

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY - OCTOBER 2, 2018**

PRESENT AT MEETING:

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Sheila Baccus, Bryant Gardner, Elaine Reed and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Kelvin Washington, Building Official Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mr. Linwood Epps, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Ms. Jannie Lathan, Mr. Lee Andrews, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Ms. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Rosena James, Mr. Steve Abbott, Ms. Karen Carroll, Mr. Chuck McNeil, Ms. Rhonda Brown and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Gloria Hines did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, Seconded by Councilwoman Sheila Baccus to approve the Minutes of September 4, 2018. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Hines said Item 8D (Playground Equipment Bid) was sent out to them last week. She said she got a call from Mr. Garland yesterday to take it off the agenda, but when she talked with Mr. Lee Andrews he said we have two different bids going; They have the B.A. Gary Complex/Wells Stadium area for playground equipment and they have playground equipment for Siskron Street. Mayor Hines said the bids are not in for Siskron, so they can't vote on that tonight, but they do have the bids for the playground equipment at Virgil Wells Stadium Area. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed. All approved the motion.**

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said the DDRA partners with Darlington Recreation for “Scare on the Square” on Thursday October 25, 2018 from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. She said churches, civic groups and businesses don’t have to be located on the Square to join the fun. She said just contact her office by October 15th to register for a booth. Mrs. Rock said this event has grown from approximately 800 kids the first year to approximately 1200 kids showed up. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA will hold a business costume contest on Halloween (October 31st). She said any businesses participating are asked to call her office, so they can get their photo featured on our website and in the News & Press. She said the DDRA is also inviting businesses to network and learn about the DDRA programs and give feedback for future projects at their final Members’ Breakfast on Wednesday October 31, 2018 at Takis’s Diner. Breakfast is provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of \$5.00 towards the meal is asked for nonmember businesses. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA will host its annual Shop Small Downtown Open House on Thursday November 29, 2018 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM on the Public Square with Darlington Recreation, DJ Danny Lockemy, Santa Claus and Snow. She said businesses around the Square are invited to stay open late and others can have a vendor booth on the Square. She said they can submit giveaway items, or provide flyers, coupons, or promotional items to distribute. Mrs. Rock said they will hand out 200 Shop Small tote bags thanks to American Express who sponsors the event with those goodies inside. Mrs. Rock said they will have their annual Shop Darlington promotion between Thanksgiving and Christmas, where residents are encouraged to shop at Darlington businesses for a chance to win \$100 fuel card. She said they will give away 3-\$100 fuel cards. Mrs. Rock said all you have to do is shop at 5 Darlington businesses (not including gas stations and not pharmacies as far as prescriptions).

B) GREATER DARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – MS. LISA ROCK

Ms. Harriet Hobbs was unable to attend the meeting, so she asked Ms. Lisa Rock to give the update for the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Rock said the “Toast of Darlington” will be held this Thursday from 6:00-9:00 PM on the Public Square. She said the venue had to be moved this year due to Hurricane Florence, but the response has been excellent, and they are

expecting a wonderful evening with beautiful weather and delicious food. Tickets are \$35.00 in advance and \$40.00 at the gate.

CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Ms. Deondre Ketter – Ms. Ketter, Executive Director of the Place of Healing located at 712 Pearl Street is a home for teen pregnant moms and sex trafficking victims. She said she’s been working on opening this home for about three years now and she’s finally on the up and up with getting things installed like the fire sprinkler system which is not for the City, but for the State. Ms. Ketter said she got a call today from her fire sprinkler installer and he said to cap the system in the City is \$1,500. She said she has had one fundraiser this year which raised approximately \$4,000 and those funds helped her install the fire sprinkler system. Ms. Ketter said at this time they don’t have \$1,500 and she doesn’t know what to do. She said this is the next step toward them opening. Ms. Ketter said the community of the City of Darlington has been very supportive. She said this is a need in the community because she’s had many girls call her needing homes and needing space for them and their babies. She said they are coming into Darlington to help support the Pee Dee area and to help revitalize our children; to help them realize that there is support and help for them. Ms. Ketter said although they have been involved in sex trafficking or involved with having a baby at a young age, there are people there to support them. She said they want to help restore them and help them realize who they are before they go out to be citizens in our society. Ms. Ketter said she’s come before Council to ask for their assistance in any way, shape or form. Ms. Ketter said they are currently seeking their 501 (c) 3 status and IRS is working with them to get it processed. She said once they get that, the ball will be rolling, but today she was told about this and it shocked her. She said she talked with the City Manager and he told her to come to the meeting tonight. Mayor Hines said our ordinance states that we can’t give out any money. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Kinsaul what is it that’s extra that Ms. Ketter has to do that she just can’t connect with the water? Mr. Kinsaul said, “She wants a new tap put in which the \$1,500 won’t pay what we will spend”. Mayor Hines asked, “She can’t use the old tap”? Mr. Kinsaul said, “They said they want a different one or a bigger one”. Ms. Ketter said her understanding is it’s because of the piping around the house; the piping is too small for the system. Mayor Hines asked, “Are the ones who’s putting the system in for you, they’re saying that”? “It’s not you objecting to it, they’re saying that”? Ms. Ketter said, “Yes ma’am” and it’s been back and

forth with who's right and what's going on. Ms. Ketter said she talked to the City Manager and he said, "Well, that's the price we charge". Mr. Garland said, "I can't waive that, but if you want to vote to waive it, you can, but by ordinance I can't waive that fee". Councilwoman Elaine Reed asked, "Is there no other way; Is this the only company"? Ms. Ketter said they are approved and they have to have certain licenses by the State to be able to install it, so right now the only company around here is Fire International that has the approving from the State to install fire sprinkler systems. Councilwoman Reed said, "We just got to think about this". Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce asked if we can just take this for information tonight"? Mayor Gloria Hines said, "We'll receive this as information". Councilwoman Elaine Reed said, "We'll find a solution".

Ms. Rhonda Brown – Storm Water

Ms. Brown said she came as a resident tonight because she has gotten a lot of questions from people in the community about storm water and where the community sits, where we are on the storm water plan and what are the long-term plans for that. Ms. Brown asked Council if they could take a look for the Oakdale area, Woodcrest area, the houses across the street from Oakdale and also in the Country Club and give them an idea of what is the storm water plan for those areas and also where they sit in terms of looking at some of the issues. She said it's been a couple of weeks after the storm and there are areas that still have standing water (both in the Country Club & Woodcrest areas). Ms. Brown said, "I just want to say thank you to not only the Council, but the Fire Department, the Police Department for all of the work before, during and after the storm". Mayor Hines chimed in and said the Water Department and Sanitation Departments as well. Mr. Garland said he had a meeting Monday with the County Administrator and addressed some of the issues as it relates to Oakdale and the Country Club area and he hopes to have a better report on this at the next meeting. He said he hope to be meeting with Sonoco in the near future about the Presswood Lake Dam and what it means for those neighborhoods.

Anna DeWitt

Ms. Anna DeWitt said she is here tonight to voice her concern on the posting of the agenda for tonight's meeting. She said she did some investigating yesterday, so if any of the information is wrong, please feel free to correct her. Ms. DeWitt said she was given information that the agenda was posted at 12 noon yesterday and as required by Darlington City ordinance chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2-83, which states that the agenda is to be publicly posted

