

REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

JUNE 6, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 6th day of June 2022 at the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Hwy. 151), Darlington, South Carolina, 29532

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., Mr. M. Kirk Askins, Mr. David Coker, Mr. Albert Davis, III, Mrs. Angie Stone Godbold, and Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, Acting County Attorney Terri Quinn, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Emergency Management Director Molly Odom, Emergency Medical Services Director Kenny Bowen, Environmental Services Director Gary White, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Fire Chief Ricky Flowers, Human Resources Manager Ginger Winburn, and Library Director Jimmy Epling.

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. Flowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

There were no Citizens' Comments.

Personal Appearances - Ms. Jeronell Bradley - Accommodations Tax Funding For Lamar Egg Scramble Jamboree

Ms. Bradley was not present at the meeting.

Amendment To The Agenda To Bring Forth Executive Session

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to bring forward Executive Session after approval of the minutes and before ordinances.

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

5.A. Monthly Financial Report, May 31, 2022

- 5.B. Beaver Management Program Report, April 2022
- 5.C. Beaver Management Program Report, May 2022
- 5.D. Pee Dee Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) Submission Of A Request For Waiver To The SC Department Of Employment And Workforce
- 5.E. Animal Control Report, April 2022
- 5.F. Building Permit Report, April 2022
- 5.G. April 2022 Building Inspections Report
- 5.H. Letter From Mr. Alexander Paul RE: No Cell Phone Service In Mont Clare Area

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 Countywide Watershed Briefing, April 28, 2022

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the Countywide Watershed Briefing held on April 28, 2022.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes Of Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, May 2, 2022

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held on May 2, 2022.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes Of Budget Worksession, May 12, 2022

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the Budget Worksession held on May 12, 2022.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes Of Special Meeting, May 18, 2022

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 18, 2022.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vote For Executive Session - Discussion Of Negotiations Incident To Proposed Contractual Arrangements And The Receipt Of Legal Advice Regarding Project Line And Other Matters Relating Thereto

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to vote for Executive Session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and the receipt of legal advice regarding Project Line and other matters relating thereto.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - Discussion Of Negotiations Incident To Proposed Contractual Arrangements And The Receipt Of Legal Advice Regarding Project Line And Other Matters Relating Thereto

Motion made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas for Council, along with Attorney Ben Zeigler, Attorney Will Johnson, Acting County Attorney Terri Quinn, and the County Administrator to go into Executive Session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed

contractual arrangements and the receipt of legal advice regarding Project Line and other matters relating thereto.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council and the above-named individuals went into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. and reconvened at 6:32 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 22-06, An Ordinance To Designate That Agency In The County For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Planning For Programs And To Make Appropriations Pursuant To Sections 6-27-40(B) And 12-33-245(B) And (C) Of The 1976 Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, As Amended, For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022, And Ending June 30, 2023 - THIRD READING

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 22-06.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 22-08, An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Ordinary County Purposes For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022, And Ending June 30, 2023; To Provide For The Expenditures Thereof; And To Provide For Revenues For The Payment Thereof - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 22-08.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Davis opposing.

Ordinance No. 22-09, An Ordinance Finding That The Palmetto Rural Fire District May Issue Not Exceeding \$1,600,000 General Obligation Bonds; To Authorize The Palmetto Rural Fire District Commission To Issue Such Bonds; And To Provide For The Publication Of Notice Of The Said Finding And Authorization - FIRST READING

Chairman Hudson read the title of Ordinance No. 22-09 for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 22-10, An Ordinance Authorizing (1) The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax And Incentive Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina (The "County") And Project Line, Acting For Itself, One Or More Affiliates, And/Or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, The "Company"), Pursuant To Which The County Shall Covenant To Accept Certain Negotiated Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes With Respect To The Establishment And/Or Expansion Of Certain Facilities In The County (The "Project"); And (2) Other Matters Relating Thereto - FIRST READING

Chairman Hudson read the title of Ordinance No. 22-10 for first reading. No action required.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards/Commissions/Committees Due To Vacancies & Term Expirations As Of June 30, 2022

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

Ms. Thomas nominated Ms. Judy Alexander for appointment to the Historical Commission to replace Mrs. Sarah Smith.

MOTION made by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to appoint Ms. Judy Alexander to the Historical Commission.

The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Alexander will serve a term to commence on July 1, 2022, and expire on June 30, 2026.

Appointments To Pee Dee Workforce Development Board

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve the request as submitted by Pee Dee Workforce Development Director to reappoint Mr. Wayne Simon (Hartsville Medical Enrichment Services) and Mr. Terry Gainey (SC Fraternal Order of Police) and appoint Mr. Joe Bittle (Chief of Community Health of CareSouth Carolina) to Pee Dee Workforce Development Board for a term to commence July 1, 2022, and expire June 30, 2025.

The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Joe Bittle was nominated by Darlington Chamber of Commerce to replace Mr. Jeff Singletary (Marlboro Pee Dee Electric Cooperative) who did not wish to be reappointed.

