

REGULAR MEETING  
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
DARLINGTON, SC

April 19, 2010

A regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2010, at 6 p.m., at the Darlington County Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway, Darlington, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda, giving the date, time, and place of the meeting was mailed in advance to the local newspapers (the News and Press, the Messenger, and the Morning News), persons requesting notification, and posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to the County Administrator's Office.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Billy Baldwin, Vice Chairman Anne C. Warr, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. Wesley Blackwell, Mr. Marvin Le Flowers, Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, Ms. Mozella "Pennie" Nicholson, and Mr. Alex "Buz" Shaw.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Phyllis Griffiths, County Attorney James C. Cox, Jr., Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans, Fire Chief David Williamson, Emergency Services Director R. Allen Haynes, Jail Administrator Mitch Stanley, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jerry Thompson, Sheriff Captain Andy Locklair, Planning Director Doug Reimold, Recreation Director Ken McRae, Economic Development Director Robert Long, Environmental Services Director Mike Dorriety, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Ms. Susan Alexander of the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ben Williamson, Mr. Bobby Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Blake Bondy, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Jim Faile of the Messenger and Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

Call To Order / Invocation / Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Baldwin called the meeting to order. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mrs. Warr led the pledge of allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Clarence Johnson talked about and compared family farms to factory farms. He stated that we have the responsibility of supporting family farms. Mr. Johnson also talked about the fact that he received two census forms. This made it appear that the Census process was "out of hand" or a fraud.

Mr. Ben Williamson indicated that he had read about the waste to energy proposals that were presented at Council's last meeting. He was in favor of the idea. However, he

could not find out any additional information about the two companies that were mentioned in the newspaper. In the course of looking for information, Mr. Williamson said he found information on the company, Ulturnagen, which was listed on the agenda. He found that Ulturnagen's experience in Greensboro, North Carolina was not very favorable. It was Mr. Williamson's opinion that Council should not make any commitments on this subject based upon the present state of information available.

Comments From Fy2010/2011 Accommodations Tax Applicants

No applicants had signed up to make comments.

Approval Of Minutes - Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, & School Board Dinner Meeting Of March 29, 2010

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the minutes of the Dinner Meeting of March 29, 2010.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Regular Meeting Of April 5, 2010 - **CARRY OVER REQUESTED**

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas to carry over approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2010.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 10-2, An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 58 (Taxation), Article V. (Assessment Of Aircraft), Section 58-101 (Assessment Of Aircraft) To Reduce The Assessment Ratio On Aircraft Subject To Property Tax In Darlington County, South Carolina, And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Warr to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-2.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 10-3, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Corporate Purposes Of Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; To Make Appropriations From The General Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council; And To Make Provisions For The Fiscal Affairs Of Said County For Said Fiscal Year - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Blackwell and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-3.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 10-4, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Fees For The Countywide Enhance 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; To Make Appropriations From The County Emergency Telephone System Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-4.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 10-5, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For The County Library System Of Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; To Make Appropriations From The County Library System Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-5.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 10-6, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For The County Environmental Services Fund For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; To Make Appropriations From The County Environmental Services Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Blackwell to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-6.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 10-7, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For The County Fire District Of Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; To Make Appropriations From The County Fire District Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-7.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 10-8, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Fees For The Development Partnership Fund For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; To Make Appropriations From The County Development Partnership Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-8.

Ms. Nicholson stated that she was concerned about the Economic Development Partnership. She said Council could not ignore some of the things that were going on, especially with the unemployment rate in the county. Ms. Nicholson stated that there was nothing on record to show what the Partnership brought into the county regarding the

development of jobs. It was her understanding that one company had expanded. She said this was the *“elephant in the room that no one wants to talk about.”* Ms. Nicholson stated that Council needed to revisit the issue and possibly look at restructuring the Economic Development Board. Council had placed almost one-half million dollars in the budget since the development of the Partnership. Therefore, Council could not ignore the fact as to what industry has come in since the Partnership was formed. Ms. Nicholson’s support of the Partnership was the assurance that industries would come into the county and help with the employment situation.

