

**CITY OF DARLINGTON  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 2017 – 6:30 PM**

**PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Mayor Gloria Hines, City Manager, Mr. Howard Garland and Councilpersons: Elaine Reed, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce, Bryant Gardner, Coleman Cannon and John Milling. Also, present: Mrs. Lisa Rock, City Attorney Kevin Etheridge, Police Chief Danny Watson, Mr. Alex Gainey, Mr. Kinsaul, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Mr. Roger Gore, Mrs. Dyan Cohen, Mrs. Rosena James, Mr. BoBBY Ross and other visitors.

**NEWS REPORTERS**

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

**PRAYER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Councilwoman Elaine Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2017. Councilman Milling seconded the motion. All approved the motion. Upon motion of Councilwoman Reed, seconded by Councilman Milling to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting, which unanimously carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Upon motion of Councilwoman Bruce, seconded by Councilman Cannon to approve the meeting agenda. All approved the motion.**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

Mrs. Rock said the last Market on the Square will be Saturday, October 14, 2017. The Yam Jam Concert will be the evening of the Sweet Potato Festival from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on the grounds of Palmetto Office Furniture. Music will be provided by Level 10 & Eagle Wing Band. Mrs. Rock gave

thanks to Pepsi of Florence, Darlington County and Nicholson Business systems for already stepping up to help make this event happen. Tickets for this event will be \$10.00 and they are accepting additional vendors and sponsors. Mrs. Rock said the Beautification Board will be holding a “Clean Up” Darlington Day on the morning of October 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 AM to noon. She said they will meet at the Darlington Chamber. The final DDRA member Board meeting for 2017 will be Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM at Takis Diner. She said breakfast is free for members and \$5.00 for nonmember businesses. Mrs. Rock said “Scare on the Square” will be Thursday, October 26, 2017 downtown on the Public Square from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM. She said this is a joint project between DDRA and Darlington Recreation. She said any businesses, churches vendors or groups that are interested in participating can sign up for a booth. Mrs. Rock said also for Halloween, the DDRA will have its Annual Business Costume Contest on October 31, 2017. She said businesses that plan to participate and decorate their businesses should call her office by October 30<sup>th</sup> so they can come by and judge the costumes and decorations. Mrs. Rock said anyone interested in helping to organize the 2018 season of “Bringing Downtown Alive” free concerts should contact her office. She said the concert committee will hold its first meeting in November to start picking bands, dates and approaching sponsors. Mrs. Rock said to mark your calendars for “Shop Small Downtown Open House” from 5:00 -8:00 PM Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Danny Lockemy will have music and a hoola hoop contest for the kids. Santa will be there and children can talk with and have pictures taken. Darlington Recreation will provide the snow machine. Mrs. Rock said vendor spaces will be available as well. She said American Express donates 200 shop small tote bags to distribute at the event to encourage people to shop locally. She said businesses and churches can submit flyers and brochures of any kind of promotional item, but they need to get them to her by Thanksgiving so she’ll be able to put those in the totes.

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

Ms. Hobbs said last Thursday they had a “Tailgate on the Square”. She said they had the community come together and they had a wonderful band and Darlington High School supporters that cooked fish. Ms. Hobbs said the attendance for the first time was very good. She said they collected 570 cans of nonperishable food in a two-hour period for The Lord Cares. Ms. Hobbs said she promised them that they would do it again next year. She said Thursday, October 5, 2017 is “Toast of Darlington” which will be on Oak

Street from 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM. Ms. Hobbs said this year they have the largest number of cooks they have ever had before. Ms. Hobbs said during the middle of the evening they will have a champagne toast for those that drink and sparkling cider for those that don't drink alcohol. She said tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door.