Easement To Duke Energy Progress For Overhead/Underground Electric Facilities

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the easement agreement to Duke Energy Progress to construct, reconstruct, operate, patrol, maintain, repair, replace, relocate, add to, modify, and remove electric lines, supporting structures, etc. for the transmission and distribution of electrical energy and technological purposes related to the operation of the electric facilities and communication purposes on property at Nucor Steel near Journeys End Road in Darlington.

The motion carried unanimously.

FY22/23 Accommodations Tax Funding Recommendations & Budget Of Planned Expenditures For The 30% Accommodations Tax Special Funds

Mr. Stewart reported that Council needed to adjust the amount of Accommodations Tax funds recommended for Christmas on Main of Lamar. It was not noticed until after the May 12th Budget Worksession had ended that Christmas on Main of Lamar was set at \$3,500, and Council's internal rule states that Council will give no one more than what they request, and they only requested \$2,500. Therefore, to follow Council's internal rules, Council would need to reassign \$1,000 to another organization.

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Godbold to fund Lamar Egg Scramble \$1,500 reducing Christmas on Main of Lamar to their requested \$2,500.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to accept the Accommodations Tax funding recommendations as amended and Hartsville Chamber of Commerce's budget of planned expenditures for the 30% Accommodations Tax Special Funds.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Davis opposing.

FY22/23 Accommodations Tax funds were approved as follows (last column):

		REQUESTS	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS	Council Workshop Recommendations May 12, 2022	County Council Approval June 6, 2022
APPLICANTS / EVENTS					
30% Special Fund					
1	Hartsville Chamber of Commerce	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500
	<i>Operation of Visitor Info Center</i>				
TOTALS		\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500
65% Remaining Funds					
1	Christmas on Main of Lamar	\$ 2,500	\$ 300	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,500
	<i>1 day festival in December/event</i>				
2	Darlington Veterans Memorial	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	<i>2 Events/Event</i>				
3	Grand Old Post Office Foundation	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
	<i>Series of concerts/advertising & event</i>				
4	Darlington Chamber of Commerce	\$ 13,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	<i>July 4th event/event</i>				
5	Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association	\$ 8,445	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	<i>Maintain BuildupDarlington website/advertising</i>				
6	EdVenture Hartsville	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200
	<i>Children's Museum/Advertising & Facilities</i>				
7	Hartsville Community Center Building Commission	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 12,800	\$ 12,800
	<i>Hartsville Center Theater/Facilities</i>				
8	Lamar Egg Scramble	\$ 4,500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
	<i>3 day festival/Advertising</i>				
9	New Vision Community Development Corp	\$ 15,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	<i>Community Rice Fest/Adv., Event & Facilities</i>				
10	Society Hill Catfish Festival	\$ 3,000	\$ 500	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
	<i>Festival/Event & Advertising</i>				
11	SC Junior Golf Foundation	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
	<i>Players Championship/Event</i>				
12	Southeastern Baseball Classic	Did not submit required documents			
	<i>Baseball Tournament/Event & Advertising</i>				
13	Southeastern Bluegrass Association of SC	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	<i>Monthly Concert Series/Advertising & Event</i>				
14	Terrence F Carraway Foundation	\$ 20,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	<i>SC Fallen Officers Memorial/Event & Facilities</i>				
TOTALS		\$ 153,445	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
			\$ 63,500	\$ 63,500	\$ 63,500

Council's Request To Fund Hartsville Community Center Building Commission/The Center Theater \$7,200 In Hospitality Tax Funds

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker to grant Hartsville Community Building Commission/Center Theater \$7,200 in Hospitality Tax funds.

The motion carried with Ms. Thomas and Mr. Davis opposing.

Administrative Update

Courthouse Construction. Mr. Stewart reported that the Courthouse project was on track and the roof should be applied on/around July 6th. Council will receive an invitation to a "Topping Out Ceremony." The date will be based on when the steel erector returns with the crane to top the building with the last few pieces of steel. Once the contractor notifies the staff, the Clerk will contact Council members. During the "Topping Out Ceremony," Council will walk through the building before the roof is poured.

Countywide Watershed Study. Mr. Stewart reported that all the public meetings for the Countywide Watershed Study had been conducted, the contractor was compiling the information, and the staff was waiting to receive information regarding the next steps.

Ms. Thomas stated that she has a video that she would like to submit and wanted to know how the contractor was going to handle the stormwater and the ditches.

Mr. Stewart responded that surveys can be submitted to the contractor until June 15th. Then the contractor will contact the county to visit sites where follow-up visits are needed.

Spectrum – Internet Services. Ms. Thomas asked about the status of Spectrum's work regarding internet service.

Mr. Stewart stated that although Spectrum had changed some of their employees that were working with the county, they will be in the county by the 3rd quarter of this calendar year to perform heavy construction throughout the county. The staff had not received information regarding the project areas for internet service that the Feds will pay for. However, Spectrum expects to be in the county for the first contract phase where the county will pay for those individuals not being paid for by the Feds.