The motion carried with Ms. Nicholson opposing.

Ordinance No. 10-9, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Fire Control Purposes Within The Hartsville Fire Protection District For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011; To Appropriate Said Funds For Payment To The City Of Hartsville As Authorized By Darlington County Ordinance No. 97-20, Which Created Said Fire Protection District And Pursuant To An Agreement With The City As Authorized Therein; And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Warr to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-9.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 10-10, 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, 2010, And Ending June 30, 2011 - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Shaw and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-10.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Amendment To The Agenda

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Flowers to place Resolution No. 594, *Proclaiming The Month Of May 2010 As Stroke Awareness Month*, on the agenda for Council’s consideration. A copy of the Resolution was placed at Council’s desk prior to the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Resolutions

Resolution No. 594, Proclaiming The Month Of May 2010 As Stroke Awareness Month

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve Resolution No. 594.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Other Items

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's FY2010/2011 Funding Recommendations

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Warr to accept the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's funding recommendations.

The Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's funding recommendations were as follows:

	<u>APPLICANTS</u>	<u>REQUESTS</u>	<u>RECOMMEND</u>
1	Butler Heritage Foundation/Heritage Week \$3,000 Adv/Promotion; \$5,000 paint gym; \$2,500 roof repair	\$10,500	\$3,100
2	Coker College/Aquila Touring Theater \$2,000 Artists' fees	\$2,000	\$643
3	Coker College/Doug Varone & Dancers \$9,250 Artists' fees	\$9,250	\$1,071
4	Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex/Promotion of the Arts Humanities, Preservation, Cultural Events \$11,000 Personnel; \$5,000 Operating Exp; \$6,000 Contractual Svcs.	\$22,000	\$2,714
5	Darlington County Tourism/Operation Visitor Info Ctr \$33,000 Personnel; \$3,500 Operating Exp; \$1,000 travel; \$1,000 Contractual Svcs.	\$38,500	\$25,386
6	Darlington Chamber / Lamar Egg Scramble Jamboree \$3,410 Adv.; \$600 Flyers/Banners; \$990 Operating Exp.	\$5,000	\$1,850
7	Darlington Chamber / Little Southern 500 \$1,000 Flyers/Banners; \$1,500 Adv; 2,500 Operating Exp.	\$5,000	\$0
8	Darlington Chamber / Racefest \$1,000 Flyers/Banners; \$2,500 Adv; \$5,700 Operating Exp.	\$9,200	\$1,065
9	Darlington Chamber / Society Hill Tour of Homes & Progressive Dinner \$250 Flyers/Banners; \$1,000 Adv.	\$1,250	\$0
10	Darlington Chamber / Taste Of The Farm \$300 Flyers/Banners; \$1,700 Adv.	\$2,000	\$706

11	Darlington Chamber / Yam & Ham Jam \$1,000 Flyers/Banners; \$3,000 Adv; \$4,000 Operating Exp.	\$8,000	\$565
12	Hartsville Chamber / July 4th Fireworks Festival \$2,500 Marketing/Advertising	\$2,500	\$600
13	Hartsville Downtown Dev. Asso./Jazz!Carolina \$5,600 Advertising	\$5,600	\$3,929
14	Hartsville Downtown Dev. Asso./ RenoFest Bluegrass Festival \$15,000 Advertising	\$15,000	\$8,929
15	Hartsville Downtown Dev. Asso./Cotton Harvest Bluegrass \$3,500 Advertising	\$3,500	\$1,357
16	Hartsville Family YMCA/Triathlon, Turkey Trot, Swim Meets, AAU Basketball Tournament, Likety Split \$1,000 Operating Exp.; \$2,000 Contractual Svcs.	\$3,000	\$2,071
17	Old Darlington Dist. SC Genealogical Society/Hartsville Genealogical Research Library \$1,000 Operating Exp; \$2,000 Capital Exp.	\$3,000	\$1,000
18	Pilot Club of Darlington / SC Sweet Potato Festival \$1,000 Adv; \$3,000 Operating Exp.	\$4,000	\$1,571
19	Society Hill Catfish Festival \$7,000 Adv. & Operating Expenses	\$7,000	\$2,071
20	South Carolina Junior Golf Foundation - Hartsville \$10,000 Adv. & Operating Expenses	\$10,000	\$5,086
21	Town of Society Hill / Society Hill Train Depot \$5,000 Labor/Construction	\$5,000	\$1,286
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$171,300</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>

