

**CITY OF DARLINGTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM
TUESDAY -SEPTEMBER 4, 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, Ms. Harriett Hobbs, Mr. Lee Andrews, Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh, Ms. Anna DeWitt, Ms. Rosena James, Mr. Steve Abbott, Mr. Roger and Mrs. Audrey Gore, Mr. Chuck McNeil, Curtis Boyd, Danny Watson, and other visitors.

NEWS REPORTERS

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Elaine Reed did the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Elaine Reed, to approve the Minutes of July 10, 2018. All approved the motion. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes of August 7, 2018 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Elaine Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion. Upon motion of Councilwoman Elaine Reed, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to approve the Minutes of August 15, 2018 meeting. All approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to accept the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce. Councilwoman Elaine Reed questioned the agenda because she wasn't aware of it and properly informed of the agenda. She said the only agenda

she received was in the mail about a week ago and she is not aware of any other way that we receive our agenda without approval. Mayor Hines said, “Mr. Garland after you changed it did you send the agendas out to Councilmembers”? Mr. Garland said, “Yes ma’am, yes I did by email”. Mayor Hines said, “You didn’t send it out like you usually sent it out by mail. You usually send a police officer to our houses and give them a copy in the mail. Mr. Garland said he notified each councilmember by text and then he sent an email of the “Amended Agenda”. Mayor Hines said everybody didn’t get it. Councilwoman Reed said she didn’t get an “Amended Agenda”, but she did get a text saying there were proposed issues to put on the agenda and she responded to that. Mayor Hines said that’s what she got also. Councilwoman Reed said for the two years she has served the only way she has received the agenda, even at the last minute, has been by the officers-delivered or mailed. She said she wouldn’t even thought to look at emails. Mayor Hines asked Mr. Garland what he has to say about this. Mr. Garland said, “Exactly as I said a few minutes ago, I sent out a text advising councilmembers that there was an amended agenda coming and I sent it by email. Mayor Hines said, In the past you have sent it by mail, what stopped that and if there was a change, you’ve always gotten in the mail”? Mr. Garland said, As I just stated, I sent out by text and I sent it out by email”. Mayor Hines said, “But I asked another question, I asked why didn’t you send it out like you been sending it out by the police officers bringing it to the house”? Mr. Garland said, “I sent it by text and I sent it by email; that how I sent it”. Mayor Hines said, “From now on, please send it by mail also like you’ve been doing”. Mr. Garland said, “Yes ma’am”. Councilman Gardner said just for clarity he’s looking at a March 5, 2018 “amended agenda” and he just happen to scan down his email just to find another amended agenda and it’s something he thinks we do regularly through email. Mayor Hines said the amended agenda comes in the mail also. Councilman Gardner said sometimes they do get them in the mail, but we’ve had amended agendas they just got by email. Councilwoman Reed said by email she would have gotten the majority responses so that she would know that the majority agree to that and if there was a change. Councilwoman Reed told Mr. Garland he said he had the majority of council, but first of all, she didn’t see the agenda and she has not seen the responses that would show her that four people agreed to this. Mr. Garland said he would have to go back and look through his emails and texts.

Councilman Milling made a motion to approve and accept for tonight’s meeting, the “amended agenda” that was sent out by email.

Councilman Bryant Gardner seconded the motion. Councilman Milling

said he wish that everybody had gotten a copy of it, but it appears 6 out 7 got a copy of it. He said he didn't respond because he didn't see a problem with the "amended agenda". Councilman Milling said it was publicized and presented to the press, so he would make a motion that they go ahead and adopt it and handle the issues on the "amended agenda". Mr. Garland said as a reminder to Council, they are going to iPad in October, so we're be going with paperless meeting agendas and packets. Councilman Segars called for the question. **Councilpersons Sheila Baccus, Elaine Reed and Mayor Hines voted against the motion to approve the meeting agenda. Councilpersons John Milling, John Segars, Carolyn Bruce and Bryant Gardner voted to approve the meeting agenda. (Motion passes)**

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A) DARLINGTON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – MRS. LISA ROCK