Ms. Thomas expressed concern about people who are unable to pay for internet services.

Mr. Stewart responded that Council would make sure that the project is built throughout the county. However, there will be other programs for payment assistance for internet services.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mrs. Godbold reported that she had received a few phone calls that certain employees are able to go to training while others are not. Training such as Leadership Hartsville. She asked whether this was open to all employees.

Mr. Stewart responded that anyone could ask to go. This would be a personnel matter and without all the details, he was not able to answer the question.

Mrs. Godbold indicated that she would talk with Mr. Stewart later.

Mrs. Godbold stated that after the Countywide Watershed meeting in Hartsville, two people from City Council asked her about the contract with the fire district that the staff should have received. She was also asked about it today.

Mr. Stewart responded that he received an email from the City Manager around 3:30 p.m. on today. They previously met several times and he had been waiting for the City Manager to get back

with him. The contract was not finalized, yet. It has to be reviewed and presented to Council for consideration.

Mrs. Godbold reported that 11 different employees called her expressing concerns about some things. She asked whether the county could look at doing an employee engagement survey where employees can openly express themselves without any type of retaliation. She also asked Council and the staff to think about considering this.

Mr. Stewart responded that employees could contact Human Resources if there is a problem with their direct supervisor or unfair policy. He also stated that employees need to use the proper channels as well. If Council would like to do something separate, the county could engage a consultant firm.

Mrs. Godbold said the employees feel that they have done those things and did not feel competent in doing so. She does not want people to think that they cannot follow those channels without any repercussions, and for them to feel that they cannot was bothersome to her. Mrs. Godbold said she did not have a lot of names but there seems to have been a lot in the last three to four weeks. She suggested that an anonymous survey would help improve and build on the county's strengths and identify things.

Mr. Askins recognized Hartsville Red Fox Baseball, Softball, Golf, and Track teams/members for their wins and accomplishments this year.

Ms. Thomas suggested that the county implement a program such as "Caught in the Act" to recognize employees for doing good things. She commended the staff at the Solid Waste Collection Centers and the programs at the library. Ms. Thomas said people need to be rewarded and recognized. She also stated that people need to know about the good things in the county.

Mr. Flowers talked about his visit to the construction site of the new courthouse and the Historical Commission addition. He was happy to see the groundbreaking and all the things taking place.

Mr. Flowers reported that since the Accommodations Tax funding was out of the way, and since Mr. Davis had made a point during the Budget Workshop about a distribution plan for Accommodations Tax funds, he would like for the distribution plan to be placed on County Council's July agenda for discussion and possible adoption. Mr. Flowers felt that the proposed distribution plan would be an equitable way to handle future Accommodations Tax and would create a parameter for the Accommodations Tax Committee to operate.

Below is the distribution plan (Percent of Fund) presented at Council's May 12th Budget Worksession:

	Amount Per Municipality	% of Fund	Total
Lamar	\$ 6,500	13%	\$ 6,500
Darlington	\$ 18,500	37%	\$18,500
Hartsville	\$ 18,500	37%	\$32,000
Society Hill	\$ 6,500	13%	\$ 6,500
	\$ 50,000		\$63,500

Mr. Douglas pointed out that the Consent Agenda contained a letter from Mr. Alexander Paul complaining about the lack of cell phone service in Mont Clare area although there was a nearby

tower. Mr. Douglas talked about dead spots along Mechanicville Road, near Mt. Zion Church, and throughout the county. He asked what the county could do about this?

Mr. Stewart did not think that the county can do anything about cell phone service/coverage. First responders in the county know that in certain areas there is no cell phone coverage. It would be up to the cell phone provider/company as to where they are willing to provide cell phone coverage. Mr. Stewart will find out whether other counties have any requirements, etc. He did not feel that the county can require cell phone coverage in particular locations. He will contact Mr. Paul.

Mr. Davis said he would still recommend a 5% cost of living allowance for employees to keep them and to show that Council cares about them. He mentioned that Florence City was paying \$45,000 as starting pay for a police officer.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Flowers for bringing up the Accommodations Tax. However, his response would remain as "no" because Council should have distributed more to Terrence Carraway Foundation because they are doing something important. He thanked the employees and citizens for their work.

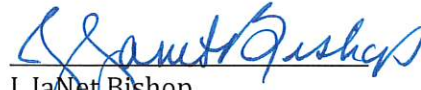
Mr. Coker talked about it being the 78th anniversary of D-Day; the people involved; and the number of people who died. He stated that if we don't always talk about it, the next generation will forget about it.

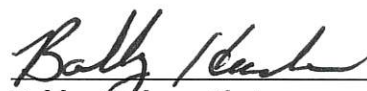
Chairman Hudson thanked the employees and those who attended the Council meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn the meeting. There being no further information, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council


Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of July 11, 2022.