

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY – OCTOBER 1, 2019**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed, and John Milling. Also, present: City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland, Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Curtis Boyd, Mrs. Anna Dewitt, Mr. Francis Parnell, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Mr. Ernest Boston, Mr. Winfred & Mrs. Brenda Herrington, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mrs. Judy Langley, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Ginger Ridgill, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Ms. Ronda Brown, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

Also present was Mr. Bobby Bryant, News Reporter from the News & Press.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Bruce did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, Seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2019 Council Meeting. Mayor Hines and Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling and Segars voted in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. Councilpersons John Segars, John Millings, Elaine Reed, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock thanked everyone that came out to The DDRA's "Bringing Downtown Alive" Concert Series Final Event on Thursday. She said they had a fun time with the Community Karaoke Party and Classic Cars from the Darlington Cruisers. Mrs. Rock gave a special thank you to Darlington Kiwanis Club for staffing the event. Also thank you to the sponsors Pepsi of Florence, Wilson Senior Care and Cumulus Broadcasting. She thanked the Fire, Police, Recreation and Street & Sanitation Departments and the DDRA Board of Directors for supporting this effort. She said they will have a concert committee wrap-up meeting this month so if you are interested in participating in future or have any suggestions for improving their events, please contact her office. Mrs. Rock said this year DDRA will offer its members a special "referral bonus" for all new paid membership for 2020. Each new member paid by February 29th will equal a free ticket to the 2020 "Taste of Darlington" and the member who has the most referrals will receive a pack of tickets to the Southern 500, which in 2020 will kick off the playoffs for the season. Mrs. Rock said businesses, individuals, civic groups and churches are invited to join the DDRA as members. Mrs. Rock said members can give them a call or send her an email or go online at buildupdarlington.org and they will feature their news, employee recognitions, sales, new products, special hours and other events with people interested in Darlington as well as TV stations, Radio stations, and newspapers through their text and email news alert system. Mrs. Rock said the next monthly Breakfast is at 8:00 AM, Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at Takis Diner. She said the cost of breakfast is free for members and \$5.00 for others to go toward the meal. She said this is their last breakfast for the year so they would love to see as many members there as possible. Mrs. Rock said Ghouls and Ghosts will take over downtown from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM on Thursday October 24th for "Scare on the Square" our downtown trick or treating event on collaboration with Darlington Recreation Department and area businesses. Mrs. Rock said the Square will be blocked off for the children, any business, church, civic group or nonprofit can set up a table on the courthouse grounds to distribute materials to the children; just contact her office to register. She said get ready for the holiday season on Thursday November 21st for Shop Small Downtown Open House on the Public Square with Santa, DJ, snow and more. Mrs. Rock said this is the 10th anniversary of Shop Small so they want to have a big turnout and support our local businesses. Mrs. Rock said if any business is interested in giving them any kind of flyers, menus, etc., they will certainly take those up to the week before the event.

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MS. HARRIETT HOBBS

Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber is back open. They had it thoroughly clean although they do have two more leaks. Thursday October 3rd beginning at 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM the Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce “Business After Hours” hosted by Patriot Chevrolet formerly known as Auddie Brown. She said Patriot Chevrolet and the Chamber invites everyone to come out and network with other business and community leaders. A Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday October 9th at 11:30 AM for MUSC Primary Health Darlington located at 301 Pearl Street. Ms. Hobbs said after the Ribbon Cutting everyone is asked to stay for a small reception to meet and greet the new staff and see the facility. The “Toast of Darlington” presented by Manheim Darlington this year will be held on November 14th. The band this year is Jelly Side Up. Ms. Hobbs said to date, they have fifteen cooks lined up. She said she hopes that Mayor Hines will be there to give the “Toast” for Darlington as well as the Mayors from Lamar and Society Hill. Ms. Hobbs said the Chamber has reduced the ticket price from \$35.00 to \$25.00. She said a cash bar will be available. She said they are not including alcohol in the ticket price this year because not everyone drinks. Ms. Hobbs said they are gearing up again for “Light Up Darlington”. She said they have a lot of things on the burner this year. They are going to light up the Square and the County has pruned the trees along the courthouse grounds. She said if you want to get involved, they would love to have your input. She said to check the Darlington Chamber’s website because she always posts when the meetings are. Ms. Hobbs said they welcome suggestions, comments and volunteers. The “Toast of Darlington” will be 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAR

Ms. Ronda Brown - Park

Ms. Brown said after all the improvements were done and the road is finished, they have a wide-open area on Chalmers Street. Ms. Brown said the area is large enough that within our long-term planning one of the things that was mentioned was more passive parks are required within the City of Darlington according to the Master Plan. She said when she saw the area, she thought it was a perfect area to use as one of Darlington’s passive parks to fit in with our Master Plan. Ms. Brown said, “The only thing that’s really required to start; this is not a \$30,000, play equipment, you just don’t do that in passive parks, but it would be a nice small neighborhood area where we just have to mow the grass”. She said we would start and do it in phases

with the front part of the park right now would be the entrance where we would plant a few trees, put some grass seed out there and keep it mowed so if you ever have to do any service work there, it will be easy access. Ms. Brown said with Darlington being a “Tree City USA” we’re always trying to find places for trees. Ms. Brown said they could do natural trees along the side of the border and to do a quarter of crepe myrtles. Ms. Brown told Council she wanted them to have an idea of Phase I and then they can work on it. She gave Council estimated prices to do the work in this area. Councilwoman Reed asked, “Is this was official for us to go forward”? She said Council left last time saying that they needed to have some kind of budget, some kind of idea of what it would cost to do whatever we were planning”. Mayor Hines said, “Well, it just says \$20 per tree. It’s \$200 and it averages about \$400”. Councilman Gardner said, “I’ve got no problem with that. I don’t know if we even have to vote on it because Howard can approve it if it’s under \$2,000”. Mr. Garland said, “Under \$5,000”. Mayor Hines said we don’t need to vote on it. Councilman Gardner asked, “Just to be clear are we fine with moving ahead with it”? Mr. Garland said, “Yes”.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2019-18 SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Mayor Hines opened the Public Hearing at 6:47 PM. Mrs. Lisa Rock said as the Executive Director for the Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association they would like to share their support for passage of this program because it would certainly create more incentives, especially in our downtown but all over the city. Mayor Hines asked if everyone has to come on board. Mr. Garland said the County is doing it. Mayor Hines asked about Lamar and Mrs. Rock said she hasn’t heard. Mayor Hines said she knows Hartsville is doing it. She said everybody has to be in on it before we can do it. Councilman Gardner said, “Previously John Milling had some questions, did we get those resolved”? Councilman Milling said, “We did, and Howard has put a provision in here so that if the property gets the tax break under the “Bailey Bill” and the homeowner does not maintain it in good appearance, the they would lose their tax advantage”. *Public Hearing ended at 6:50 PM.*

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-18 SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FOR REHABILITATED PROPERTIES

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-18 Special Property Tax Assessment for Rehabilitated Properties. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion.

Councilpersons John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and Mayor Gloria Hines voted in favor of the motion

C) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-21 OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE

Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland if he wanted to make comments on this subject, but he deferred to Mrs. Rock because since she works closely with those folks and he thinks they made some changes to the ordinance that Council requested. Mrs. Rock said as requested by Council, they did change that line that Mr. Milling pointed out. She said this will help Codes Enforcement be better able to enforce it. Councilman Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-21 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. **Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion.**

Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling, Segars and Mayor Hines all voted in favor of the motion.

D) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2019-22 PROPERTY DONATION (165-10-03-037) CHALMERS STREET EXTENSION

Upon motion of Councilwoman Sheila Baccus, seconded by Councilman Bryant Gardner to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-22 Property Donation (165-10-03-037) Chalmers Street Extension.