Mrs. Rock said they had a wonderful successful Race Weekend & Mayo Alumni Weekend. The DDRA finished up its successful Bringing Downtown Alive Series on Friday. They had a great turnout on August 9, 2018 for the community karaoke party sponsored by Medic of South Carolina and during race week at the August 31st concert by Radio Vibe. She thanked the Darlington Lions Club, Darlington Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club of Darlington for staffing these events. Mrs. Rock extended special thanks to Fast Track Convenience Store, Pepsi of Florence, Wilson Senior Care, M&M Printing, Belk Funeral Home, Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home, Dr. & Mrs. Alex Cohen, Andrews & Bryant as well as the City of Darlington Police & Fire Departments, Street and Sanitation Department, and the Recreation for their assistance with these concerts. She said anyone interested in helping with these concerts should contact her office. They will be setting the schedule and searching for bands, sponsors and vendors for the 2019 season. Mrs. Rock said the next organizational meeting will be announced by the end of the month so have interested groups or individuals contact her as soon as possible so they can be added to their committee email list. Mrs. Rock said the DDRA invites businesses to network and learn about their programs and give feedback for future projects at their monthly members breakfast. She said Mayor Hines, Councilpersons Reed and Baccus attended the last members' breakfast. The next monthly breakfast for members is 8:00 AM Wednesday September 26, 2018 at Takis Diner. Breakfast will be provided for member businesses at no charge and a small donation of \$5.00 towards the meal for nonmember businesses. 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 the event has grown in the last three years from 800 children to approximately over 1,200 children. Mrs. Rock said churches, civic groups and other businesses that aren’t on the Square are invited to come and set up a table or booth and hand out treats to the children. She said any of those groups that aren’t located on the Square that want to join in should contact her office by October 15th to register for a booth, so they can make sure they have room for everyone. Councilman Gardner asked if the registration is free and Mrs. Rock said if you are a city business, if you are within the city limits, or you have your city business license, it’s free. Also, non-profits and schools are free. She said there will be a charge if a person is outside the city limits and does not have a city business license then there will be a \$25 fee.

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

Ms. Hobbs said this Thursday September 6, 2018 beginning at 6:00 PM, they will have the tailgate. She said she has spoken with all the coaches and it will be on the Square again. Ms. Hobbs said there was a miscommunication in Darlington High and the band had them on the calendar, but the football team did not. She said the whole band might not be there, but the drumline will be there along with the cheerleaders. Ms. Hobbs said Coach Jordan said he will have all the athletic teams there except for the volleyball team because they have a game. Ms. Hobbs said to remember the real reason they are doing this-to bring the community out and to raise can goods for the Lord Cares. Ms. Hobbs said the Darlington Alumni Association is going to be there and they have already started collecting can goods. Ms. Hobbs said she and Quetta McNeil are going to go around to the businesses on the Square and see if they will decorate their windows for the month of September. On Thursday, September 27th – 6:00 PM on the Square they will have a huge Pep Rally and the Darlington Alumni Association will be there in full force. The Toast of Darlington is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2018 on Oak Street. Ms. Hobbs said they have a lot of cooks, but they need more sponsors for the event. She said the new Executive Director for the Coastal Conservancy League contacted her and they will have her on September 13, 2018 for a “Lunch & Learn” and partner with The Rotary & Kiwanis Clubs. There will be a “Flu Shot” Clinic at The Darlington Chamber on September 20, 2018. Councilwoman Bruce asked Ms. Hobbs if she could get them a copy of all the events. Ms. Hobbs said it’s on the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce Facebook page and website. Ms. Hobbs said she would get them

copies of the flyers. Councilwoman Bruce said there was a conversation over the weekend where citizens were talking about all the activities going on in Darlington, but it's not getting out to the masses. Ms. Hobbs said she had all of that posted on her Facebook page and she thinks people don't know to go to the Chamber. She said she really wants a large corkboard on casters (1/2 cork & 1/2 write on/wipe off) so she can roll it in at night and place it in front of the big windows so people walking at night can still see it. She said if she can find somebody who can build it and it wouldn't cost a lot. (Mr. Curtis Boyd spoke out in the audience and Mayor Hines told him he's not allowed to talk out like that).

