. Mr. McNeil said Genesis Health Care has partnered with PDRTA to offer free rides for all medical related appointments. Mayor Hines asked what can be done about McLeod Hospital contributing money. Mr. McNeil said they did provide service for them last year, but very few people use it. He said if someone asks, they will take them. Mayor Hines told Mr. McNeil we haven't finished our budget, but we will be able to give them \$14,000.

**MR. ROGER GORE – DARLINGTON COUNTY LONG TERM DISASTER RECOVERY**

Mr. Gore asked to defer his presentation until a later date.

**FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2016-03 (2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE)**

**Upon motion of Ms. Reed, seconded by Mr. Gardner, First Reading on Ordinance 2016-03 (2016-2017 Budget Ordinance), which unanimously carried.**

**FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2016-04 (CONTINUANCE OF TAX LEVY OF 125 MILS)**

**Upon motion of Ms. Reed, seconded by Mr. Cannon, First Reading on Ordinance 2016-04 (Continuance of Tax Levy of 125 Mils). All approved the motion except Mr. Milling until we can get more information on our budget to see where it is.**

**FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2016-05 (CONTINUANCE OF BUSINESS LICENSE TAX)**

**Ms. Reed made a motion for First Reading on Ordinance 2016-05 (continuance of Business License Tax). Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. Mr. Milling asked if this is before the Legislature on uniform business license. Mr. Garland said this is the same thing that has been before Legislature for the last three years. Mr. Milling asked if we can move forward on this and if there is a statewide change we will just amend the ordinance and Mr. Garland said, “Yes”. All approved the motion.**

**FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2016-06 (TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE)**

**Upon motion of Mr. Cannon, seconded by Ms. Reed, First Reading on Ordinance 2016-06 (Tax Anticipation Note), which unanimously carried.**

**FURNITURE PLACEMENT ON THE STREET DISCUSSION**

Ms. Karen Carroll said Council wanted her to come up with a fee structure because she initially said \$10.00 as a fine. She said the notice will be posted on the water bill first and in the News & Press. Ms. Carroll said the notice would read: City does not pick up household furniture. Violation shall be fined for each occurrence, no less than \$50.00, more than 3 pieces \$100.00. Fine will be assessed to water bill as extra pick-up. Door hangers will be placed at the residence of violation by route driver. The resident will be given five (5) days to remove debris. If furniture is not picked up in allotted time, the city sanitation crew will remove debris and a fine will then be assessed to the resident’s water bill. Ms. Carroll said a monthly activity

report will be generated and filed. She said this will bring the neighborhood aesthetics to a cleaner, healthier place and also generate a “slush fund” for the sanitation department. Ms. Carroll said a town in Maryland developed stickers and if a resident wanted to put furniture out, they went to the City and purchased the stickers to place on the furniture for pick-up. Ms. Carroll said in her opinion, we will still end up with furniture on the street. Mayor Hines said she thinks it will be best to pick up the furniture. Mayor Hines asked who we would give the sticker to if furniture is placed on a vacant lot or in front of a house where no one lives. Ms. Carroll said somebody will speak up, but Mayor Hines said not in all cases. Ms. Carroll said in that case, the City would have to pick it up. Mayor Hines asked Ms. Carroll how we would implement the stickers should they decide to go that route. Ms. Carroll said they would post notice on water bill and run an ad in the paper. Mayor Hines said they were thinking about stopping with recycling and pick up the furniture. Ms. Carroll said we presently have about 1,500 recycle carts out there and recycling is good and she suggested that the City find some way to keep it. Mr. Milling asked if the City would have the discretion to not charge a person if it’s found that the furniture does not belong to them or was abandoned and left on their property. Ms. Carroll said this will have to be a discretionary operation. Ms. Carroll said after working with this operation for a while, we’ll find that we’ll have the same people doing it over and over gain. Mr. Milling said he doesn’t have a problem following Ms. Carroll’s proposal with the door hangers given discretion to determine it will be a valid charge to that individual. Mayor Hines asked Council if they have any comment about the stickers. Ms. Bruce said when they first talked about this, it was a \$10.00 charge, but now they are talking about a \$50.00 charge. Ms. Carroll said this is just an example; the fee would be set by Council. Ms. Bruce said her concern is that a lot of furniture is out there and some people may be putting it on vacant lots and not in front of their houses. Mayor Hines said what about paying \$25.00. She said we have to do something because there’s too much furniture on the street. She said they have been talking about this for over two months and she asked Council to make a decision on this. Mrs. Rock said if council is concerned with how the public will react, she suggests having public hearings in a couple of locations informing the citizens of what’s or what the options are before a final vote. Mr. Cannon said we need to educate the people about the program before anything is done. Mayor Hines asked if we can start by putting this on the water bill first. Chief Watson said we might need to contact the Magistrate’s Office first because they set furniture on the street whenever they do an eviction. Ms. Carroll said the Codes Enforcement