Councilman Milling said Councilman Segars just pointed out in the description of the unfinished business as to the property tax map number has a designation last 3 numbers of **037** whereas the ordinance has **057** so we need to correct it, so we have the correct tax map number. Mr. Garland said it's his fault and it should be **057** so they probably need to restate the motion. Mayor Hines restated the motion for Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-22 Property Donation (165-10-03-057). **Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-22 Property Donation (165-10-03-057) Chalmers Street Extension. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce,**

Baccus, Reed, Milling, Segars and Mayor Hines all voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A) S.C. SWEET POTATO FESTIVAL FUNDING REQUEST – MRS. JUDY LANGLEY, MS. GINGER RIDGILL – DARLINGTON PILOT CLUB

Mrs. Judy Langley said she and Ms. Ridgill are there representing the Pilot Club and as sponsors of the S.C. Sweet Potato Festival they asked Council for additional funding this year. Mrs. Langley said they appreciate all of the support they have received from the City of Darlington in the past because they don't know what they would do without the Street Department and the Recreation Department. She said they have also received some monetary support. She said in the past they looked back over their records and in 2016 and 2017 they received \$750. She said they looked at the last two years and they didn't receive anything. Mrs. Langley said after speaking with Mr. Garland he said the request was not received for the funds. She said they received a \$400 contribution for this year. Mrs. Langley said while they appreciate that, they really feel that this is an important event that takes place in the City of Darlington that helps the local economy and bring in approximately 20,000-30,000 people. Mrs. Langley said with the money that they raise they do a lot of things to help people in the community. She said in the last few years advertising has gotten more expensive and in keeping with their costs it seems like they are making a smaller and smaller amount. She said they are putting more and bringing in less and it's harder to give back to the community and that's why they are coming to the City to request \$5,000 this year. Ms. Ginger Ridgill said t-shirts always show up the day of the festival, but this year they are honoring their first responders. Ms. Ridgill showed them the t-shirt they will have available at the festival. Mayor Hines told the ladies they have done a great job over the years and it's very rewarding for the citizens of Darlington and it is very well attended by people from all around. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland how much the City could afford to give. Mr. Garland said, "We have \$612,000 in the hospitality collections account. He said we've given out \$15,00 for Freedom Fest, \$10,000 for the Veterans Memorial; \$5,000 for the Cotton Mill Memorial and we just gave \$5,000 for the Southern 500 Golf Tournament. He told Council that's what they've approved so far. **Councilman Milling made a motion that we increase the 2019 budget for the Sweet Potato**

Festival to the amount of \$5,000 with that \$5,000 coming out of the Hospitality Tax Fund. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Reed, Milling, Segars and Mayor Hines all voted in favor of the motion.

B) PEE DEE COALITION PROCLAMATION – MS. SIERRA & MS. DELORES BESS

Ms. Sierra said she is the Victim’s Advocate here in Darlington and besides the Proclamation she wanted to let them know they are having their Domestic Violence Awareness Month Walk on Saturday October 19th at 10:00 AM at the Courthouse. Ms. Delores Bess said she wanted to introduce herself. She said she is the Trauma Counselor for Darlington County. Ms. Bess said she is stationed here in Darlington City as well as Hartsville. Ms. Bess said most people don’t or have been saying that they don’t know that they have counseling services right here in Darlington and it is free. Councilman Milling asked the location of the business and Ms. Bess said 105 Orange Street. Ms. Sierra said she put some brochures in the lobby. Mayor Hines read the Proclamation proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and presented it to Ms. Sierra & Ms. Bess. A picture was taken with the Mayor presenting the two ladies with the Proclamation.

B) PDRTA BOARD REAPPOINTMENT – MR. HOWARD GARLAND

Mr. Garland said July Alexander has served on the PDRTA Board for approximately eight years as Chairperson and he received a nice note from the new Director, Mr. Don Strickland about what a good job she is doing. Mr. Garland said Ms. Alexander’s time is technically up and they want to have her reappointed and he concur. Mr. Garland said he don’t think we’ve had a better representative on that Board since he’s been here. He recommends that Council that they approve Judy Alexander for another term on the PDRTA Board representative. **Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion for Council to accept Ms. Judy Alexander for another term on the PDRTA Board reappointment. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Gardner, Bruce, Baccus, Milling, Segars and Mayor Hines all voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Elaine Reed recused herself from voting because Ms. Alexander is her sister.**

OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY SOFTBALL FIELD –
COUNCILWOMAN SHEILA BACCUS

Councilwoman Baccus said she and Mr. Garland was discussing some information about putting playground equipment at the softball field that's near Bowens Manor because of the fact that they are going to start back using field. She said the City still owns the field so we're going to start back using the field, so Mr. Andrews is going to present Council with information on this. (Mr. Andrews passed out a copy of the quote with a picture of the playground equipment attached) Mr. Andrews said about three weeks ago we found out there was a possibility of us getting five acres back at the ballfield and Ms. Baccus approached him about what we were going to do there. He said he had to get clarification to see if we could do certain things there or not. Mr. Andrews said as long as it's a recreational area we can do whatever we want to do there as long as it remains a recreational area. He said we didn't play ball there this year because we felt we didn't own it and didn't want to put nobody at risk. Mr. Andrews said, "Since we own it, we do plan on using it because it makes life a little bit easier to have our adults and older guys go over there and play and keep them off Blue Street some because its crowded at Blue Street. Mr. Andrews said we are planning on using it as a ballfield, but Ms. Baccus wanted to add a playground there, so he went out and got a quote (State contract quote from Play & Park Structures) which is the same people that did all of our parks. Mr. Andrews said the quote of \$41,162.83 (Installed price) he received is half price right now so everything that's showing on the diagram is what they are quoting on. Mayor Hines asked if we would pay for this out of the hospitality tax money and Mr. Garland said this would come out of the bond money. Councilman Milling asked, "What is the age group of people living in that area"? Mr. Andrews said, "Mr. Milling, I wouldn't even know. I know there are kids out there at Bowens Manor". Councilwoman Baccus said, "There's a lot of kids in Bowens Manor. There's a lot of kids in that area". Mr. Andrews said, "I can't give an educated answer on that to exactly how many kids are in the area". Mayor Hines said she was approached about three months ago as to why it wasn't cut because the person said kids were playing out there. Mr. Andrews said, "At that time that was not our property anymore as far as we were concerned; that's why that was not being cut by the recreation department. He said the street department went out there after that and since then they had it bush-hogged and it is back on their schedule to be cut. Mr. Andrews said they have been having a bad problem with overcrowding at Virgil Wells Stadium because everybody wants to practice on game day out there when they are playing. Mr. Andrews said, "Now they

can relocate them to over there and they can practice over there and come back to the field”. Mayor Hines said Bowens Manor has a lot of children so she knows they would greatly appreciate it. Councilman Segars said, “You mentioned about a lot of traffic, a lot of cars, do you have room out there to locate this playground where it will be safe for the children”? Mr. Andrews said, “where we would put it would be safe for the children”. (He showed them the area on the sketch where it would be located). Councilman Gardner asked, “Do we own any land more in the middle, in the heart of the Cain neighborhood”? Councilman Gardner said, “I think the idea is to give an area of play for the other side of 52 in the Cain neighborhood essentially”. Councilman Gardner said, “What my worry is I know there’s a potential business coming in to the property beside a plant owned potentially expanding the roads for a whole bunch of tractor trailers to be coming through there so I wouldn’t want to put a playground right beside it and the majority of the children would have to cross old Florence Highway. Councilman Gardner said he didn’t know if there was a property more centrally located in the neighborhood. Mr. Garland said we don’t own anything in that area other than lift and pump stations. He said we do own the old dump property which is off Friendship Road. Councilwoman Baccus said, “That location is a good location because the kids from Second Street, Third Street and the alphabet streets it’s more convenient for them to go away from the highway instead of the highway. Councilwoman Baccus said, “And from where he’s speaking of putting it at, if you’ve ever been to Bowens Manor, it’s at the back of the property”. She said when you come into that baseball field to park the parking is at the front of the field, he’s speaking about the far end of the field, so it’s totally safe for kids to play there. Councilman Gardner asked exactly where this is located. Mr. Andrews said the entrance down the third base line coming in down the field entrance. Councilman Milling said, “Have you identified a funding source”? Mr. Andrews said, “I think hospitality tax was mentioned to be used for that”. Councilman Milling said, “How does this particular park fit in with tourism for the hospitality money to be used”? Mayor Hines said Mr. Garland said “Bond Money”. Mr. Andrews said, “Bond Money and H-Tax Money is all the same thing.” He said we will have to come up with a plan and I think Bryant has already started working on that plan. He said you’re going to have to connect these parks; you’re going to have to do a trail system; you’re going to have to do something along that line to draw people into wanting to use these and visit these parks”. Mr. Andrews said, I said parks, plural because you’re going to have to tie Bowen Manor to Hampton Street or you’re going to have to tie Bowen Manor to Virgil Wells. He said

