

REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

December 5, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 5th day of December 2022, 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, Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, County Attorney Jacob Godwin, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Codes Enforcement Director Terri Cribb, Emergency Management Director Molly Odom, Emergency Services Director Kenny Bowen, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Fire District Chief Ricky Flowers, Human Resources Director Ginger Winburn, Mr. Jon Shannon of South Carolina Governor's School of Science and Math, Ms. Jackie DuBose of Jumping 2 New Heights Program, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT - None

Call to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

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

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Jackie DuBose, Executive Director of Jumping 2 New Heights Program, talked about Jumping 2 New Heights program that was established in 2018 after she noticed that there were no outlets for children to cultivate their creativity. She established this program to help youth and young adults find their gifts, talents, and/or abilities. Jumping 2 New Heights Program is a 2-fold afterschool program offering education (law/business mentoring, economics, public speaking, etc.) and athletics (Double Dutch, dancing, fencing, etc.). Due to mold and mildew in the building that housed the program, they moved and are applying for grants and seeking sponsorships from businesses in the surrounding area to

help operate the program. Ms. DuBose is bringing in mentors, coaches, and volunteers to help operate the program.

Personal Appearances

There were no personal appearances.

Consent Agenda

Included in the Agenda Items were the following:

- 5.A. Monthly Financial Report, October 2022
- 5.B. Beaver Management Program Report, October 2022
- 5.C. Recreation Department Activities Report, November 2022
- 5.D. Upcoming Recreation Department Activities, December 2022
- 5.E. Website Calendar of Meetings, December 2022

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes – Minutes Of Public Hearing And Regular Meeting, November 7, 2022

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held on November 7, 2022.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 22-15, An Ordinance Authorizing Pursuant To Chapter 44 Of Title 12, South Carolina Code Of Laws, 1976, As Amended, The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee Agreement Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Stamey Solar, LLC And Certain Affiliates, Thereby Replacing The 2018 Stamey Solar Fee Agreement; And Authorizing Other Related Matters - THIRD READING

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 22-15.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 751, A Resolution Authorizing The County Administrator And County Council To Execute A Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Agreement Between Darlington County And The South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR) To Fund The Buyout Of Properties Impacted By Flooding

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Askins to approve Resolution No. 751.

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards/Commissions - Councilman Le Flowers

Mr. Flowers carried over his appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals and the Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals.

Bid Award For Roof Replacement On Mozingo Building

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to award the bid in the amount of \$64,293 to ARS Extreme Construction, LLC to replace the roof on the Mozingo Building.

Mr. Coker was concerned that this bid was considerably lower than the other bids.

Mr. Stewart stated that in talking with ARS Extreme Construction after the bids were opened, they indicated that there were items that did not need to be replaced. The items would be removed and placed back (base metals, coupling metal around the building, etc.). These items were included in some of the higher bids. However, they could replace the items if the county wants to. Mr. Stewart also pointed out that because this bid was lower, the staff checked the company's references. He also noted that the warranty on the work will be equitable to the higher bidders.

Mrs. Godbold questioned the date on the document.

Mr. Stewart responded that the company will honor their price, and Council was approving the bid award at \$64,293.

The motion carried unanimously.

South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR) Acknowledgement And Agreement For The Implementation And Execution Of The Voluntary Buyout Project

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve/accept the South Carolina Office of Resilience's Acknowledgement and Agreement for the implementation of and execution of the voluntary Buyout Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Coker wanted to know what will happen with the \$8.6 million approved for the Mitigation Buyout Program if people do not want to sell their property.

Mr. Stewart explained that SCOR has set aside this amount of money based on their calculations of what it would take for demolition, purchase, closing, etc. The funds would go back to SCOR to decide what to do. Mr. Stewart also mentioned that if parcels are withdrawn, other parcels can be "swap-in" if approved/accepted by SCOR.

Engagement Letter For County Attorney

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to engage Lucas, White & Mitchell Law Firm to provide legal services to Darlington County beginning January 1, 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

Support For The Transfer Of Parcels To South Carolina Governor's School For Science And Mathematics

MOTION made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve supporting the transfer of six parcels (056-11-03-006, 056-07-01-034, 056-07-01-030, 056-07-01-029, 056-07-01-028, and 056-07-01-085) owned by Hartsville Community Development Foundation to South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Math.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update – Mr. Charles Stewart, County Administrator

Countywide Flood Study Buyout Program/Meetings. Mr. Stewart reported that the South Carolina Office of Resilience will hold a series of Town Hall meetings to discuss information and timelines for the programs. The meetings will be held on January 11, 2023. One meeting will be at Hartsville Library from 10 a.m. to noon and a second meeting at Darlington Library from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. to discuss buyout details with homeowners. During this meeting, homeowners can submit an application, ask questions, and receive information. There will not be a massive mailout or new promotion about these meetings. Individuals on the buyout list and anyone who has expressed an interest or talked with county officials about the program will receive notification of the meeting.

2022 Delinquent Tax Sale. Mr. Stewart reported that the county's delinquent tax sale was held on Saturday, December 3rd where just over \$350,000 in back taxes were collected.

Courthouse Construction Status. Mr. Stewart provided a synopsis of the status of the courthouse construction (the building has been dried in and secured with temporary measures utilizing windows and door coverings since the windows have not been installed; the final membrane on the roof will not be installed until the HVAC rooftop units are installed; the HVAC rooftop units are on delay due to supply issues; sheetrock on the first floor is 90 percent installed; interior framing on the second floor has been completed; second-floor plumbing and electrical rough-in has been completed; HVAC inside the building and ductwork on the first floor has been completed; sprinkler system for the main system is about 90 percent complete; the masonry bricks expected in August has been delivered; there will be additional updates from the architect for changes with some of the masonry; and work is being done on drawings for the courtrooms). Due to supply issues and delays, the staff does not expect to be in the building in March.

Addition To Historical Commission Building. Mr. Stewart reported that the construction on the Historical Commission building was a smaller project and has had several small delays. However, it is still set to be completed in March/April.

Ms. Thomas wanted to know whether there are additional capital improvements in the county.

Mr. Stewart pointed out the Council had just approved a roof replacement for the Mozingo Building and the doors inside the Sheriff's Office that were mentioned at the last Council meeting were being taken care of. County Directors will submit their capital improvement requests in December for the FY23/24 budget proposal that will be presented in March/April. In response to Ms. Thomas' question about a sign for Sheriff's Office, Mr. Stewart reported that the staff was still looking at various options.

Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Mr. Coker thanked the staff for what they do.

Mr. Davis thanked the citizens for attending the council meetings and the staff for their work. He wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Douglas stated that he hopes 2023 will be just as good as 2022. He thanked the staff for their work.

Mr. Flowers commended the employees, directors, and law enforcement for all their efforts. He asked whether the county Recreation Department could help with Ms. DuBose's program - Jumping 2 New Heights.

Mr. Stewart will have Ms. DuBose contact the county Recreation Department.

Ms. Thomas expressed her happiness regarding the flood study. She also hopes that Jumping 2 New Heights Program can be incorporated with the county recreation program.

Mr. Askins welcomed Mr. John Shannon, Chief Information Officer and Executive Director of Development at the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Math, and expressed his excitement that County Council can help them grow their campus which is a wonderful asset to the community and attracts people from all over the state.

Mrs. Godbold expressed her appreciation for all the things that have been accomplished and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chairman Hudson expressed his appreciation to the staff, fire, EMS, and all the employees. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

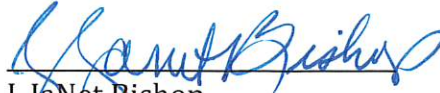
Vote For Executive Session

There was not a vote for executive session.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas 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 January 3, 2023.