

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING  
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
DARLINGTON, SC

April 3, 2023

A public hearing and regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2023, at 6 p.m., at the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda providing the date, time, and place of the meeting was emailed to the local newspapers, persons requesting notification and posted on the county's website and on the bulletin board in the lobby of the courthouse.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice-Chairman Marvin Le Flowers, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., M. Kirk Askins, Mr. David Coker, Mr. Albert Davis, III, Mrs. Angie Stone Godbold, and Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

County Attorney James H. Lucas, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Central Communications Director Michelle Hall, Emergency Management Director Molly Odom, Emergency Services Director Kenny Bowen, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Fire District Chief Ricky Flowers, Human Resources Director Ginger Winburn, Sheriff James Hudson, Mr. Matt Wills of Charter Communications, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Stephan Drew of the News and Press.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance No. 23-02, An Ordinance To Amend The Existing Agreement Governing The Darlington-Florence Industrial Park By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Florence County, South Carolina To Enlarge The Boundaries Of The Industrial Park To Include Certain Property Now Or To Be Hereafter Owned And/Or Operated By Hawfinch Solar, LLC; And Authorizing Other Related Matters - SECOND READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open at 6 p.m. to receive comments on Ordinance No. 23-02.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Lease Agreement Between Darlington County And Women Of Purpose Women's Ministry To Lease Space In Society Hill Neighborhood Center, 223 Hall Street, Society Hill

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive comments on the lease agreement between Darlington County and Women of Purpose Women's Ministry to lease space in Society Hill Neighborhood Center located at 223 Hall Street in Society Hill.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **Call to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Coker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens' comments.

### **Personal Appearances**

There were no personal appearances.

### **Consent Agenda**

Included in the Agenda Items were the following:

- 6.A. Beaver Management Program Report, February 2023
- 6.B. Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority Quarterly Newsletter, March 2023
- 6.C. Pee Dee Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) Waiver Of State Requirement(s) Request Submitted To SC Department Of Employment And Workforce By Pee Dee Regional Council Of Governments/Pee Dee Workforce Development Board
- 6.D. Report Of Vacancies & Term Expirations (As Of June 30, 2023) On Council Appointed Boards/Commissions/Committees
- 6.E. Recreation Activity Schedule for April 2023
- 6.F. Financial Report thru February 2023

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to receive the Consent Agenda items as information.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval Of Minutes – Minutes Of Regular Meeting, March 6, 2023**

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 6, 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

## Ordinances

Ordinance No. 23-02, An Ordinance To Amend The Existing Agreement Governing The Darlington-Florence Industrial Park By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Florence County, South Carolina To Enlarge The Boundaries Of The Industrial Park To Include Certain Property Now Or To Be Hereafter Owned And/Or Operated By Hawfinch Solar, LLC; And Authorizing Other Related Matters - SECOND READING

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 23-02.

The motion carried unanimously.

## Resolutions

Resolution No. 753, Proclamation For National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week, April 9 - 15, 2023

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve Resolution No. 753 proclaiming the week of April 9-15, 2023, as National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week in Darlington County.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 754, Proclaiming April As Fair Housing Month

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Askins to approve Resolution No. 754 proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month.

The motion carried unanimously.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

## Other Items

### Appointments To Boards/Commissions

Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals, Mr. Flowers nominated Mr. Gary Van Coe for appointment to the Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals.

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker to appoint Mr. Gary Van Coe to the Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals.

The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Coe will fill a vacancy through June 30, 2024.

Alcohol & Drug Citizen Advisory Committee, Mrs. Godbold nominated Ms. Elizabeth Chaney for appointment to the Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee.

**MOTION** made by Mrs. Godbold and seconded by Mr. Davis to appoint Ms. Elizabeth Chaney to the Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee.

The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Chaney will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Terry Lewis and will serve until replaced by County Council.

Appointment To The FY23/24 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee, Hospitality Business

Mr. Askins nominated Mr. Dan Moses for appointment to the FY23/24 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee to represent hospitality business.