Office has contacted the Magistrate's Office and they are supposed to notify her when there's a set out. She said whenever furniture is set out of a house; the street department cannot touch it for so many hours anyway. Mayor Hines told Council they need to make a decision on what they are going to do because they can't keep going back and forth on this because it's very important. Mr. Segars said they need to accept this as information and it in a work session so they can come to an agreement on what they think they need to do. Mayor Hines said whenever they have their next work session they work that out and get it right because it's been going on for about two or three months now.

**ESTIMATE FOR CLEAN-UP OF STREET DEPARTMENT BUILDING – MR. HOWARD GARLAND**

Mr. Garland said we've had problems with the street and sanitation department roof and in 2015 we received a low bid of \$84,000 which we did not accept because it was too high. Mr. Garland said we let it sit and the rains came and now we have a mold problem in the upstairs of the building. Mr. Garland said they received one quote back from Servpro of Darlington County for Mold Remediation (\$54,050.36). He said Ms. Carroll has found a company that is willing to honor a 2014 quote for the roof. One building is \$41,000 and the other is \$8,500. He said his suggestion would be, if council approves, that we work on a building and maintenance bond and have \$400,000 set aside for it. He said the bond would not be just for the street department building, but for this building as well. He said this building is in need of some major improvements, such as the roof, the heating & air conditioning unit, the window wall units. Mayor Hines said we need time to discuss and study over this and make a decision later.

**SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL RESOLUTION**

Mayor Hines said this is the match for the EDA Grant. The City will pay \$1.00 per month to the State and after the grant is paid off, the City will no longer pay the \$1.00 a month. Mr. Garland said this is so we can have a treasury account with the State and the bond payment would be made out of this account. It is also an interest bearing account. Mr. Garland said this is something the State mandates now instead of sending us a bill for one lump sum, we take the money out in equal monthly installments. Mr. Segars asked Mr. Garland to explain this one more time. Mr. Garland said the bond that was approved at the last council meeting, the State now requires that they take a monthly equal amount out, put it in a State Treasury account

which draws interest, and once the account gets to the payment amount in 12 months, the State draws it out and only the interest is left in the account. Mr. Milling asked about the dollar amount. Mr. Garland said we won't know that until the project is complete. Mr. Milling asked when we would start sending monthly amounts. Mr. Garland said they would draft the payment out of the water & sewer account once the project is complete which will probably be in January, 2017. Mayor Hines said after the City pays off the loan, the City will not be putting any more money into this account. **Upon motion of Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mr. Milling, approval of S.C. Local Government Investment Pool Resolution, which unanimously carried.**

**REMINDERS**

**Saturday**, May 7, 2016 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Marketplace on the Square; **Tuesday**, May 10, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 PM, Budget Work Session in old council chambers; **Saturday**, May 21, 2016 from 6:00-9:00 PM, Free Downtown Concert in Liberty Lane; **Friday**, May 27, 2016 from 12 noon – 1:00 PM, City Employee Cookout at Baldwin Gym; **Monday**, May 30, 2016 All City Offices Closed in observance of Memorial Day; **Tuesday**, June 7, 2016 at 7:00 PM – Regular City Council Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Councilman Cannon, seconded by Councilwoman Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

---

Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Clerk & Treasurer