Mrs. Warr and Mr. Blackwell commended the efforts of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commitment Letter/Agreement For Ulturnagen, LLC To Construct And Operate A Plasma Gasification Facility In Darlington County

Ms. Nicholson stated that Council should support this effort since it would not cost the county any money.

**MOTION** was made by Ms. Nicholson and seconded by Mr. Blackwell to approve the Agreement with Ulturnagen, LLC.

County Attorney Jim Cox felt that, from a legal standpoint, there was not enough information for Council to make a decision. He stated that he had spoken with Economic Development Director Robert Long and asked him to check the resources of the two companies, if instructed by Council. He also stated that if the county was willing to go forward with this concept, the county should advertise to find out who else would come forward. Mr. Cox said this was something that Council should not go after with half information. This was immature until Council receives further information.

Mr. Douglas said he would love to see this come, but he wanted to know where the money would be coming from.

Chairman Baldwin said he did not find much information in favor of either company, and the letter that was presented to Council on last week was very vague and carried a "lot of luggage."

Ms. Nicholson said Mr. Frank Hough had appeared at Council's last meeting on behalf of this company. According to the information presented, this would not cost the county any money.

Chairman Baldwin said this would be predicated upon getting DHEC's (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) approval. He indicated that he had discussed, with County Administrator Phyllis Griffiths, the fact that the county could not have two sites (transfer station) according to DHEC. Therefore, Council needed more information. Chairman Baldwin stated that it would appear that if the company could not have made it to Council's last meeting, they would have come to this meeting to present a program for Council to look at.

Mr. Blackwell indicated that Council should accept Attorney Cox's recommendation to direct Economic Development Director Robert Long to look into this matter, because Council did not want to throw away any possible jobs.

Mrs. Warr echoed Mr. Blackwell's sentiments that there needed to be more research.

Ms. Nicholson withdrew her motion and Mr. Blackwell withdrew his second to the motion.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Blackwell and seconded by Mrs. Warr to instruct Mr. Long to look further into both companies and report back with a recommendation.

The motion carried unanimously.

Agreement For Caretaker At Lake Darpo

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the agreement for the caretaker at Lake Darpo.

Mr. Flowers encouraged all members of Council to visit Lake Darpo and see the work that was done on the caretaker house and other improvements made by county and inmate labor at 30 percent to 40 percent less than what it would have cost to contract the work.

The motion carried unanimously.

Authorization To Pay \$5,000 For Robert Lighty Heir Property In The South Darlington Watershed Project Area

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to authorized payment of \$5,000 to the heirs of Robert Lighty for property in the South Darlington Watershed Project area.

Planning Director Doug Reimold indicated that about five parcels were left to deal with.

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
A. Building Permit Types, February 2010 And March 2010	Receive As Information
B. Hartsville Area Recreation Department Calendar Of Events, April Thru June 2010	Receive As Information
C. Letters From Time Warner Cable RE: Changes In Services And Cost Increase For Premium Services	Receive As Information
D. Letter And Certificate Of Appreciation From SC DHEC Commending The County's Participation In The 2010 Earth Day Awards Program	Receive As Information
E. Marlboro/Darlington County Beaver Program Report, February 2010 And March 2010	Receive As Information

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Blackwell and seconded by Mr. Flowers to receive the Consent agenda items as information.

The motion carried unanimously.

Personal Appearances

There were no personal appearances.

Administrative Update -Mrs. Phyllis Griffiths, County Administrator - Update

Mrs. Griffiths reported that she had received a call from Mr. Stewart Hucks, of Rural Development, who indicated that the funds were in for Society Hill Library building. Therefore, the architect was contacted on today to solicit bids.