**MOTION** made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Davis to appoint Mr. Dan Moses (of The Blind Pig Restaurant) to the FY23/24 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee to represent hospitality business.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request For Chairman To Sign Pee Dee Local Workforce Development Area Redesignation Documents

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to authorize the chairman to sign Pee Dee Local Workforce Development Area Redesignation documents.

The motion carried unanimously.

Lease Agreement Between Darlington County And Women Of Purpose Women's Ministry (WOP) To Lease Space In Society Hill Neighborhood Center, 223 Hall Street, Society Hill

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the lease agreement between Darlington County and Women of Purpose Women's Ministry to lease space in Society Hill Neighborhood Center.

Ms. Thomas wanted to know how long the county has been leasing this building to Women of Purpose Women's Ministry and how the county came up with the \$300 amount for rent.

Mr. Douglas responded that the building had been remodeled and the county was just beginning with this lease.

Mr. Flowers pointed out that the proposed lease would be for two classrooms located on the east wing of the building to fulfill the objectives and purposes as stated in the Women of Purpose Women's Ministry proposal.

Ms. Thomas wanted Council to look at the amount of rent again because the organization will provide community services and give back to the community. She wanted Council to approve the lease but not the amount of rent.

Mr. Flowers responded that the two items (the lease and the rent) go together.

Mrs. Godbold asked whether the organization would pay for utilities.

Finance Director Sherman Dibble responded that the county pays the utilities. The county was just leasing the space.

The motion carried with Ms. Thomas opposing the amount of the rent.

Truck Loan To Darlington Raceway

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the truck loan to Darlington Raceway.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update – County Administrator Charles Stewart

Chairman Hudson announced that Mr. Stewart was not present at the meeting due to illness.

Administrative Update - Mr. Matt Wills of Charter Communications, Director For State Government Affairs –Spectrum’s Broadband Grant Expansion Project Update

Mr. Wills reported that the fiber installation was about 71 percent complete. The project should be completed ahead of time with services being ready by November. He also reported that the larger federal project should be complete by the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024. Mr. Wills encouraged Council members to continue collecting the addresses of people requesting Spectrum’s services.

Mr. Davis asked whether Spectrum service will be available throughout the entire county. It was his understanding that Spectrum service would go out so far then the federal program would pick up the remaining areas.

Mr. Wills explained that they are two projects being built simultaneously. The Rural Development Opportunity Funds from the CARES Act was the first money and Spectrum’s direct deal with the county - a direct contract with the county to receive some of the ARPA money. Once the Rural Development Opportunity federal grant areas are finalized, then Spectrum will pick up the remaining areas that had not been serviced.

Mr. Davis talked about constituents who want the service but cannot receive it.

Mr. Wills asked Mr. Davis to forward his constituents’ contact information to him and he will get with his construction team for a response.

Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Mr. Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the employees and citizens.

Ms. Thomas reported that she had talked with Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments about a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant. She requested Council’s support of the grant by providing a ten percent match (\$75,000) for the \$750,000 grant. Ms. Thomas stated that the County Administrator was sent a copy of the grant and she had talked about it on March 7, 2022, but only received one response.

Mrs. Godbold stated that she will send her questions to the County Administrator about an abandoned property located off McIver Road.

Ms. Thomas mentioned that abandoned property is part of the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant.

Chairman Hudson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and past and current employees.

Vote For Executive Session

Discussion Of Personnel Matters Involving The County Recreation And Administration Departments

The Receipt Of Legal Advice Where The Legal Advice Relates To A Pending, Threatened, Or Potential Claim Or Other Matters Covered By The Attorney-Client Privilege, Settlement Of Legal Claim, Or The Position Of The Public Agency In Other Adversary Situations Involving The Assertion Against The Agency Of A Claim Regarding The County Recreation Department

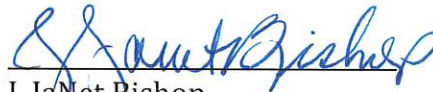
**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to carry over the executive session for discussion of personnel matters involving the County Recreation And Administration Departments since the County Administrator was not present at the meeting due to being under the weather.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

**MOTION** made by Chairman Hudson and second by Mr. Flowers to adjourn the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop  
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman  
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of May 1, 2023.