### **CITIZENS WISHING TO SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL**

#### **A MR. WHITFIELD SIMS – RESOLUTION**

Mr. Sims said 53 years ago there was a group of young people that integrated St. John's High School and Ms. Emily Stanley, Hakeem were part of the younger group that started, they were the children of Arthur "Man" Stanley. Mr. Sims said he stands in proxy of his brother Cardell and his sister Farris and the others that attended St. John's High School. He said he's not going to sit there and say how great it was because that would not be correct. He it was not a nice occasion, but he stands here today because he understands that a resolution has been presented before this Council to honor those distinguished young people and their parents. Mr. Sims said so many people benefited from that occasion. He said today there is no St. John's High School, there is a Darlington High School. He said where we came from (Mayor High School) you now have to be lottery into Mayo High School. He said his parents slaved for him to get out of Mayo to go to St. John's and after all these years everybody is trying to get into Mayo High School. Mr. Sims said your children have benefitted from their labor and in 53 years only one person has come to him to say "thank you". He said Ms. Emily Stanley returned to Mayo High School because of the zoning process. He said Hakeem cried to go back to Mayo, but he didn't get the opportunity. Mr. Sims said he and Ms. Jacquelyn Brown were the first Afro Americans to graduate from St. John's High School in 1965. Mr. Sims said it's not about him, but it's about his parents and the other parents that have passed on. He said they lost their businesses, they lost their jobs to benefit us so we could have the opportunity to get a better education. Mr. Sims told Council they are a distinguished group of people and he admonished them to do what is right, search your heart and do the right thing.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A) NORTH MAIN STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT UPDATE – MR. HOWARD GARLAND**

Mr. Garland said they had a long meeting with SCDOT on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. He said SCDOT will replace the bridge with plans to start after Labor Day 2018 and finish the work by January 2020. Mr. Garland said they plan to keep one lane open on each side. He said the reason why they are waiting until after Labor Day next year is because they want the Car Hauler Parade comes through and they want them to be able to come through in 2018. Mr. Garland said SCDOT has asked City of Darlington to pay for part of the cost of relocating the water/sewer lines for the new bridge. He said SCDOT has said they will pay \$65,000 and they want the City to pay \$60,000. He said he told SCDOT that we didn't have money in our budget for that request and they responded that it might be possible for us to work out a trade. He said SCDOT proposes to give us a (yet to be determined) list of streets in town that they currently own in return for the City of Darlington taking ownership of those unspecified streets, they would pay for the complete replacement of our water/sewer lines on N. Main Street. Mr. Garland said that cost is approximately \$125,000, so that's a decision they will have to make in the next few months; they will give us a list of streets. Mr. Garland said they did bring up the question of taking of property specifically the Eads & Davis properties. He said they expressed their strong desire that they do not take those, but it was their opinion that they plan to take them but they will give them fair market value. Mr. Garland said they also told SCDOT that Dr. Eads had been in contact with Senator Malloy and he expressed his opposition to losing the front yards of his two properties. Mr. Garland told Ms. Davis who lives at 315 N. Main Street to go ahead and get in touch with Senator Malloy and let him know her opposition to SCDOT taking her front yard when it has nothing to do with bridge replacement. Mr. Garland said they have asked SCDOT on three different times why they are taking these folks front yards when all they are doing is replacing the bridge and their response was that they were trying to go by the current National Highway Traffic Safety Design. Mr. Garland said they have had a number of calls from that neighborhood and we can oppose it, but he feels SCDOT will eventually take those properties unless Senator Malloy can intervene and go to the head of State Department of Transportation and get them to stop it. Mayor Hines said she thinks it would be even if they were to go on the other side of the road. She said she don't think it's fair to take that much off their side (Eads & Davis). Mr. Garland said earlier SCDOT said they were going to have a public hearing about this, but now they are saying they are not. They are just going to send postcards to residents that live in that area. Mr. Garland said at our Council meetings it's important that we let the public know what SCDOT has planned.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A) PROCLAMATION “13 CHILDHOOD WARRIORS”**

Mayor Hines read a proclamation naming October 3, 2017 as “13 Childhood Warriors” Day in the City of Darlington, SC. Mayor Hines thanked the 13 Child Warriors and their families for their many contributions to the City of Darlington, State of South Carolina and the United States of America.

Mayor Hines took a picture along with the members of the “13 Childhood Warriors” that were present.

### **B) WOODCREEK STORM WATER ESTIMATE – MR. GARLAND**

Mr. Garland said four or five months ago Mr. Ken Howle, who lives on Woodcreek Road came to council meeting to talk about some problems he was having with his property (Mr. Howle showed Council pictures) and with the storm water ditch beside his house and Council gave us a charge to go out and get an estimate for that work. Mr. Garland told Council they have a copy of the estimate with the engineering report attached. He said Mr. Bill Ervin from Ervin Engineering is present at the meeting and he told Mr. Ervin if he would like to speak to Council as to what he put together, he may do so at this time. Mr. Ervin said he was asked to look at the ditch that goes next to Mr. Howle’s house, across Woodcreek Road and it heads down to the swamp and it’s causing some erosion next to a wall that Mr. Howle has. Mr. Ervin said he was asked to take a look at this and look at a way to stabilize it. He said people tend to not like ditches very much, but a ditch is the best conveyance for water that you’ve got. He said you can carry a lot more water in a ditch than you can in a pipe. Mr. Ervin said he is not always in favor of piping a ditch, but in this case, there are some things that need to be done. He said there are two pipes under Woodcreek Road; one at the level of the existing ditch and the other is buried. He said if you look at the old maps it appears to be running across the top of the sewer and nobody knows exactly where it is without cutting the road and digging it up. Mr. Ervin said he went downstream from the crossing of the road about five hundred feet to where the ditch flows out into the swamp and started there and worked his way back. Mr. Ervin told Council he put together a cost for them that’s in two parts. He said the first part is to abandon the ditch with the pipe that’s buried and forget about it. He said pipe the ditch upstream by Mr. Howle’s house and create a swale on top of it so you would still have a conveyance of water that was above ground. Put in about three manholes in there with a drop catch basin. Mr. Ervin said the approximate cost to do this is \$78,000. Mr. Ervin said he got contractors Digging Deep since we’ve used them in the past for project, to look at the drawing and he worked up

the budgetary prices for us. He said his thought is, if we put this project out for bids, it would come in for less than this. Mr. Ervin as a way to further improve drainage he went as far into the swamp as he could go and picked an elevation and started there and came back, cleaning out the ditch. He said you would cut the road, take out the pipe that's buried and put a new pipe in which would allow you to lower the ditch that's downstream from six inches to a foot. This would add about \$24,00 to the price (alternate). Mr. Ervin said if we want to stabilize the ditch by Mr. Howle's house, we will have to pipe it and build a swale. He said if we were to go forward in Woodcreek we ought to identify the 100-year flood line and where the wetlands are and then try to start at the downstream end of the ditch and get as deep as you can get and clean it out. Mr. Ervin told Council if they are interested in looking at Woodcreek as a whole, he would try to clean the ditches and swales and get as much depth as you can get. He said that would do you more good than anything else. He said when you've got a conveyance running between two houses, that's the time you need to look at the pipe to make sure the houses themselves are stabilized. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Ervin if he was saying we can clean the ditch? Mr. Ervin said that's what he would do. He said his primary focus is to stabilize the ditch between Mr. Howle's house and his neighbor and the only way to do that is to put some pipe in so that you can reshape the ditch, but to improve drainage in Woodcreek in general you've got ditches that you can work with, but you can only go so far. He said you've got to look at what the elevation is at the 100-year flood line and what the elevation is at the wetlands and take that as your starting point and go from there. Mr. Ervin said some of the ditch cleaning projects are things that the City can do. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Ervin to show her on the map where the property is located. Mr. Garland wanted to know if we could eliminate the beaver problem if that would help and Mr. Ervin said that would help a lot. Mayor Hines told Mr. Ervin we will see what we can do. She said we will talk with our people and see what we can do first. Mr. Ervin told Mr. Garland he had someone he wants him to take a look at this with, he would be glad to meet with them. Councilman Gardner wanted to know if we put this out for bid and get a better price. Mr. Ervin said one problem we have right now is the people that do this kind of work is as busy as he's seen them since before the recession. Mr. Ervin said typically if you can get three or four bidders we will see the number drop 10%-15%. Mr. Garland said if it's alright with Mayor and Council he would like for us to use Ervin Engineering for some of our storm water estimates. Mr. Garland said a gentleman came today and he has a storm drain under his house and until we have a chance to look at the map and where it goes, he

couldn't give him a good answer today. Councilman Gardner wanted to know how we can go about getting a priority list of where we need to concentrate on first so we don't just "shotgun" our money around town. He said he would be interested in getting a priority list of where we need to concentrate our funds and work on our most pertinent issues. Mr. Garland said some of the areas are complaint driven and some of it we know where they are. He told Mr. Gardner it would not be a hard thing to put together a list for him, but when you get into individual neighborhoods (specifically Oakdale), the ditches haven't been kept up whether it's SC DOT or the City of Darlington. Mr. Garland said whether you think about the Country Club or Chalmers Street, all across the area we have not kept up our ditches. He said sometimes thirty or forty years have passed without the ditches being properly maintained. Mr. Ervin said it's not just Darlington either because he's doing this in Florence and all over. Councilman Milling said he would like for the City to develop a list of where these areas are and prioritize them.

**C) BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – MRS. LISA ROCK**

Mrs. Rock said Mrs. Gladys Wingate Jules is interested in serving on the Tree Board. Mrs. Rock said this appointment will complete the Tree Board. **Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilwoman Reed, to appoint Mrs. Gladys Wingate Jules to the Tree Board, which unanimously carried.**

**D) PROCLAMATION “BICENTENARY OF BAHAI”**

Ms. Annette Reynolds said we know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and she wants to start by explaining that Baha 'Allah is a Persian word that means "The Glory of God". She said if you find it difficult to remember Baha 'Allah, just say "The Glory of God". The message of the Bahai Faith is unity for all humankind and a plan with steps to work toward that unity. She said one step recognizing there's one loving Creator whether you call him God, Yahweh, Allah or some other name is a matter of language. She said there is but one Creator and there is but one race, so we need to work together to build spiritual communities and racial harmony. Ms. Reynolds told Council they each have a copy of the proclamation and an invitation to come to the proclamation of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Baha 'Allah (The Glory of God). Mayor Hines took a picture with Ms. Reynolds and other members of Baha 'Allah.

**E) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-28 (201 CASHUA STREET ZONING CHANGE FROM OFFICE/RESIDENTIAL TO CORE COMMERCIAL)**

Mayor Hines said part of Genesis Healthcare is Office Residential and part is Core Commercial and they want to change it so it all can be Core Commercial. Mrs. Lisa Rock showed PowerPoint presentation of the area. Mrs. Rock said it makes no sense to have two separate sets of rules for the same building and Genesis Healthcare is getting ready to continue renovations. Ms. Helen Carroll was present at the meeting to answer any questions Council may have. Mrs. Rock said according to the zoning ordinance office/residential district is intended to accommodate office, institutional and residential uses in areas whose character is mixed during transition designed primarily for use along major streets and subdivision borders characterized by older houses, etc. She said Core Commercial district is intended to promote concentration and vitality of commercial and business uses in downtown Darlington. Mrs. Rock said Genesis Healthcare is getting ready to do renovations and they need to know what rules to go by for their architect to do the drawings. Mrs. Rock said the Planning Commission approved unanimously that both properties be changed to Core Commercial. She said they will have a Public Hearing on the zoning change on November 14, 2017 AT 6:00 pm before the Regular Council meeting. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2017-28 (201 Cashua Street) zoning change from office residential to Core Commercial. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

**F) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2017-29 (2 SEGARS COURT ZONING CHANGE FROM OFFICE/RESIDENTIAL TO CORE COMMERCIAL)**

Mr. Garland asked if this included Mr. Renny Johnson's property and Mrs. Rock said it did not because he did not request a zoning change. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2017-29 (2 Segars Court) zoning change from Office/Residential to Core Commercial. Councilman Coleman Cannon seconded the motion.** Mrs. Rock said to note that Mr. Renny Johnson is now the only person that lives on Segars Court. **All approved the motion.**

**G) BID REVIEW/APPROVAL: TRACK HOE LEASE**

Mr. Gainey passed out copies of proposal for excavator lease. He said last month Council talked about bidding this out or keeping it inhouse and

Council voted to keep it inhouse. Mr. Gainey said last month he brought price for a 60-month lease on a Caterpillar Track hoe and he was asked to get some other prices. He said he looked at another brand track hoe (Takeuchi). He had a cost comparison for the Caterpillar & the Takeuchi lease totals. Mr. Gainey went through and did a breakdown of each piece of equipment (the pros and cons). He said one of the concerns last month was the filter we could put on the tractor to filter the air so that we didn't expose an operator to asbestos. He said he talked with a Takeuchi rep and he said they don't actually offer that particular filter, but Caterpillar does. Mr. Gainey said the Takeuchi is the only one that offer the 12, & 24-month lease. He said the caterpillar costs a little more, but when you look at the filtering part of it, he thinks this is the best one to go with. He said cheaper is not always best. Mr. Gainey said we could use this tractor to clean lots that are beyond cutting with a lawn mower or bush hog. He said if Mr. Kinsaul had a major water/sewer break they could use the tractor for that. He said you can't drive it up and down the road, but you can drive it short distances. Mr. Gainey said we are looking at this piece of equipment for demolition, but there are a lot of other areas we can use this in. Mr. Gainey said his recommendation is to go with Caterpillar because we already have caterpillar equipment in the City and we know what kind of service they offer and how they operate. Mayor Hines asked if we have anything to haul this piece of equipment on. Mr. Gainey said we have a trailer at the City shop that we can haul the tractor on and we also have a dump truck we can pull. Mayor Hines asked if the dump truck is in good condition. Mr. Gainey asked Mr. Kinsaul what condition the dump truck is in. Mr. Kinsaul wanted to know if we were talking about the Street Department's truck or his. Mr. Gainey said he looked at the trailer and we can ask Kendrick about the dump truck. Mayor Hines wanted to know when the last time the dump truck was used. Mr. Garland said they need to replace the transmission on the dump truck Mr. Gainey is talking about. Councilman Gardner pointed out that we have two dump trucks that are functioning. Mr. Garland said we can use Mr. Kinsaul's dump truck if we had to. Mr. Gainey said one thing about the caterpillar tractor is it has a touch pad and if you don't have a code you can't crank it up even if you have a key. Councilman Milling wanted to know where the Takeuchi rep is located. Mr. Gainey said they have an office in Columbia and Conway, but Blanchard has an office in Florence, Conway, Columbia, Myrtle Beach. Mr. Garland said Caterpillar's reputation compared to the other make is not even close. Mayor Hines asked if we decide to do this for whatever number of months for the demolition of the houses can we take money out of the street department and water department

capital fund? Mr. Garland said what we can do is split the payment percentage wise based on department use. Mr. Garland said he would rather not take the money out of the street department's capital fund because we're trying to build it up so that we can eventually be able to buy a new truck every year. Councilman Cannon said the last five or six years we have always taken money from one place to another and if we keep doing this how are we're going to make it. Councilman Cannon said we can't continue to take money from one place and put it another place. He said he knows we need this equipment, but how are we going to pay for it. Councilman Milling asked do we not build the budget for the water department and the street department that's got maintenance and assets? Mr. Garland said, "Yes Sir, that's built into their cost". Councilman Milling said what we're essentially doing is we wouldn't have a separate fund to buy or lease a track hoe you've got to allocate it to some department and you're allocating it based upon the use. Councilman Milling asked when would the first lease payment start. Mr. Gainey said if we decide, he and Howard would have to get with the owner of the company. Mr. Garland said it would depend on when the equipment is delivered. Councilman Milling asked if we have the funds within the street department and water and sewer department in their current budget that can be utilized to pay for this without hurting other projects that they have going on. Mr. Garland said for example: a 48-month lease the payment is \$1,777.79, he would split it up percentage wise between 620, 630 & 912. He said maybe \$300 to \$400 would come from the W&S Department \$300-\$400 would come from the Codes Department and the remainder would come from Street & Sanitation Department. Mayor Hines said she would like to see those line items on a piece of paper in front of her where she can see them from each department. Councilman Segars reiterated what was said about the three departments using this equipment and sharing the cost. Mr. Gainey said once you get a piece of equipment like this you will be surprised how much it will be used. He said with storm water alone, we could keep it busy with just those projects. Mayor Hines said there's no doubt about that but if there's money for it, there's no problem getting it, but we need to be sure we have the funds for it before we stick our necks out. She said we have \$60,000 to do demolition and that does not include this. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland if we have the money within our current budget to be able to meet either a 36-month or 48-month lease of this piece of equipment? Mr. Garland said, "Yes Sir". Councilman Milling asked Mr. Garland if thinks a 36-month or 48-month works better. Mr. Garland said a 48-month lease. Councilman Gardner asked Mr. Garland his reasoning for this and Mr. Garland said lower

payments. Councilman Gardner said at the end, if we wanted to buy it, it's actually more. Mr. Gainey said if we had the 48-month lease and wanted to purchase it at the end we would pay \$38,000. If we had a 36-month lease it would cost \$46,800. Mr. Gainey said to keep in mind that this equipment is on State bid price so we're saving anywhere from \$15,000 to \$25,000 off the top end. **Councilman Milling made a motion that we lease Caterpillar for 48 months with the funds to be taken from the entities that will be utilizing it based upon Mr. Garland meeting with those department heads and making a final decision as to who pays what percentage. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion.** Mayor Hines said she is not against it, but she would like to see some more figures in front of her. **All voted for the motion except Mayor Hines.**

#### **H) BID REVIEW/APPROVAL: UPGRADES KEYLESS ENTRY – POLICE CHIEF DANNY WATSON**

Police Chief Danny Watson said he spoke to three different companies and the price varied by about \$20,000. Chief Watson said the two more recent ones that we had the price varied by about \$8,000. He said the low bidder was RussCo Networks on Drew Drive here in Darlington, SC and they gave a price of \$27,505. Chief Watson said the other company that we got a bid back from was \$35,623. He said this would give us twenty-one doors that will be carded. He said the card system will let you into certain doors and there will be a record of it. Chief Watson said the computer that comes with this system will be set up for the doors to open at 8:00 AM in the morning and automatically lock at 5:00 PM. He said this system will help us to secure various parts of the building. He said this is something that will help us to be modernized and secure. Chief Watson said the doors downstairs will have an alarm with a keypad. He said we have twenty-one cameras up and running already. Mayor Hines asked where the money is coming from to pay for this. Mr. Garland and Chief Watson both said from the General Obligation Bond. Councilman Segars asked about the quality between the two companies and the equipment. Chief Watson said the equipment is equally as good. He said the reason we got such a low bid from RussCo is because he already had a lot of the equipment on hand (demonstrator equipment). Councilman Milling asked if there is a maintenance program involved with this? Chief Watson said the only maintenance that we will have over time is the replacement of the cards, which will be a minimal fee. Chief Watson said the alarm system that the company is offering is that it doesn't have a monthly maintenance fee or anything like that. It automatically rings dispatch and automatically rings us. Chief Watson said

the only or thing that he thinks would be great if we could do it, is if we had a card that would track you everywhere you went in the building when you have the card on you. He said we don't need anything quite that super secure. Councilman Milling asked if the system tracks who uses a particular card. Chief Watson said, "Yes, the card is specifically assigned to each person". Chief Watson said once he gets the system up and running we will be adopting a policy and procedure on what we can and cannot do and the proper use of the card. **Councilman Milling made a motion to approve the low bid of \$27,505 from RussCo to upgrade to the keyless entry system. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Hines said for 20 years or more people have been calling downtown to report overgrown lots. She said over the years the lots have gotten worse because it started out with a tree and now it looks like a forest. Mayor Hines said when the people go in and cut with a bush hog, it is not attractive. She said some property owners have not done anything with it and each year it's getting worse. She said she feels we need to change the ordinance for this. She said the lots need to be a little bit cleaner than what they are doing.

Councilman Gardner said he wants them to start getting the financial reports.

Councilman Milling said the ladies and men with the Garden Club that has been involved in decorating the Square is a great service they do for the community.

Mayor Hines said she went to Trinity Church Youth Center where they have Showers for the Homeless and she urged Council to go to Trinity Church on Monday morning from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM and on Thursday from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM and observe what's going on. She said she wishes there was some way we could get a homeless shelter here in Darlington.

### **REMINDERS**

Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 6:30 PM – Special Council Meeting,  
Tuesday, November 7, 2017 from 7:00 AM -7:00 PM City of Darlington  
Wards 1, 2. & 3 Elections  
Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

**JOURNMENT**

**Upon motion of Councilman Milling, seconded by Councilman Segars,  
the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.**

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk & Treasurer