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

Ms. Rose Pruitt said she had the storm water issue on Broad Street and she wanted to thank Council for making an attempt to get a hold of the storm water issue. Ms. Pruitt said the fine new vac truck that the City purchased is doing a really good job, but we haven't had rain in four weeks, so we won't know how much it's helped, but we're hopeful. Ms. Pruitt reminded Council that we've had a hundred years of neglected storm water system so it's really going to take an effort to clear that out because it is one big interconnected system. She said at her location they ran into some issues, so there may be some requests for additional equipment for that truck to help bore out some of that material and she hopes Council will look favorably on that.

Mr. Thomas Bramlett said he lives on Law Street and he saw something on the computer about the grass situation being over fourteen inches the City will fine them \$500 because they don't get their grass cut. Mr. Bramlett said he lives just one block over from Pearl Street and there's sofas, beds, buggies from Dollar General, Piggly Wiggly and the grass is growing into the road and he feels we need to take care of the streets and everything before they worry about somebody else's grass. Mr. Bramlett said he didn't know there was a public page that you could go on and complain. He said we need to address the trash pickup in people's yard and on sides of the street. He said the trash truck comes by every Friday and there's sofas, cardboard boxes and fans that's been on the side of his street for two months. Mr. Bramlett said they need to take care of all streets. Mr. Bramlett said the only time the grass gets cut on the highway is when the race is coming and when they cut it they cut up the trash and that makes it look ten times as bad. Mayor Hines said everybody got a flyer in their water

bills today and it said the City of Darlington does not pick up furniture, appliances or construction debris. Mrs. Rock said one other thing mentioned on the flyer is the “SeeClickFix” app and it’s also on the City’s website where you can report issues. She said if you’re on your smart phone it will have your location and you can directly report those to the City and it will go directly to the correct department so that the issue can be taken care of. Mrs. Rock said once you go to the website you’ll be able to see different issues that people have reported and the status of the fix. Councilwoman Reed said, “So we are going to pick it up now”? Mayor Hines said, “No, we’re not picking it up”. Councilman Gardner said he’s got no interest in doing a habitual offender fine of \$500 for people with fifteen inches of grass, it’s for the people who are throwing the couches every other month on the side of the road. He said those are the kind of people they want to go after. Mayor Hines told Mr. Bramlett hopefully they will get his problem solved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. Garland said Council asked him to check on the wording of this ordinance to cover it in case anybody decided to close this road later. (Mr. Garland read the proposed ordinance) Councilman Milling said to add the words “and maintained” to read the roadbed free of impediments and maintained then ownership of Lochend Road reverts to the City of Darlington. Councilman Milling asked City Attorney Kevin Etheridge if he’s had conversation with them one way or the other. Mr. Etheridge said they’ve discussed the verbiage in there and that’s been the extent of it. He said his understanding is that is their intention. Councilman Milling said sometimes there could be some problems once the event has happened. He told Mr. Etheridge to put some language in there with something to this effect- “if they are not doing it, we give them notice if it’s not resolved within 30 days then the Clerk of Court can sign”. Councilman Milling said it’s something we can file in the records to reflect that it’s now our problem. Mayor Hines said we’ll table this until we get the correct wording.

B) SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-17 - HABITUAL OFFENDER ORDINANCE – MR. ALEX GAINEY

Mr. Gainey said what he is targeting is people that own property around the City that’s not maintaining it. He said he’s not looking at riding through

neighborhoods trying to find out who hasn't been cutting their grass and send them a citation for \$500. He said this is for people that we send a letter at the beginning of grass cutting season and if they do cut it, they wait on the City to tell them when to cut it again. He said it's not the City's responsibility to tell people that own lots in the City when to cut their grass. Councilman Milling asked Mr. Gainey if we adequately define what our requirements are for yard maintenance? Mr. Gainey said every time they send a letter out, they send a copy of the ordinance along with it.

Councilman Milling made a motion to approve Second Reading on Ordinance 2018-17 Habitual Offender Ordinance relating to our overgrown unkempt properties. Councilman Segars seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A) OLD FLORENCE HIGHWAY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD SITE SURVEY BID

Mr. Lee Andrews thanked Council for supporting the Southern 500 Parade this past weekend. He told Mayor and Councilwoman Reed he appreciates them representing City Council on the float. Mr. Andrews said for the topical survey he put it out for bid and got two quotes back. He said Mr. Bert Lynn who is present at the meeting, is the designer for the fields and has the pricing and can answer questions if Council has any. Mr. Andrews said he has two bids for the survey; one from S.C. Professional Land Surveyor (Keck & Wood) out of Rockhill, SC with a bid of \$8,500 and David Nesbitt of Nesbitt Surveying Company out of Timmonsville, SC with a bid of \$4,800. Mr. Andrews introduced Mr. Bert Lynn who is from Darlington, but now resides in Charlotte, NC. Mr. Lynn said the final selected site is twenty-two acres off Old Florence Highway. He said the goal of the plan was to see how they could maximize the site and get as many ballfields as possible. They went through several iterations and finally landed on one that had six 201' ballfields, a larger softball field, parking, a building that would contain restrooms, concessions, an umpire room, a play area, walking trail and potential maintenance area for the park. Mr. Lynn said those are the amenities that will fit on the twenty-two acres and they still have plenty of room to handle any storm water or anything like that, that they need to. Councilman Milling said Lee mentioned something about phasing and wanted to know if we went that route what would he propose to

be accomplished first. Mr. Lynn said any ballfield that you build you're going to have to build restrooms, parking and sidewalks so you'll have accessible means. When it comes to budget, we'll have to make a decision on whether we want more ballfields or fewer ballfields with lights. Mr. Andrews said we can phase it out and cut cost. He said its projected at \$3.5 million. Mr. Andrews said Mr. Lynn has it worked out so that if we did four ballfields with lights we would come in at \$1.5 million. Mr. Lynn said this would include the building that would have the concessions room, restrooms, umpire room and 120 parking spaces. Mr. Lynn said the City can do the project in as many phases as they want to. Mr. Andrews said there are grants available for Little League. He said they are looking at Major League baseball grants through Mr. Orlando Hudson. He said there's a lot of irons in the fire to try to get that money kicked up to where we don't have to phase it, but if we have to phase it, we will. Mr. Andrews said opening day for football is September 15th at 10:00 AM. Councilman Milling said there's not only a difference in the price, but there's a difference in the scope. Councilman Milling said the firm from Rockhill put storm, sanitary sewer, power (overhead & underground) gas and waterline utilities and Nesbitt says surrounding roads, drainage outfalls, system structures & fences. Mr. Andrews said it's a topical survey and if we need to go back and give Keck & Wood just a topographical or he can tell Nesbitt that they need to... Councilman Milling interrupted and said Nesbitt's survey is a topographical survey. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Lynn if we need to do the in depth work that Keck & Wood is suggesting? Mr. Lynn said he would because we'll need to know where utilities are going to be pulled from. He said once they locate where the power, sanitary sewer and water is it will help them get more accurate estimates as to how much it will cost to do the project. Mayor Hines said, "So, tonight this is just for discussion"? Mr. Andrews said he can take it back and Nesbitt can bump his up or Keck & Wood can bring theirs down. Councilman Milling said whatever Mr. Lynn thinks we need, but if Nesbitt has not given us the full features of his, then we need to ask him what his cost will be for that.

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

Mr. McNeil said when he came before Council earlier this summer about the budget PDRTA bus riders came to speak on behalf of the service and to voice their need for Saturday bus service. Mr. McNeil said the riders mentioned to him that night that they could get a petition which might help to sway Council's decision to provide Saturday bus service. Mr. McNeil

said he had forgotten about their conversation and the riders approached him recently with a petition in support of Saturday bus service. Mr. McNeil said ridership on the DART bus has increased by over 10%. He said to operate four hours of service on Saturday (the existing bus route) for once a week for an entire year they would need approximately \$2,800 on the local level. Mr. McNeil said we're already three months into the fiscal year, so if the City were to consider trying this service on a pilot basis, by the time it would be approved and up and running, we would reduce the \$2,800 by the number of months left in the fiscal year. Mayor Hines congratulated Mr. McNeil on his upcoming retirement in March 2019 which she heard about at a meeting she attended. Councilwoman Baccus asked Mr. McNeil what would the hours be for Saturday? Mr. McNeil said he would hesitate to try to answer that because he would want to get input of the riders. Councilman Milling asked Mr. McNeil if he could get a feel for what the proposed schedule would be between now and the next Council meeting? Councilman Milling said they will have the information by the next Council meeting, so they'll put it in the agenda and ask Mr. Garland to see what funding sources might be available.

C) FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE 2018-16 REGULATION FOR SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES

Mr. Garland said Council members expressed their concern on page 6 with the FOIA under permit applications (c) so they changed that with input from MASC. It now read 'the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request made by citizen or interested party and City of Darlington denies any such request, the company claiming proprietary or confidential info shall pay all legal fees arising from any FOIA lawsuits. The other concern was the cost for small wireless facilities. Mr. Garland said after checking with other communities, they adjusted the fee to \$100 per year for a wooden pole or \$250 per year for all other city own poles. Councilman Segars said if this pertains to City own poles, what about poles that Duke Energy owns? Mr. Garland said we wouldn't get any fees from them, so the section we just talked about would not apply. Mr. Garland reminded Council that this is for promoting better wireless coverage in underserved areas. **Councilman Bryant Gardner made a motion to approve First Reading on Ordinance 2018-16 Regulation for small Wireless Facilities. Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the motion.**

D) SCRIA GRANT APPLICATION FOR JOE LOUIS LIFT STATION

Mr. Garland said at the recent MASC meeting in Florence a representative from Pee Dee COG approached him after the meeting and she said there was EDA money available to communities that were under distress from the recent hurricanes from the last few years. He said he followed up on this with the person that writes the grants for Pee Dee COG (Mr. Clay Young) and he said indeed money was available but there were certain stipulations to go along with it. Mr. Garland said Mr. Young suggested that he talk with Robin Cooley, the State EDA Director, which he did. Mr. Garland said there's 1.47 million that's available in the Southeast United States. He said EDA is usually tied to job creation, but this grant is not. The grant is an 80/20 match and there's no limit as to what you can apply for. He said Robin Cooley said we needed to get the application in by the middle of October. Mr. Garland said he ran some of the ideas by Robin Cooley that included Joe Louis pump station, the Alltel-Verizon pump station, Allen Street, Grove Hill pump station and the Main pump station. He said Ms. Cooley said all of those sounded good to her and she's available to come and look at what we're proposing. Mr. Garland said it is staff's recommendation that we put in for the EDA grant instead of applying for RIA grant just because there's a larger pot of money available with the EDA grant. He said EDA money does not come along very often with it not being tied directly to economic development or job creation. It's a great opportunity to update the five pump stations which are along the corridor where we have our most and greatest growth. Mr. Garland asked that Council suspend our RIA application for the Joe Louis Lift Station. Mayor Hines told Mr. Garland she doesn't see why we can't do both. She said with doing the grant for free, we can get that one and still do the EDA grant. Mr. Garland said from his understanding we can't apply for two different grants for the same thing. Mayor Hines said, "But you said we can get as much as we want-it's \$1.47 million for the Southeast". Mayor Hines asked how much we can apply for and Mr. Garland said there's no limit on what we can apply for. Councilwoman Baccus said she also had a conversation with Mr. Clay Young today and she asked him several questions about this grant and what he said was, the grant can be written within a business area, but if it's more than one thing included in the grant all those area stations have to be tied together. Councilwoman Baccus said they can't be separate stations that not tied together. She said she asked him if the lift station on Joe Louis and the lift station at Verizon could be considered as tied together and he told her he wasn't sure. She said Verizon is in the business district and it feeds into Joe Louis, but he's not sure whether Joe Louis would be included in that or not, he would have to research it and get back to her. Mr.

Young told her as far as Allen Street is concerned, it's not tied to Joe Louis or Verizon, so you can't tie those in together. She said Mr. Young also told her that the maximum is \$2 million. Councilwoman Baccus said she talked with Lindsey first and then she spoke with Mr. Young to try to get an understanding of what we need to do basically for Joe Louis. She said Mr. Young said this is based around the Erma Storm, but they opened it up differently. There's a total of \$1.47 million available and Georgia, Florida and South Carolina will be applying for this grant. Mayor Hines said, "So you're getting different information"? Mr. Garland said he asked general parameter, he didn't ask any specifics. He said he hasn't put all the grant numbers together yet. Councilwoman Reed said, "At our last Council meeting you all were very emphatic about making sure that Davis & Brown do the RIA grant, so why are we even considering that"? she said if Allen Street is not included with Joe Louis, then we still can apply for the EDA for Allen Street. Councilwoman Reed said we need to do what we said. She said there was a lot of discussion about the RIA grant and Davis & Brown was voted to get it, so let them do it. Why suspend that, she asked? Councilwoman Reed said, "that's what you wanted, you wanted them to get that done and it needs to be done now". Councilman Segars said based on what Mr. Garland's recommendation is, this is something new that we didn't have last month when we were voting on the RIA grant. He said there's more money in this pot that we may be able to get a hold to rather than what the RIA grant is going for and he thinks they need to go with Mr. Garland's recommendation and let him bring that person over here and then he get those specific questions answered and we can see what we can tie together and what we can't tie together and how much money we can apply for. Councilwoman Reed said that sounds really good, but her point is, right now we understand that Joe Louis is in critical stage and that's what the whole point is about. Councilwoman Reed said, "And while they are negotiating about money and who is going to do what, the folk in that area are really suffering". She said she doesn't know if this was a direct result of that station, but a family that lives on Howard Street had raw sewerage in their yard. She said if we can still get the money, we need to. Councilwoman Reed said it is clear that Allen Street can't be tied to Joe Louis, at least that's what's being said. Councilwoman Reed said, "So if we suspend that thinking we could get both stations done under the EDA, is not correct". She said we know that's not right. Councilman Segars said we don't know that yet. Councilwoman Reed said that what the gentleman said to Councilwoman Baccus. Councilwoman Bruce said, "First I want to address Councilwoman Reed's comment that ya'll voted for Davis & Brown to get

the RIA grant”. Councilwoman Bruce said Councilman Segars already said what she was going to say. She said that vote was taken prior to any knowledge of an EDA grant. Councilwoman Bruce said from her understanding, prior to the information that Councilwoman Baccus shared tonight she said the EDA grant is a grant where we have an opportunity to get more money and do more within the City of Darlington as it pertains to our lift stations and not anything that has to be tied to another lift station. Councilwoman Bruce said that was the information that was shared first, so that’s why the consideration for the EDA grant was given prior to this information that she gave tonight. Councilwoman Bruce said it sounds to her like we don’t have all the information that we need because we got a story here and a story from the City Manager. She said there’s someone that would come and discuss this with them and give them the right information. Mr. Garland said that would be the State EDA Director. Councilwoman Bruce asked if the person is willing to come and give them the information and Mr. Garland said, “Yes”. Mayor Hines wanted to know when she would be able to come, and Mr. Garland said he would have to call and ask her. Mayor Hines said we need that information, so we can go forward with this. Councilwoman Bruce said she don’t know about voting for something where we’ve got different stories. She said we need definite answers, correct information and then make decisions and vote based on that. Councilwoman Reed said she was the same meeting where this information was given. She said the only point she’s making is that we have already voted on getting the grant to do Joe Louis because it is necessary. Councilwoman Reed said, “Why don’t we go ahead while we’re researching what EDA does”. Mr. Garland asked Mr. Kinsaul if the Joe Louis, Alltel, Grove Hill and Main pump stations are all tied together, and Mr. Kinsaul said, “Yes”. Mr. Kinsaul said Alltel feeds to Joe Louis and Joe Louis feeds into Grove Hill. He said the only one not in this group is Allen Street. Mr. Garland said if we take Allen Street out then we’ll probably have more than \$1.2 to \$1.3 million dollars with EDA. Mr. Garland said they want applications in their office by the middle of October. He said if the other four pump stations tie in and Allen Street doesn’t, let’s move ahead with the other four. Councilwoman Baccus asked what the maximum amount is that we can apply for with the RIA grant? Was it \$1 million? Mr. Garland said the original money that we put in for, the estimate from Davis & Brown was \$400,000 for Joe Louis Lift Station and Alltel Pump Station. Councilwoman Baccus asked what the maximum was that we could put in for the RIA grant and Mr. Garland said \$1,000,000. Councilwoman Baccus said, “If you can do both grants and they’re doing it for free, I don’t

understand why we're not going ahead and put in for it because there's no guarantee we're going to get neither one of them". Councilman Segars said the question here is the RIA grant is not going to be enough money to do Joe Louis because it has a big price tag on it. Councilman Segars said, "Now we're going after a bigger pot of money and we can get more stuff done, so let's forego the RIA grant for Joe Louis and try to get the other lift stations in on the same ticket". Councilwoman Baccus said, "If you can only get \$2 million dollars and you're talking about four lift stations, that's not going to solve Joe Louis problem". She said the main thing we were addressing from day one was Joe Louis Lift Station and the problems in South Darlington with that lift station. Mayor Hines asked how many businesses does Joe Louis Blvd. support? Mr. Garland said about 800 jobs on the Bypass, but we have the capability to send sewer to Florence with the EDA grant we got in 2014. He said if we have a problem, we can send it to Florence because we have that line in place. Mr. Garland said he thinks it is a sound policy to move forward with the EDA application minus the Allen Street pump station. Councilman Milling asked if we would run into a problem on an EDA grant with things being tied together, if we have attempted to remedy one of the lift stations that would be a part of the package? Mr. Garland said we for a successful EDA grant for \$1.8 million dollars in 2011 for some of the same issues that he's talking about now which included upgrading sewer service at Georgia Pacific, PolyQuest and Nucor Steel Mill. He said they all were done with the idea they all tied in and go to one place. Councilman Milling said his question was more on the order that if we do Joe Louis as a separate item, would that negatively affect our grant application for EDA? Mr. Garland said if you don't include it with EDA it would be hard to do the EDA application without Joe Louis in it because it's the middle of everything we're talking about. Councilwoman Reed asked, "Why not just Allen Street? The EDA could be specifically for that. Mr. Garland said, "Why not do Allen Street with RIA, that the way to go"? Mayor Hines said, "I thought the RIA grant has to be tied to a business"? Mr. Garland said, "But you can't do an EDA because it ties in with the other". Mayor Hines said Joe Louis is in a residential area, but it ties in to some of the businesses out on Highway 52 so that's why we could tie that in, but we could not tie Allen Street in. Mayor Hines said, "So now you're saying why not do the RIA grant for Allen Street, but that's not possible from what you told us". Mr. Garland said, "Yes, it is if you wait until March 2019 to do Allen Street with the RIA grant". Mr. Garland said the storm water grant will be closed then and we'll be able to apply for the Allen Street Station in March. Councilwoman Baccus said we don't know if

Joe Louis will qualify or not because he said he had to check to see whether it will qualify. Mayor Hines said we need to get him in, so we'll know what is what because we've got mixed information. Councilman Gardner said it seems like the worry was with the stations connecting and Mr. Kinsaul said they all connect minus the Allen Street Lift Station. Councilman Gardner said it seems like we would go after four out of five and get four out of five lift stations upgraded and brought back to standard. Councilwoman Bruce said if we can apply for an EDA grant and take care of more lift stations in the City vs one or two, then she thinks this is a win for Darlington. Mayor Hines said we can sit here all night and discuss this, but it has already been established that we got some mixed-up information and we need to get that clear first before we can go on. Councilman Gardner said he thinks we had the mixed-up information clarified when the Water Superintendent said that we can tie all those together. Mayor Hines said, "He doesn't know anything about the grant and we need to hear from whoever we're getting the grant from". **Councilman Segars made a motion that they instruct the City Manager to pursue getting that person over her to look at what we've got, what we can tie together and what grants we can apply for and let's move forward. Mayor Hines, Councilpersons Bruce and Reed all seconded the motion.** Councilman Milling asked if they are dealing with item D or item E? Mayor Hines said she thought they were discussing item D, but it came up about EDA. **Councilman Segars amended his motion that they forego the RIA grant that they voted on last month and pursue this EDA grant. Councilman Gardner seconded the motion.** Councilman Segars restated his motion to instruct the City Manager to pursue the EDA grant trying to tie the four lift stations together and vote down the RIA grant that Council approved last month. (Mayor Hines said with new bidding) Councilman Gardner seconded the motion. Mr. Garland said according to Mr. Young, since Pee Dee COG is a government agency, they don't go through a bid process. They don't charge to write any of the EDA grants they charge a flat fee. They administer any EDA grant regardless of size for \$25,000. Mayor Hines said, "So COG will be doing the grant"? And Mr. Garland said, "Yes". The engineering part will be bid out. **Councilman Milling restated Councilman Segars' motion as he thought he meant it. They are directing the City Manager to withdraw any application for the RIA grant and that we go forward with the EDA grant to try and get funding for four lift stations.** Councilman Segars agreed that's what he said. **All approved the motion.**