Mrs. Griffiths requested that Council allow Environmental Services Director Mike Dorriety and Fire Chief David Williamson to present an update.

#### Administrative Update - Sheriff Wayne Byrd - 2009 Annual Report

Mrs. Warr reported that since Sheriff Byrd could not attend the meeting, the Sheriff's Department gave each Council member a copy of their 2009 Annual Report to review. The Sheriff will attend Council's next meeting to answer any questions.

Ms. Nicholson encouraged Council members to review the Sheriff's budget from last year.

#### Administrative Update - Mr. Mike Dorriety, Environmental Services Director

Mr. Dorriety reported that his staff had been asked to find a vendor for plastic grocery bags received at grocery stores, etc. He said they found a vendor who would begin taking the plastic grocery bags on May 3, 2010. Currently, there will be no revenue from this. The bags will be accepted at all of the recycling centers. Mr. Dorriety emphasized that the bags must be clean.

Mrs. Johnson reported that Piggly Wiggly has a program wherein people bring their bags back to reuse and receive extra greenback stamps.

#### Administrative Update - Mr. David Williamson, County Fire Chief

Mr. Williamson indicated that the County Attorney had reviewed the Vehicle Loan Agreement between Darlington Fire District and Darlington Raceway. This had been done in community spirit for the last several years wherein the county provides Darlington Raceway with a reserve apparatus (Class A Pumper Fire Truck) to be used in the parking lot, etc. He said Darlington Raceway wanted to formalize this process this year to accept full responsibility of the vehicle during the race. Mr. Williamson requested Council's authorization for the Chairman to sign the agreement.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Warr to approve the Vehicle Loan Agreement with Darlington Raceway.

The motion carried with Mr. Flowers abstaining because he is contracted with Darlington Raceway during the race.

#### Administrative Update - Mr. Robert Long, Economic Development Director - Sara Lee Distribution Center

Mr. Long did not have an update since this matter had been resolved.

#### Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Mrs. Johnson commended the staff for work on the South Darlington Watershed Project. She said an individual in another family had indicated that he would not sign the easement without further information. The individual does not want the ditch widened due to limited space. He wants to make sure that the easement would be to enter the property to clean the ditch and not for the purpose of widening it. She said Planning was working on this matter. Mrs. Johnson asked about placing information in the newspaper for a certain amount of time for individuals who could not be found.

County Attorney Jim Cox confirmed that a procedure exists for people who could not be found. He has a plan that would take care of this matter.

Mrs. Johnson commended Roads and Bridges for their work and the Little League Opening held on Pine Ballfield last Saturday. She announced that after 38 years of service, the Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex was in foreclosure.

Mrs. Warr congratulated Society Hill Depot on getting an historical marker on yesterday. She was not able to attend the event.

Mr. Douglas asked Planning Director Doug Reimold whether the staff had contacted anyone in the Scipio family regarding easements in the South Darlington Watershed Project area since they were in the area to attend a funeral this week.

Mr. Reimold stated that Councilwoman Johnson helped them to locate and get five out of six family members to sign an easement. The family members did not know where one individual was.

Mr. Douglas commended the Recreation Department for work on the new ballfield in Dovesville.

Ms. Nicholson reiterated her concerns about the Partnership and the unemployment rate in Darlington County. She wanted to make sure of the amount of money that the county was refunding the Partnership.

Mrs. Griffiths explained that the current budget contained \$140,000 from the Partnership and \$140,000 from the county. Because of the benefits, etc., the amount increased to about \$142,000. Mrs. Griffiths further explained that the county gets back about \$89,000. The Partnership was paying the county back monthly as the county requests reimbursement based upon a percentage. The reimbursement for the salary equals the \$140,000.

Ms. Nicholson presented her concerns about the Economic Development Office being in Florence County. She asked whether the county was bearing the full cost of the salaries and benefits.