by the Clerk Treasurer by noon of the day preceding the meeting; however, it was changed and reposted at 4:45 PM. If the City has decided by State Law which states the agenda must be posted 24 hours before the start of the meeting, then reposting of the meeting at 4:45 PM is lawful; however, the second part of the law reads “an agenda for regular scheduled meetings must be posted on a bulletin board in a publicly accessible place at an office or meeting of a public body and on a public website maintained by the body if the public body has one at least 24 hours prior to such meeting. She also states that no items may be added to the agenda without an additional 24-hour public notice which must be made to the same manner as the original posting. She said the City of Darlington does maintain a website and the agenda was not posted as of 9:00 AM this morning which does not comply with State Law. She said the agenda was posted on the board outside the courtroom in the hallway which is not accessible to the public between the hours of 5:00 PM and 8:00 AM. Ms. DeWitt said our 9:00 to 5:00, 5 day a week citizen would have no opportunity to read the agenda unless they were to take time off from work. Ms. DeWitt said you have 28 days to create, amend and present an agenda. She said waiting until the final hour to do so only makes them believe you are trying to hide facts or actions from the citizens. She said public officials who disregard city ordinances or city policies cannot turn around and expect people of their own town to be law abiding citizens. Mayor Hines said, “Ms. DeWitt, in all clarity “D” under agenda item #8 was not changed”. Mayor Hines said, “what’s going on is this, we have two playgrounds to deal with, one on Siskron Street and one on the Virgil Wells Stadium area. Mayor Hines said the bids are ready for one area but not ready for the other area. She said that’s why it was like that. Mayor Hines said it wasn’t fair to leave that one off because we didn’t have the bid for the other. Mayor Hines said, “We’re not hiding anything, and it was not changed”. She said they are voting on that one and when the other bids come in we’ll vote on that one. Ms. DeWitt said it was not put on the City’s website, which is State Law. Mayor Hines said, “I’m not in charge of that”. Ms. DeWitt said she came up last night at 7:00 and she couldn’t come in and view the agenda because it’s not publicly accessible. She said if it was put on the front or side door where she could come up and view it at night or in the evening, that would be fine, and it wasn’t put on the website until after 9:00 AM this morning. Mayor Hines said the agenda was changed a little more than 24 hours ahead of time. Mayor Hines said nothing really changed, it’s just that we can’t vote on the other one because the bids are not in. Ms. DeWitt said she was concerned why it wasn’t posted on the website because that’s required by State Law. Mayor Hines said

again, “I don’t have control over that”. Councilwoman Reed said, “So we didn’t have a problem with the fact that last month’s agenda was emailed”. Ms. DeWitt said, “I don’t know how it gets to ya’ll, but the public only gets it through the website or if they’re allowed to come in here from 8:00 – 5:00. Ms. DeWitt said State Law says if you maintain a website it must be posted 24 hours before 6:30 tonight for the public. Councilman Milling thanked Ms. DeWitt for bringing this to our attention and said we will address it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2018-15 SALE OF LOCHEND ROAD TO AUDDIE BROWN FOR \$5,000

Mayor Hines said when Council brought this up there were some things that needed to be changed on it. Mr. Garland said we added one more sentence to it which is “any legal expenses for transferring Lochend Road back to the City of Darlington shall be paid by Auddie C. & Susan D Brown, LLC. Mayor Hines asked if this was satisfactory with everybody. City Attorney Kevin Etheridge said he believes that was the change Councilman Milling wanted. Councilman Milling said he just wanted to make sure that it was always in a position where it was open to the public for use and if for some reason any of Auddie Brown’s entities stop maintaining it and title came back and then the City would maintain it. Mayor Hines asked if that was sufficient and Councilman Milling said, “Yes ma’am”. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve second reading on Ordinance 2018-15 Sale of Lochend Road to Auddie Brown for \$5,000. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

NEW BUSINESS

A) PEE DEE COALITION PROCLAMATION

Mayor Hines read a proclamation proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mayor Hines presented the proclamation to Ms. Ellen Hamilton. Ms. Hamilton said they have a Domestic Violence Awareness walk coming up on the 20th at 10:00 AM on the Public Square. She said they have an office that just opened at 105 Orange Street. She said if you know of anyone that needs their services, please send them her way. A picture was taken of the Mayor presenting the proclamation to Ms. Hamilton.

B) MR. CHUCK MCNEIL – PDRTA – SATURDAY BUS SERVICE PETITION

Mr. McNeil said when he came before Council last month he shared with them signatures of a few hundred people that expressed a desire to have the DART bus that runs Monday-Friday, to run for four hours on Saturday. Mr. McNeil said he presented the local cost estimate to provide that service and for a year it was \$2,800. He said the balance would be paid through federal and state funds that PDRTA can leverage. Mr. McNeil said last month he was asked when the bus would run, and he wanted to defer to do some market research and who better to do the research with than the folks that use the service. Mr. McNeil said they did a survey and the question asked was, “what four-hour time block did they prefer”? (They were given several choices). He said the vast majority selected 8:00 AM to 12 noon. Mr. McNeil recommends should Council wish to support this, that they would operate it on Saturdays between the hours of 8:00 AM and 12 noon. He further recommends that should City Council wish to provide this service, that it be done so as a “Pilot Project”. He said they would need some time to get the word out and market the service to the community and would suggest that we wouldn’t start before November. Mr. McNeil said all of the services that they provide need time to build up the confidence in the riding public and he propose that we run it through next June. He said the benefit to that would be some savings – 8 months would be approximately \$1,850. Mr. McNeil said they can assess the service over 8 months and as they get into the budget season next Spring, they will have a pretty good idea of whether or not this is a worthwhile endeavor on the part of the City to continue to support this service. Mayor Hines said she talked to Mr. Garland to see what fund we could get the money from. Mr. Garland said it would come from the contingency fund and like Mr. McNeil mentioned, it would be on a trial basis and if the numbers don’t back it up we just won’t do it next year.

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve the PDRTA Saturday bus service petition for an 8-month period at \$1,850.

Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. Mayor Hines said it has been properly moved and seconded that we receive the PDRTA petition for \$1,850 for a year based on the “Pilot Program” and if it does not work out, we won’t do it next year. **Councilman Milling told Mayor Hines she said for a year, but he would like to make it from November to June.**

All voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Garland told Mr. McNeil whoever the new Director is, have them come back in the Spring and give us a report on the numbers. Mr. McNeil said, “Absolutely, and if they don’t come, I’ll come back and give a report”. Mr. Garland asked Mr. McNeil how he was

going to market this in the community? Mr. McNeil said that's why he asked for delaying this until at least a month so that they'll have time to do newspaper notifications and get flyers out. Mayor Hines asked Mr. McNeil if they will be able to start in November and he said, "Yes".

C) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-17 ANNEXATION OF 110 NEZ PERCE DRIVE

Mayor Hines said a new house has been built at 110 Nez Perce Drive and they want to annex into the City. **Councilman John Milling made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-17 Annexation of 110 Nez Perce Drive at the request of Mr. & Mrs. James Ivey, Jr. Councilman John Segars seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

D) PLAYGROUND BID (OLD LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD)

Mr. Andrews provided Council with the bid estimate and a drawing which showed the layout of the equipment. Mr. Lee Andrews said when they were trying to move this around yesterday, he didn't expect it to be that big of a deal for Siskron Street property and he apologized for that. He said he has the Virgil Wells bid and will have bids for the other areas by the end of this month. He said he had given Council the bid from Bliss and this is for the Old Little League Field. He said they have already taken the building down. Mr. Andrews said they will do the rest in house as far as the fencing, etc. He said they will recycle whatever they can and use it somewhere else. He said the bid received from Bliss Products was in the amount of \$46,904.75. Mr. Andrews told Council the price included everything that they see on the drawing from the barrier, to the playground mulch, to the swing set and the three pieces of equipment. Councilman Milling said we've got a DuraMax Structure and then we've got something called the "Climb & Discover Cave" but he doesn't see a picture on the diagram. Mr. Andrews said he thinks it's hooked to another piece of equipment. Councilman Milling said he's seen something that he would describe as a "Climb and Discover Cave" at a different City, but it doesn't look like it's on this diagram. Mr. Andrews said he will get clarification on that. Mr. Andrews said everything is handicap accessible and they will install the equipment for us. Councilman Segars said, "You mentioned mulch, this is not going to be a synthetic bouncy type" and Mr. Andrews said, "No, that's a little bit more expensive". Councilman Segars asked, "If we approve this tonight, would it be to our advantage to not order this until we approve the other playground as far as freight, shipping, installation, etc". Mr. Andrews said if we get it from the

same company that very well could be a possibility that we could get a break on shipping. Mr. Andrews said he's got two companies sending in quotes for the Siskron Street property. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Andrews if he had just that one bid and he said, "Yes and they are on State contract".