E) EDA GRANT APPLICATION FOR SEWER PUMP STATIONS IMPROVEMENTS (Discussed with Item D)

F) DISCUSSION AND VOTE COUNCIL MINUTES JULY 5, 2011

Mr. Garland said he's not ready to discuss this because he just got some information from the Attorney about a legal ruling which he hasn't had time to go over yet. (Tabled)

REMINDERS

Tuesday September 25, 2018 – 6:00 PM, City Council Work Session;
Tuesday October 2, 2018 at 6:30 PM - Regular Monthly Meeting Darlington City Council

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce read a letter she wrote saying there has been false accusations made against her, by both citizens and some council members. She said after the vote on August 15, 2018 meeting of 4-3 to award Davis & Brown the RIA grant, she was approached in an aggressive way by someone who questioned her vote and expressed their total disappointment. Councilwoman Bruce also said someone who is not a citizen of Darlington took to Facebook and accused her of voting against a Black female owned Engineering Firm and being paid off. Councilwoman Bruce said she wanted to set the record straight and said Lathan Consultant, LLC is not a black female owned engineering firm and nor is Lathan Consultant, LLC licensed to perform any engineering projects in the City of Darlington. She said it just what it says, a consultant Firm. She said she takes her role as Mayor Pro-Tem very seriously and is not bought or paid by anyone. Councilwoman Bruce said her vote is not obligated to anyone other than the citizens of Darlington. She said she knows as an elected official she is subject to criticism; however, this letter was written to ensure that the citizens of Darlington know the truth. Everyone applauded Councilwoman Bruce for the letter she had written. Councilwoman Reed said, "Very good, very good".

Councilman John Milling said they all received a letter from Mr. Todd Hardee inviting them to join him for a road trip to Sumter, SC on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. He is asking everyone that plans to attend to meet him at Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home at 10:00 AM and they can travel together. The purpose of the trip is to look around and see what other small towns are doing with regards to downtown revitalization.

Councilwoman Reed thanked Councilwoman Bruce for clearing that up because she has always supported and respected how folk vote. She said she has never tried to demean or attack her or anyone. Councilwoman Reed said, “When you hear whatever I say up here, that’s all it is”. “I want you to hear it, whatever differences that we may have and how you feel about the issues, we stand as a full council”. Councilwoman Reed told Councilwoman Bruce she is sorry that those things happened to her and she will lift her up and is glad that she is still here. She said she don’t go on Facebook, so she didn’t know all that was going on. Councilwoman Baccus said, “I just want to say one thing in reference to that letter, the truth will be the truth and the truth will be known”.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce to go into Executive Session at 8:11 PM to discuss a contractual matter concerning Police Department contract with Enterprise Vehicle Lease.

(5 Minute Break)

Executive Session ended at 8:40 PM.

Councilman Milling made a motion that the City of Darlington through the Police Department enter a lease of vehicles as submitted to them by our Police Chief with Enterprise Fleet Management for lease of 4 vehicles in year one and continuing with the lease of the other vehicles. Councilwoman Reed seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Councilman Bryant Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk & Treasurer