Mrs. Griffiths stated that this was split. The Partnership puts in \$140,000 and the county puts in \$140,000. Most of the budget was salary, and the Partnership provides the county with a printout when their \$140,000 comes in, along with travel expenses. The Partnership reimburses the county the \$89,000. Mrs. Griffiths also explained that out of the \$280,000, the county only budgeted \$220,000. The Partnership has to provide the county with a printout to make up the difference between the \$89,000 and \$240,000. The Partnership pays for their office supplies and travel. The County mainly carries the payroll to reimburse the \$89,000 and bills the Partnership.

Ms. Nicholson wanted to know what new businesses the Partnership brought in that Mr. Long and his staff could not have brought in without the Partnership. She said this was not for the County Administrator to answer, this was for Council to answer. Ms. Nicholson said it was time for Council to revisit its commitment to support the Partnership. She felt that the county was putting the money in and the Partnership was paying for Mr. Long's travel. However, the county paid for this before the Partnership.

~ Senator Gerald Malloy arrived at the meeting at about 6:58 p.m. ~

Ms. Nicholson talked about that fact that no jobs had come to the county since the Partnership and the county had never been this way in terms of unemployment and recruiting businesses. She said a lot of people were asking questions and wanted to know why the Economic Development Office was in Florence County. The main purpose of the Partnership

was to bring industries and businesses into the county to develop jobs. Ms. Nicholson again asked the number of jobs that had come to Darlington County since the Partnership.

Ms. Nicholson then asked about the incident and investigation at Robinson Lake. She said a group had met with Congressman Clyburn to discuss the health initiative when he made a statement about this. Ms. Nicholson wanted to know the extent of the county's involvement with the information and investigation of the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) at Robinson Lake. It was her understanding that there was news last week that the NRC found ongoing problems. She said information was on CNN and in the Morning News and The State newspapers about NRC coming back to town last week.

Emergency Services Director Allen Haynes reported that there was an incident last week at the H.B. Robinson Plant involving a small fire, which caused the disablement of another electrical component that resulted in an emergency shutdown of the nuclear reactor, which was controlled. Subsequently, they already had a refueling planned for three weeks from this point. Since it takes so long to shut down to prepare for refueling, officials elected to not take a week to restart the plant and then shut it back down. The NRC already had a presence at the H.B. Robinson Plant since they conduct regular audits and investigations. Coincidentally, the NRC was at the H.B. Robinson Plant investigating the effectiveness of the fire brigade when the fire broke out. The investigation then progressed to a post incident fear that people have which was addressed by H.B. Robinson's officials doing a press release. The only thing that was out of the ordinary was loud noises of steam release as a result of cooling the reactor quicker than normal. Mr. Haynes said they received a few calls and addressed this with H.B. Robinson's Public Information Officer releasing information to the community. Currently, the plant was 100 percent safe. NRC's investigation was ongoing to determine the cause of the fire to make sure that it does not happen again. Mr. Haynes explained that the plant was shut down on the nuclear reactor side to perform refueling and scheduled general preventative maintenance and things were normal at the plant. What created the fear was the fact that there was an incident and then the plant went into the normal refueling process. He mentioned that he would be attending a scheduled meeting on Thursday with H.B. Robinson's officials and would report the results of the meeting to Mrs. Griffiths and to anyone else who needs to know. The Emergency Management Division was fully aware of what was going on. There was not a need to make a public service announcement because after the steam release went away after a couple of days, the plant went into its standard refueling. Since the refueling, Mr. Haynes stated that he received comments about heavy traffic along Highway 151 and New Market Road area. The first week after the incident, there was an additional 300 people working. Now the plant had an additional 1,000 people working as a part of the refueling process.

Ms. Nicholson said Council needed to know what was going on, and she should not have had to bring the matter up. Council should have known more than what was being reported in the Morning News.

It was Chairman Baldwin's understanding that this was NRC's standard operation for any nuclear shut down.

Mrs. Warr pointed out that anytime the NRC performs an audit, etc., something is written and placed in Hartsville Library for everyone to read. However, very few people ever go to the library to read the information.

Ms. Nicholson said the Chairman or Vice Chairman should know what goes on rather than getting the information from the newspaper. Council should have information to report back to the people who inquire about the matter.

Mr. Haynes indicated that this could be added as another step in their process - to notify Council Chairman and give him/her a gateway into the information. This could be done through the county's information officer. He assured Council that if a leak were ever detected, the county would make serious announcements to evacuate.

Chairman Baldwin said Mrs. Griffiths, Mr. Haynes, and he had attended the meeting in Hartsville. It was his understanding the H.B. Robinson officials would announce to the public what they would be doing so that people would not be upset about what was going on. There was nothing involving contamination in the county. This was the purpose of placing the information in the newspaper and on television.

Mrs. Johnson asked about the number of people coming in to work at the H.B. Robinson Plant.

Mr. Haynes stated that certain jobs have to be done by professionals and, maybe, some local people. These jobs were not permanent jobs or an unemployment "fixer."

Ms. Nicholson emphasized that she was concerned about community safety.

#### Senator Gerald Malloy - Comments

Senator Malloy stated that he had spoken with several Council members over the past few weeks concerning budgetary matters. Therefore, he wanted to provide Council with an outlook about the state and the county. He commended the efforts of emergency personnel throughout the country.

Senator Malloy reported that during this week in Columbia, they would receive the Senate version of the budget. They talked about the economic conditions and the sinking general fund tax base that has resulted in three years of negative general fund revenue growth. Prior to this time, there was a general revenue decline only once (in 2002) in over 30 years. From the peak of the general fund revenue in 2006/2007 to present, the state's collections had dropped \$1.6 billion (about 24 percent of the budget for the State of South Carolina). The state was placing fees on everything in an attempt to balance the budget and to ensure that there is sufficient revenue to take care of core governmental functions. Senator Malloy said the question has become, "How did we get here?" The answer would be tax relief to include the elimination of grocery tax, the elimination of the state's bottom income tax bracket, the reduction of tax for small businesses, and the tax swap (the one-cent increase in sales tax to eliminate the school operation portion of property taxes). He also mentioned that part three of the budget included the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Federal Fiscal Relief to Aid the State Budget. Senator Malloy commended the Annual Report from the Sheriff's Department that was delivered to his office for review and commented on the number of grants the Sheriff's Department had submitted. He indicated that there was no growth in 2010, but they were speculating a two percent growth rate. At this rate, it would take a decade to return to where the state was in 2006. Senator Malloy said no revenue growth and statewide funding issues have created a big budget gap of about \$560 million. He also stated that agencies would be facing more reductions and the remaining stimulus funds would be appropriated in an effort to temporarily minimize the effects of the reduction of direct services to citizens. He talked about the tax swap continuing to be insufficient to fund property tax relief because the sales tax base was shrinking with the economy and other matters; the general fund continuing to supplement

annually approximately \$100 million; and the federal stimulus monies due to end in FY10/11 would create an estimated budget gap in FY11/12 of about \$1.3 billion. Senator Malloy thanked County Council for its efforts not to increase taxes on the citizens. As for good news, he reported that on today, they received clearance on the new Society Hill Library facility.

Senator Malloy also thanked Chairman Baldwin and Council for its efforts to have a company, PolyQuest, reinvest in Darlington County on about six different occasions. Senator Malloy expressed his concerns about the unemployment rate in the county and indicated that he had appeared before Council several years ago to talk about issues relating to the economy. He pointed out that he was not and had not been involved with the Economic Development Partnership since he was told that they did not want politics involved. He was concerned that when this group was established, it was said that it would be reassessed after a year and one half to two years. Therefore, it was time for Council to reassess this matter, particularly regarding the structure. Senator Malloy commended the individual efforts of Council members. However, there needs to be collective, cooperative, and collaborative efforts, which the county has not had in two and one half years. Therefore, it was time to reassess the progress made, job creations, benchmarks established to measure accomplishments/successes, etc. He said the county was still around 13 percent unemployment. Senator Malloy reported that he had been working on and discussing this issue in Columbia. He talked about how the Boeing project was put together by the elected leaders of the State, which was one of the biggest things that have happened in South Carolina. Senator Malloy expressed appreciation for council's cooperative efforts with him and told Council to keep in mind that this was not about personnel, but about structure. Structure should be such that it responds to Council since Council runs the county. He talked about his recent visits to Washington, DC, what could happen in Commerce, internet for Lamar, etc., but he needed a link and the opportunity to do his job. Currently, the opportunity does not exist. He said the proposal from two years ago did not work and the dots have to be connected for the county. The ultimate responsibility was with Council, and he was the facilitator as it relates to the state. He emphasized that Council must find ways to do things different. He was working on several projects of economic interest and would share them at the appropriate time. He talked about people should be given the opportunity to earn a livable wage in the county and mentioned some of the statewide issues that they were working on.

Mr. Blackwell thanked Senator Malloy for visiting the Council meeting and questioned the millage cap for Darlington County as determined by Mr. Bobby Bowers. He had an issue with how Mr. Bowers come up with the numbers.

Senator Malloy talked about the need for everyone to be counted in the census. He did not know how Mr. Bowers came up with the numbers. However, he would try to arrange a meeting with Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Bowers.

Ms. Nicholson talked about the Senator being instrumental in the development of the Partnership. However, she felt that it should be looked at again. She wanted to know what the Partnership had done specifically.

Senator Malloy said he did not think that the Partnership had served its potential or its anticipated function. He thought the private side would have provided about \$400,000, which the Partnership has not come close to. However, he realizes that the county would have a difficult time with any funding measures this year as it relates to incentives, etc. Senator Malloy pointed out that he had not been involved with the Partnership because he was told in the beginning that no politics should be involved. Therefore, he did not know the details as to what was going on with the Partnership. He mentioned the various economic development projects that he had

worked on with the Council Chairman. Senator Malloy stated that the Partnership needs to be reassessed and the structure should provide an opportunity for cooperation and collaboration. Currently, Society Hill, Lamar, and Darlington City had not joined the Partnership and it was his understanding that they have no anticipation of joining. He also was interested in the assessment, the number of jobs, benchmarks, measures of success, etc. because he needs the opportunity to do his job in the county - to connect the dots.

Mrs. Johnson said she was concerned about the new technology project in the county. However, nothing was being done in Society Hill. It was her understanding that when the proposal was written, Society Hill did not have a magistrate. Funding for this position was carried in the budget for several years before it was deleted. Society Hill was the oldest district in the county and was being left out. She said Society Hill had been without a magistrate for seven to eight years when all the other municipalities have one.

Senator Malloy indicated that when he first took office, there were audits that had to be done and issues resolved. At the same time, another magistrate had been out on disability for a period of time at a cost to the county. Then there was a change wherein two lawyers were appointed to do the cases. He said they tried to hold off for a period of time as a cost saving measure for the county since the county had functioned for almost a year by having to pay a salary where there were no benefits being used. At the same time, the magistrate representing Society Hill became full time, moved to Darlington, and later retired. Once he retired, he was replaced with another person who came to Darlington, took the old job, and never went back to Society Hill. At the same time, they needed relief and council had allocated money. He said this would probably be looked at again. However, a lot of people were trying to get some unified systems to improve and to be more efficient.

Mrs. Johnson said that if something was going to be done for one, it should be done for all while the system was being implemented. She announced to the Senator that after 38 years, the Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex was in foreclosure.

Senator Malloy stated that he had received the one-hour version of the Darlington County Cultural Realism Center in his office. He made the calls that he was asked to make and there would be another meeting.

Chairman Baldwin thanked the Senator for attending the meeting and extended an open door welcome to future Council meetings.

#### Vote For Executive Session

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to vote for executive session for the discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas for County Council members, the County Attorney, the County Administrator, and Economic Development Director Robert Long to go into executive session for the discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council recessed at 7:35 p.m. prior to going into executive session and reconvened at 7:55 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Baldwin stated that no action was taken during executive session.

Adjournment

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Flowers to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mrs. J. JaNet Bishop, Clerk to Council

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Mr. Billy Baldwin, Chairman  
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of May 3, 2010.