Virgil Wells is a different story because we are already bringing in people. Mr. Andrews said we've got to do something that's going to say, "Come Visit Us". If we don't do that, in my professional opinion, it's not hospitality driven. Councilwoman Baccus said, "From centralization where Bowens Manor is to Hampton Street, it's a lot easier to tie a trail from Bowen Manor to Hampton Street than from Hampton Street to anywhere else". Mr. Andrews said, "Absolutely". He said, "I know none of this has happened yet and we're speaking out at City Council, but if we were so lucky to get the Brunson-Dargan property in the future there's another way to tie into that because we already own the land all the way there and I think we are one homeowner away from getting an easement across Main Street and then we can tie three different areas in the City together". Mr. Andrews said, "It by itself, I don't think you can do hospitality tax, but it within that structure most certainly can be used as hospitality tax". Councilman Gardner said, "If you were wanting to use the hospitality funds and tie it into tourism you can go from the Pee Dee Land Trust Property and then potentially tie it into Williamson Park Trails". Councilwoman Reed said, "If we know that this is what needs to be done, what are we waiting on"? She said, "If you've got a plan let's connect it. We know that this is one of the criteria for keeping the money and getting the money-add another park". Mr. Andrews said, "As recreation director for Darlington County I do not think that we could have enough places for kids, adults, seniors, whatever, to go out and enjoy themselves, but what I would like as recreation director is to sit down with some of ya'll and put a plan together of exactly what we're going to do so we can work towards that so I'm not getting a piece from this one, and a piece from this one and a piece from this one and then we're trying to go in a hundred different directions and nothing's being finished". Mr. Andrews said he would like to sit down and put a plan together and work toward doing that. Mr. Andrews said, "I don't want to spend time spending my wheels on something that council as a whole doesn't agree on. I want it to be something that everybody is united on and we move forward with". He said there are a lot of needs, but we've got to focus on what we want to do. Mr. Andrews said, "If you would, let's put two or three people on a committee and let's have a plan and get something done". Mayor Hines asked if Monday October 14th would be a good day for a meeting? Mr. Garland said, "Why don't we make it a Friday evening where we start in the afternoon maybe and make it four hours". Mr. Garland said everybody is shaking their head "No". Mayor Hines came up with another date of October 10th which didn't work for the majority of council. Mr. Garland said, "I don't think two hours is enough time to go over everything he's

talking about. He said maybe a Saturday morning where they can have breakfast and stay to about 11 AM or 11:30 AM. Mayor Hines called out other possible dates for the meeting. Councilwoman Bruce asked, "We've got to do it now"? Councilman Gardner said, "Maybe after the election". Mayor Hines said, "We'll discuss it later then". Councilwoman Baccus asked, "Are we discussing the trail later or are we discussing the whole idea, plan"? Some of the Councilmembers said, "The plan, tying it all together". Councilwoman Baccus said, "So we're gonna postpone talking about or making a vote on the equipment until after we have the plan hashed out, is that what you're saying you want to do"? Mr. Garland said she's talking more about the equipment for the playground not so much about the plan. Councilman Milling asked if we had a source of funding that could be utilized to pay for this equipment and then if once we get things tied together so we don't have an issue of whether or not we would have to pay back hospitality tax funds if we don't have things tied together"? Mr. Garland said, "The best I can tell you on that is that it would have to be taken from general fund and we don't have the money for that. He said there's two accounts you can take it from-the hospitality tax collection account or the hospitality tax bond. Councilman Milling said both of them should be related to bringing tourism. Mr. Garland said the Hospitality Bond Account has to be spent by June 2020. Mr. Garland said the way the bond itself was written it said baseball and other recreational facilities. Mr. Garland said, "If ya'll want to do that, ya'll go ahead and do it and worry about it later; or ya'll punt, but the question Ms. Baccus was asking about was the playground equipment". Councilwoman Reed said, "I'm saying, so we're all okay about the recreational park, so I'm saying all this is-we're going to do something that is recreational that'll fit what the hospitality money is about". Councilwoman Reed said, "All I'm saying is let's move on. If we need to go ahead and approve the equipment while it's half price and the plan is to make all this meet". Mr. Andrews said the product must be shipped by December 31st to get it half price. Councilman Gardner said, "I don't want to punt into the indefinite future, but I'm fine for punting into the mid November range and have a group session together and discuss this and what we have for the future of Darlington as far as recreation goes". He said we just can't be spending all over the place if it's not some way to attach it to tourism unless we can find another funding source. Councilwoman Baccus said, "As far as attracting tourism we have already built two other parks and the same difference parks are parks and all of them attracting tourism in that case". Mr. Andrews said, "In defense of that, we were going to build the ballfield and we talked about expanding the trail to Hampton

Street over to Brunson-Dargan. When the 17 ½ acres got sold the only thing that changed now is the route. He said Virgil Wells is generating tourism dollars over there right now and it's stand alone and doesn't have to be connected to Old Florence Road or Hampton Street. Mr. Andrews said we're going to have to connect Old Florence Road and even then, we're going to have to show that people are coming in to use that too.

Councilwoman Bruce said, "Help me to understand what the issue is tonight-whether or not we have the correct funding coming out of the hospitality or the general fund because there's a whole lot of conversation going on and it seems like we're not sure we can get this based on hospitality" "So do we need to wait until we tie in these trails you're talking about"? Councilwoman Bruce said, "My question is can you go ahead and get the equipment now"? Mr. Andrews said, "Yes, as far as we're committed to making it a tourism attraction". Councilman Segars said, "The funding is going to be coming from hospitality and not from the ballfield bond, is that correct"? Mr. Garland said Council needs to designate which one you want it to come from. Councilman Segars said, "I think we need to be sensitive about that bond that we took out to build all those ballfields that we haven't produced yet and we don't need to be taking money away from that if there's a snowballs chance that we're going to build a ballfield". Councilwoman Baccus said, "That statement is kind of way out there because we definitely probably won't be building no ballfield by June 2020 so if we don't use that bond by June 2020 it goes back, right"? She said, "So that's a million dollars that we're going to lose if we don't use the money by 2020 and we definitely won't be building no ballfield by 2020". "We don't even have land to build it on. First, we've got to find the land, so that's not even an issue and \$41,000 is not big of a deal when you're talking about that much money just sitting there in a bond". Councilwoman Baccus said, "I think the problem is, it's a location issue here that seems to be the problem". Mayor Hines said we need to finalize this because we've spent too much time on it. She told Council they need to vote on it; vote it up or vote it down. Councilman Gardner said, "I've got no problem with the location and agrees with Councilwoman Baccus that the bond is probably where we should spend it from because of the deadline". Councilman Gardner said, "We can spend that money on buying land for the ballfields and there are many things we can spend it on to get the process rolling for the ballfields". He said if we don't come forward with a plan as far as what we're going to do with the City and spend those funds, we're going to have an issue in a few short months". **Councilwoman Bruce made a motion to purchase the playground equipment in the amount of \$41,162.83 for Bowen Manor**

Apartments as long as we do it legally. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Bryant Gardner, Sheila Baccus, Carolyn Bruce, Elaine Reed & Mayor Hines voted in favor of the motion. Councilpersons John Milling and John Segars voted against the motion. (Motion Passes)

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Hines said we want to thank Dixie Cup for writing a letter of approval for getting the EDA Grant.

Mr. Garland said County Council has called for a Special work session tomorrow morning, 9:00 AM at the Raceway Media Center. They are going to give an update on the status for consideration for a new Judicial Courthouse Facility.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed presented Councilwoman Sheila Baccus with her portion of \$250 since she's heading up the restoration and cleanup of the Darlington Cemetery.

Councilman Bryant Gardner said he would like to thank Administration, The COG, State & Federal Representative for work with the EDA Grant. He also thanked Administration and the different departments for their help.

REMINDERS

November 5, 2019 at 7 AM – 7 PM - City of Darlington Municipal Election;
November 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer