

JOINT MEETING OF DARLINGTON COUNTY'S  
MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, COUNTY COUNCIL,  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, & LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

January 29, 2024

The City of Darlington hosted a joint meeting of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, and Legislative Delegation on January 29, 2024, at 6 p.m., at The Grand Old Post Office, 201 Peel Street in Darlington, South Carolina, to share information regarding matters of interest/concern to the units of government within Darlington County.

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 posted on the county's website and the bulletin board in the lobby of the courthouse and emailed to Darlington County's Municipal Managers/Clerks, Darlington County School District Superintendent, Darlington County Legislative Delegation, Darlington County Council, and the local newspapers.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice Chairman Marvin Le Flowers, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. Michael Kirk Askins, Mr. David Coker, Mrs. Angie Stone Godbold, and Mrs. Joyce W. Thomas.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Albert Davis, III.

ALSO PRESENT

Darlington County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, City of Darlington Council Members Bryant Gardner, John Segars, and Angela McRavin; City of Darlington Mayor Curtis Boyd; City of Darlington Administrator John Payne; City of Hartsville Council Members Kenzie DeLaine, Bryson S. Caldwell, Brian Meadows, Colin Hungerpiller, and Teresa Mack; Darlington County Board Of Education Members Charles Govan, Amanda Thompson, Wanda Hassler, Leigh Anne Kelley, Jamie Morphis, and Warren Jeffords; Darlington County School District Superintendent Tim Newman; Town of Society Hill Council Member Denise Douglas; Town of Society Hill Clerks Brenda Nettles and Eugenia Peterson; Town of Society Hill Mayor Dwayne Duke; Town of Lamar Council Members Angele White Bradley, Tyler Cook, and Inez Lee; Town of Lamar Mayor James Howell; Town of Lamar Manager Tim Dargan; Senator Gerald Malloy; Representative Robert Williams; Congressman Russell Fry Field Representative Bryan Braddock; and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Stephen Drew of the News and Press.

Welcome / Invocation

Darlington City Councilman Bryant Gardner presented the welcome and Darlington Mayor Pro Tempore John Segars provided the invocation.

### Presentation, Mayor Curtis Boyd, City of Darlington

Mayor Curtis Boyd talked about and commended the collaborative efforts of the entities and the legislative delegation. He reported that during the last four years, the City hired a new City Manager, Water Department Director, Police Chief, Economic Development Director, and an Assistant Judge and made changes to the Streets Department; investments were made by Georgia Pacific, Planet Fitness, ModWash, Mavis Tire, Sonic, Genesis Healthcare, Darlington Country Club, The Grand Old Post Office, and a local private investor (46 apartments); and over \$10 million invested in infrastructure. Collaboration with the County and South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) resulted in 17 streets being paved; working with the County and the School District, a recreational trail and a new ballfield are forthcoming along with a splash pad made possible with funds from the legislative delegation; efforts of the County and City, through a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) grant will provide for the alleyway area behind Carolina Bank and Hewitt Street to be closed and a sitting area created; and the County and the City partnered to pave the Carnegie Library parking lot. Mayor Boyd talked about how all these efforts are needed to attract more teachers who will need housing and businesses that will need quality employees.

Mayor Boyd also reported that the City has hired a firm to create a master plan; over \$260 million invested in the four square miles of the City during the past 4 years; and the county's construction of a new courthouse and addition to the Historical Commission. These investments will help the City provide a good place to live, work, and grow.

### Discussion - An opportunity to share and discuss information regarding matters of interest/concern to the units of government within Darlington County

Representative Robert Williams thanked everyone for their work and briefly talked about legislation that will require the School District to perform a background check on everyone handling money at athletics events and a bill about luring kids physically and on the internet.

Senator Gerald Malloy thanked everyone and recognized Representative Robert Williams as the longest-serving (24 years) veteran in this region currently serving in the General Assembly. He also noted that Representative Coty Mitchell is a Major in the Army. Prayers were asked for Representative Pat Hennigan's husband who is ill. Senator Malloy commended the work of the legislative delegation and Mayor Boyd; congratulated all the newly elected officials; encouraged everyone to reach out to the legislators for assistance and make the best use of the taxpayers' dollars; and briefly talked about legislation being deliberated upon in the General Assembly. He announced that the Supreme Court of South Carolina will hold a term of court in April in Darlington County (Coker College) and thanked the elected officials for serving and having a common purpose for doing things together.

Darlington County School District Superintendent Tim Newman talked about the School District's Master Plan, the new sports complex, and the 200 year old building that a lot of people are interested in knowing what will happen to it. The Board of Education will publicize something about this matter in the next few months.

Society Hill Town Mayor Dwayne Duke announced that a new Dollar General Market Store recently opened in Society Hill and that the Town had received funds for a masterplan.

He commended the work of the Town Clerk, Mrs. Brenda Nettles, and thanked the City of Hartsville for taking down the Town's Christmas decorations.

County Administrator Charles Stewart mentioned that an opening date for the new courthouse has not been announced due to continuous delays. Although the Historical Commission Museum is complete, it cannot open until Hewitt and Fountain streets are paved. These two facilities will be advantageous for the City and there will be plenty of available parking around the new courthouse, beside the Historical Commission building, and in the newly paved parking lot at the Carnegie Library. Mr. Stewart announced that the federal government has provided funds to upgrade and repair potholes at the Highway 34 Boat Landing, and County Council has voted twice to match the funds. He also reported that Spectrum was still building out for internet access, and that County Council and Darlington County Economic Development Partnership Board recently met in executive session to discuss a strategic plan.

Senator Malloy thanked the County Transportation Committee (CTC) for their work and encouraged everyone to contact NESAs (North Eastern Strategic Alliance) for assistance since they have the resources and contact.


Mr. Bryan Braddock, Field Representative for Congressman Russell Fry, announced an event scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> where the Army Corps of Engineers, NESAs, FEMA, HUD, grant writers, etc. will talk about ways to assist entities with grant writing. He also announced that to make constituent services more accessible, Congressman Fry will set up mobile constituent services offices on the last Wednesday of the month to address issues with passports, social security, VA matters, etc.

Representative Robert Williams announced that with the assistance of Clemson, Dargan Pond will reopen to the public for fishing.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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J. Janet Bishop, Clerk to Council

  
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Bobby Hudson, Chairman  
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of March 4, 2024.