Councilwoman Reed told Mr. Andrews he did a good job and thanked him for that. Mr. Andrews said he thinks this is the start of something that's going to snowball into something really good. He said ballfields have been on the front of the agenda, but this is something that's needed. He said if we could get satellite parks in each neighborhood and then one big park that everybody is going to want to come to, we'll turn some heads.

Councilwoman Bruce said they were supposed to have an opening ceremony for the Little League football and wanted to know if they rescheduled it. Mr. Andrews said they rescheduled the pictures for this Saturday, but they are not doing the dedication of the field because they have ordered signage and some gates for the field. He said as soon as those get put up they will set a day they can go out and celebrate that field. **Councilwoman Reed made a motion to accept the playground bid for the Old Little League Field from Bliss Products in the amount of 46,904.95. Councilwoman Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Gloria Hines said she would like to give The City accolades for a fine job (Police Department, Fire Department). She said when Matthew came, you went way out, but this time you went further. Mayor Hines said the vac truck was excellent sucking up the water. She said the complaint now is the mosquitoes. Mayor Hines thanked the Fire Department, Water Department & Sanitation Department. She said everybody worked hand-in-hand. She also thanked Ms. Rhonda and Mr. Leroy.

Mr. Garland said the County is offering a tour to any elected officials who would like to take a tour of the courthouse to look at the problems that they have on Wednesday, October 10th from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

Councilman Bryant Gardner said Councilman Robert Kilgo and Councilwoman Joyce Thomas will host a town hall meeting on October 15th at the Darlington County Voter Registration and Election Commission Annex Building at 135 Cashua Street, Darlington, SC at 5:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and answer questions about the condition of the courthouse and the upcoming referendum about the Darlington County Courthouse. All citizens are welcome to come and

participate. Councilman Gardner said they found out today that Darlington County has been designated a disaster area by FEMA, so residents can call for assistance. They can apply or call at disasterassistance.gov or 800-621-3362.

REMINDERS

Tuesday November 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting
Darlington City Council

Mayor Hines said we need to go into executive session to discuss contract vehicle lease Fire Department & Codes Department; Municipal Court Personnel: Associate Judge (Darlington City Council May or May not Vote after closed executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed to go into Executive Session at 7:21 PM to discuss contract vehicle lease Fire Department, Codes Department; Municipal Court Personnel: Associate Judge (Darlington City Council may or may not vote after closed executive session. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion.

(5 Minute Break)

Executive Session ended at 8:23 PM.

Mayor Hines said in executive session Council talked about contract vehicle lease for the Fire Department and Codes Enforcement and they talked about the Associate Judge. Mayor Hines said we'll get a truck for the Fire Department and maybe when we do the budget session next year we can get two more. **Councilwoman Sheila Baccus made a motion that we purchase the 2018 Ford F150 truck for the Fire Department for \$33,405. Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion that we purchase the 2018 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab LT for the Codes Department at a price of \$35,990. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Councilman John Milling said we would like to express our appreciation to Judge D. Barrett Curtis for her prior service as Associate Judge for Municipal Court for the City of Darlington for the services she has provided to us and to our citizens. Councilman Milling said we wish her well with disappointment that she has decided to retire from that position. Councilman Milling said he would like to nominate Mr. Taft Giles, Jr. who is currently serving and will continue to serve as Municipal Judge in Timmons ville as well as serving as Municipal Judge in Florence. Councilman Milling said Mr. Giles comes to us highly recommended and he appears to be well qualified. **Councilman Milling said he propose to have Judge Taft Giles, Jr. serve as our next Associate Judge. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer