

REGULAR MEETING  
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
DARLINGTON, SC

February 1, 2010

A regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 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, Jetport Manager Barry Kennett, Recycling Coordinator Rodney Freeze, Fire Chief David Williamson, Elections/Voter Registration Director Hoyt Campbell, Library Director Nancy Ray, Planning Director Doug Reimold, Economic Development Director Robert Long, Sheriff Wayne Byrd, Deputy Sheriff Ralph Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Blake Bondy, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Mr. Clarence Brunson, Ms. Ruth Baronda, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Lisa Chalain-Rock of the Messenger and Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

Recognition of Firefighters

Darlington Fire District Chief David Williamson reported that the fire district ran 775 calls in 2009. The top four responders were Firefighter Travis Smith who responded to 112 calls, Firefighter Sam Paul, Jr. who responded to 113 calls, and Byrdtown Assistant Fire Chief Charles Ingram who responded to 130 calls. Chief Williamson presented each firefighter with a plaque in appreciation for their outstanding dedication and service to Darlington County Fire District.

Chief Williamson also recognized Lt. Brandon Wilson, a full-time firefighter who responded to 146 calls. Full-time firefighters are subject to call back after hours to assist with emergencies.

### Call To Order / Invocation / Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Baldwin called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Flowers led the pledge of allegiance.

### Citizens' Comments

Ms. Ruth Baronda reported that she had read an article in the December 6, 2009 issue of the Morning News about a \$300,000 study to assess the needs of the I-95 corridor in South Carolina. The article made note that local politicians need to read the report and show the same spirit of cooperation in creating greater opportunities in South Carolina's I-95 corridor. Ms. Baronda said this report, containing 185 pages, could be found on Marion's website.

Mr. Clarence Johnson showed his no farm no food sign. He stated that people do not realize where their food comes from. Food comes from "mother earth" and it takes a lot of people to raise and harvest food. Mr. Johnson also compared factory farms with family farms. He said factory farms destroy the soil whereas family farms restore it, and family farms pay taxes while factory farms take from the taxes.

### Approval Of Minutes - Regular Meeting Of January 19, 2010

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Warr to approve the minutes to the regular meeting of January 19, 2010.

The motion carried unanimously.

### Ordinances

Ordinance No. 10-1, An Ordinance To Amend The Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article IV. (Boards, Commissions, And Committees), Chapter 2, Division 2 (Jetport Commission), Chapter 2, Division 4 (Construction Board Of Adjustment And Appeals), Chapter 2, Division 5 (Economic Development Partnership Board), Chapter 18, Division 2 (Darlington County Ambulance Service District), Chapter 26, Division 2 (Board Of Fire Control), Chapter 34, Article II. (Library Board), Chapter 38, Article II. (Parks And Recreation Commission), Chapter 42, Article III. (Planning Commission), And Chapter 58, Article II. (Board Of Assessment Appeals) To Increase The Number Of Members Serving On Boards, Commissions, And Committees Appointed By Darlington County Council, To Delete Chapter 50, Article IV. (Upper Pee Dee Regional Solid Waste Advisory Council), To Revise Certain Language, And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - **SECOND READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 10-1.

Mrs. Johnson questioned why the Historical Commission was not listed in the title of the ordinance.

Mrs. Griffiths pointed out that the Historical Commission was not established under a separate ordinance like some of the other Boards and Commissions. The Historical Commission was established under the general ordinance for Boards, Commissions, and Committees and listed under Section 2-204 (Enumeration) in the Darlington County Code of Ordinances.

## Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

## Committee Report - Alcohol & Drug Citizen Advisory Committee, Ms. Ruth Baronda, Committee Member

Ms. Baronda handed out the FY09 Client Attendance Report from Rubicon, brochures about Rubicon and Rubicon's Prevention Services, Children Services, and Adolescent Services. She also handed out a brochure about PREP (Palmetto Retailers Education program that helps reduce underage access to alcohol and tobacco products), South Carolina Tobacco Education Program (SC TEP), and Under Age Drinking Laws. Ms. Baronda briefly talked about Rubicon's efforts to promote their services since their numbers had decreased in the area of alcohol and drug abuse. Rubicon's budget was reduced, but they did not lose any personnel.

## Other Items

### Appointment Of County Council Representatives To Pee Dee Regional Council Of Governments Board (COG), Chairman Billy Baldwin

Chairman Baldwin reappointed the same Council members to Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments Board. He appointed Billy Baldwin (Business), Wesley Blackwell (Council), Mozella Nicholson (Business), and Anne Warr (Council).

Mrs. Johnson said she had questioned the appointments to this Board at Council's last meeting, and Council members were unsure as to the length of time they had served on this board. She presented an analysis showing who had served on COG's Board over the past twenty years.

### Appointment To The FY10/11 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Mrs. Warr indicated that she wanted to reappoint Mrs. Gay Tallon of Lamar to represent lodging on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. She then stated that the attendance record for all the FY09/10 Committee members were good. Therefore, she recommended that Council reappoint the same committee members.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to reappoint the members to the FY10/11 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. The members are as follows:

- Mrs. Gaye Tallon of Lamar representing Lodging (Mims House/Catering),
- Mr. Steve Tinney of Hartsville representing Lodging (Oak Manor Inn),
- Ms. Carol Bishop of Hartsville representing Hospitality Business (Lynn's Place Social Club & Bar),
- Mr. Kanti Patel of Hartsville representing Hospitality Business (Fairfield Inn),
- Mr. Travis Bishop of Hartsville representing Citizen At Large,
- Mr. Scotty Jeffords of Darlington representing Citizen At Large, and
- Mrs. Joyce Wingate of Darlington representing Cultural (Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex).

The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment To Fill An Unexpired Term On The Board Of Fire Control

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Flowers to appoint Mr. Marshall King to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Ricky Nettles as Lake Swamp Station 15 representative on the Board of Fire Control. This term will expire June 30, 2012.

The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Transfer Request, Roads & Bridges.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the budget transfer request for Roads and Bridges.

Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson was requesting to transfer \$170 to Overtime (Signs) (001-020-43140-1300) and \$2,500 to Overtime (Road Maint.) (001-020-43120-1300) from the following line items: \$200 from Overtime (RC-Non) (001-020-43131-1300), \$990 from Overtime (Road Construction) (001-020-43121-1300), \$200 from Overtime (Road Maintenance) (001-020-43130-1300), and \$1,280 from Salary/Wages (Road Maintenance) (001-020-43120-11100). Overtime was used to meet the deadline for construction of Peachtree Drive, Tarte Street, Lovelace Lane, R-Bar-M Ranch Road, Vivian Lane, William Lane, Fairview Court, and Sapphire Street.

The motion carried unanimously.

2009 Airport Layout Plan Update, Darlington County Jetport

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Blackwell and seconded by Mrs. Warr to approve the 2009 Airport Layout Plan Update.

Mrs. Johnson and Chairman Baldwin commended the detailed plan update.

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
A. Census Complete Count Committee Minutes, January 7, 2009	Receive As Information
B. FY10/11 Budget Calendar	Receive As Information
C. FY10/11 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Activity Calendar	Receive As Information
D. Jetport Commission Minutes, December 10, 2009	Receive As Information
E. Keep Darlington County Beautiful Minutes, November 17, 2009	Receive As Information
F. Building Permit Types Report, December 2009	Receive As Information

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| G. Animal Control Report, December 2009  | Receive As<br>Information |
| H. Economic Development Partnership Minutes, November 18,<br>2009 And December 8, 2009 | Receive As<br>Information |
| I. "Thank You" Note From The Family Of Charles Griffitts                               | Receive As<br>Information |
| J. Board Of Fire Control Minutes, July 23, 2009 And<br>September 24, 2009              | Receive As<br>Information |

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Personal Appearance - The Honorable Judge Mike Baxley - Court Software Maintenance & Equipment/S.C. Judicial Department

Chairman Baldwin announced that the Honorable Judge Baxley would make his appearance at a later date.

Personal Appearance - Mr. Clarence Brunson - Trash & Crime Along Sarah Circle In Hartsville

Mr. Brunson, a resident of 945 Sarah Circle in Hartsville, reported that he was a prisoner in his home. He stated that he had witnessed shootings, drug sales, littering, nearby businesses (a card house and a liquor house) operating without the proper licenses, and on today, he witnessed two vehicles from the National Guard Armory parked in this area for almost six hours. Mr. Brunson said he had contacted the Sheriff's Department about the situation, but nothing happened. He said the liquor house recently added a game room, but has no license, and the card house recently added a lounge that is scheduled to open on Sunday night with a Super Bowl Party. Mr. Brunson also reported that the owners/operators of the club located near his residence were piling litter in the back of the club and against his fence. He said someone had run into and tore down his fence and run into his truck. He complained that deputies would be parked at the nearby Markette Store, but would not patrol his area. Mr. Brunson said a deputy told him that people could park anywhere they want to as long as they do not block his driveway. Therefore, he was a prisoner in his own home.

Mr. Brunson said he had contacted Councilwoman Nicholson and now was asking Council for help. He said the lounge was built without a building permit; but he was issued a pink slip indicating that he needed a building permit to build a storage building to keep people from stealing his things. Mr. Brunson talked about the items that had been stolen from his property and the fact that his dog had been poisoned. He also mentioned that it took the Darlington County Prison Farm one and one half days during last week to pick up litter in this area, and when the Roads Department repairs the road, motorists speed on it and mess it up again. Sarah Circle is located in the unincorporated area of Darlington County off Washington Street and Martin Luther King Drive.

Mr. Brunson indicated that he had talked with Sheriff Byrd regarding this matter three weeks ago and nothing had changed. He could not allow his grandchildren to play in his yard because of the situation.

Mrs. Warr asked whether the buildings (the card house and liquor house) were being rented.

Mr. Brunson indicated that the owner resided in one of the houses and could possibly own both of them. He said this was nothing new, the problems existed during Sheriff Campbell's tenure. However, everything had gotten worse. The lounge was added onto the card house within the past three months without a building permit and the liquor house added a game room. Mr. Brunson said he had been at this residence for the past six years and it takes a deputy 15 to 20 minutes to respond when they are down the street at the Markette.

#### Administrative Update - Mr. Doug Reimold - Stormwater Fee For Darlington County

Planning Director Doug Reimold introduced Mr. Jeff Smith, Engineer with BP Barber And Associates. This firm was assisting the Planning Department, which is responsible for compliance with the stormwater program implemented by the state and federal governments. Mr. Reimold handout information on Mr. Smith's presentation.

Mr. Smith reported that within the past two years, County Council had approved a stormwater ordinance to govern construction, development, and practices that affect stormwater within the county. In talking about the program background, Mr. Smith reported that the EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Program was a series of regulations from the Clean Water Act (CWA) of the 1970's. Initially, factories were regulated for point source pollution from their pipes. The second phase included non-point source pollution from parking lots, streets, rooftops, etc. that runs into the drains untreated and into the streams and rivers. Mr. Smith described the Phase II Program as an unfunded mandate implemented by the EPA and passed down to DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control). The EPA has estimated the cost to implement the program at \$5 to \$8 per person per year. Phase II Goal would be to eliminate pollution in our waterways. Mr. Smith stated that the initial permit, which the county was under until March 2011, lists six minimum control measures which include public education and outreach, public participation and involvement, illicit discharge detection, elimination, and enforcement, construction site runoff control and enforcement, post-construction runoff control and enforcement, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping. He indicated that the program had been developed, the six minimum control measures implemented and plans developed, and everything was moving forward according to the permit schedule.

Mr. Smith talked about the Planning Department's existing staff members having to do their normal jobs, plus handle the stormwater program. Plus, the new permit in 2011 would include more requirements such as potentially monitoring streams, water quality monitoring, testing when it rains, recording and reporting results to DHEC, etc. Therefore, the question was how to fund this program. Currently, this program was being funded from the General Fund. The state and national trend for funding such program was the development of a stormwater utility. The City of Florence has a stormwater utility and the City of Hartsville was in the process of developing one. The utility provides money for the stormwater program derived from the users of the stormwater system. The four major stormwater funding methods include taxes, service charges, exactions, and assessments. Mr. Smith reported that the county was looking at a service charge - an assessment wherein everyone would contribute to the stormwater system. He

explained that a stormwater utility would be the most fair and equitable method of obtaining revenue for the management of a stormwater program. This method charges all parcels a fee based upon their relative contribution to stormwater runoff into the drainage system. The requirements for a utility would include program specific activities (any money collected for the stormwater program would have to be used for the program). These funds could not be used for general government purposes. Also, the services would have to be provided countywide. The advantages of a stormwater utility would include consolidation of everything, stable funding source to meet EPA unfunded mandate requirements, and consistency. Establishing a stormwater utility would include developing and adopting a Stormwater Ordinance (stating what the money would be used for, how the fees would be collected, etc.), developing a stormwater budget based on needs, and a budget ordinance with a flat fee established for the utility.

Mr. Blackwell asked whether each person would be charged a different amount.

Mr. Smith explained that the initial fee would be a flat rate fee for residential and a flat rate for businesses. Typically, businesses have more contributions to the stormwater system. The estimated cost for Darlington County would be about \$10 to \$15 per year per parcel (\$300,000 total).

Mrs. Griffiths explained that this would be similar to the vehicle fee. She also explained that the Stormwater Ordinance would be changed to address what the funds would be used for (just as was done with the vehicle fee). She said the staff was preparing Council to adopt a fee/budget ordinance to offset the expenses for stormwater management. Mrs. Griffiths also talked about the need of an additional person in the Planning Office to handle this program, which would include more mandates. She said Mr. Smith was assisting the staff with establishing the costs, fees, etc.

Mrs. Warr wanted to know whether the person hired would have to visit every house in the county or would this person only look at new constructions. She said it appears that some homes may have to install retention ponds.

Planning Director Doug Reimold indicated that the program would not go to this extreme. He explained that the Planning Department did not have the staff to manage the program, which needed daily attention. He envisions hiring at least one individual initially to pay attention to the six different measures (monitoring, inspections, reports, etc.) that were presented in Mr. Smith's presentation.

Mr. Smith clarified that the staff would not go to every house. If there were an instance with discolored, smelly water running from a residence, there would be an investigation. He explained that EPA was holding DHEC accountable, and DHEC was holding the county accountable. Therefore, stormwater issues would fall upon the burden of the county in its responsibility to make sure that the waterways are clean.

Chairman Baldwin asked whether the county would be responsible for the proper drainage of all the subdivisions, drainage from the South Darlington Watershed Project, etc.

Mr. Reimold explained that the county has a regulated area that could expand with every permit.

It was Mr. Flower's understanding that if an area tested "positive" for pollutants, remediation would have to be done. Therefore, neighborhoods may have to be regulated because of the amount of stormwater runoff that continues to test positive for pollutants.

Mr. Reimold clarified that this currently was not being done; but was moving in that direction.

Mr. Shaw wanted to know how much of Black Creek was owned by the county.

Mr. Flowers responded that the county did not own much of Black Creek. However, the county was 100 percent responsible for the stormwater that goes into it.

Mr. Smith stated that the county was responsible for enforcing the stormwater program. The cost for this program would be included in the FY10/11 budget.

Ms. Nicholson asked whether this would help with a stormwater project in Hartsville, if there were ever one.

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Griffiths talked about the possibility and funds for such projects.

Mrs. Johnson asked about the municipalities doing work (stormwater program) on their own. She questioned whether the county was responsible, whether the county would pull in the municipalities, or whether each municipality would do its own program.

Mrs. Griffiths explained that Hartsville was doing its own program.

Mr. Smith said none of the municipalities currently was permitted. However, Hartsville would be permitted during the next permit cycle in March. Therefore, Hartsville was in the process of developing its own program within the city limits. Mr. Smith stated that he would not anticipate any of the other municipalities in the county to be pulled in. This falls on the county.

Mrs. Warr asked whether the county would be responsible for Lamar, Darlington, and Society Hill since these municipalities do not have a stormwater plan.

Mrs. Griffiths said the figures presented did not include Hartsville. Hartsville residents would not receive the fee from the county.

Mr. Reimold added that residents of Lamar, Darlington, and Society Hill would not receive the fee. Nothing inside a city limit was included.

Mrs. Warr asked whether the municipalities would have to meet the same requirements.

Mr. Smith responded that the municipalities were not yet regulated.

Mrs. Griffiths pointed out that the county could not apply the fee in areas that were not mandated.

Mr. Smith explained that portions of Darlington County had been drawn into being regulated as a result of the population density in Florence County and the City of Florence. The permitted areas were based upon population density and the service area for Florence included part of Darlington County. Therefore, Darlington County was brought in on the regulatory side.

Mrs. Griffiths talked about the county having a MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) area by being near Florence, and the fact that these areas may eventually expand. She said Lamar and Society Hill currently were not in the MS4 area.

Mr. Smith talked about the Stormwater Consortium between Florence County and Darlington County that works as a partnership for education, programs, and outreach. Currently, there was not a consortium with the City of Hartsville. As of next year, there would be.

Chairman Baldwin asked why people in the cities would not be charged the same as people in the county if the cities were not permitted and the county has to take care of the runoff from the cities.

Mr. Reimold explained that until an area reaches a certain population density within a population center of 50,000 or more, it would not be under the regulation. Because the City of Darlington was so far away from the City of Florence, it was not included. However, Darlington County was next to Florence County with the stipulated population density (500 per square mile). The circle went out as far as it could, but did not touch the City of Darlington. No one knows what will happen during the next cycle. If the circle widens, the City of Darlington could be brought in. Mr. Reimold pointed out that should the county identify a problem with a construction site in the city, the staff would work with the city to remedy the problem.

Ms. Nicholson talked about the Markette in Hartsville being on city water but was located in the county.

Mr. Smith talked about the cities not being part of the urbanized areas regulated by EPA. However, with the current stormwater ordinance, if pollutants are identified, the county could levy a fine on the legal discharger (the property owner) even if it is in the city limits. As soon as the water leaves the city and enters the county, the county becomes responsible.

Mrs. Johnson said it appears that Florence County was the lead in the stormwater program and used part of Darlington County to complete what was needed for the project. She wanted to know whether this would keep the county from doing what it should be doing for the entire county.

Mr. Smith stated that the regulated area that extends into Darlington County was being regulated by Darlington County. The permit from EPA for Darlington County was different from Florence County's permit. He clarified that the Planning Department had regulatory control over the activities in Darlington County separate from what was going on in Florence County.

Mrs. Johnson wanted to know whether information on the regulated portion of Darlington County was available.

Mr. Smith explained that a portion of the funds and fees would be used to help with the program, which consists of the small-regulated area in Darlington County. The program and fees would also be used to help with drainage issues.

Mrs. Warr clarified that if an individual owns five pieces of land and receives five different tax notices, there would be a fee on each tax notice although the pieces of land join.

Mr. Reimold said this was the way the fee was being established. He said the county did not have a good mechanism for a monthly fee such as a water bill. Since the county has property tax notices, the staff felt that this would be the way to initiate the fee. As time goes on, the staff hopes that there could be a more equitable system wherein properties that generate more stormwater would contribute more. This would take time and money.

Chairman Baldwin thanked Mr. Reimold and Mr. Smith for their presentation.

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

Mrs. Griffiths requested Council to allow Economic Development Director Robert Long and Fire Chief David Williamson to make a presentation.

There were no objections.

#### Administrative Update - Mr. Robert Long, Economic Development - I-20 Industrial Park Site Certification & Grant Opportunity

Mr. Long reported that on today, he received the official information for completion of the site certification for the I-20 Industrial Park located off I-20 at exit 137. Having this work completed could save a developer two to three months of construction time. Mr. Long said the site certification was paid for by a grant from Santee Cooper. No county funds were used to complete this process.

Mr. Long reported that as a part of this study, an infrastructure plan was also completed by the company. He said the company looked at the location of water, sewer, and roads and the cost associated with extending water and sewer and installing a park entrance road. The cost associated with this was \$1.24 million. Mr. Long also reported that the county had received notification on last week about an opportunity to pursue a grant through EDA (Economic Development Administration). He talked about Wellman being

approved under the Trade Adjustment Act (one of the reasons that Wellman closed was due to oversee competition). Darlington County was one of sixteen counties approved for Trade Adjustment funds. The full application was not due until April 20<sup>th</sup>. However, Mr. Long requested Council's permission to pursue a grant for 90 percent of the cost for infrastructure (road, water, sewer) for the I-20 Industrial Park.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to authorize Mr. Long to pursue the grant opportunity for infrastructure in the I-20 Industrial Park.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Administrative Update -Mr. David Williamson, Fire Chief - Donation Of Land From Mechanicsville Community Association

Mr. Williamson stated that at Council's last meeting, Council granted permission for the staff to move forward with the Mechanicsville Fire Station project. At that time, he indicated that there may be additional land available to the Fire District at no charge from Mechanicsville Community Association. Mr. Williamson announced that Mechanicsville Community Association was in the position to donate to the county 1.56 acres. The parcels had been surveyed and County Attorney James Cox, Jr. had been given the necessary information to prepare a deed to place the property in the county's name, if acceptable by County Council. The county currently owns .53 acres. This donation would provide the additional building space needed to construct a new fire station, allow the existing fire station to remain, and once the new building is complete enough to move into, the county would demolish the old building and complete the remaining site work. This would eliminate the need for the Fire District to look for temporary housing in this area.

Mr. Flowers stated that when the new fire department is built, it would be a nice gesture to erect a marker/sign saying how much the county appreciates the Mechanicsville Community Association and the people of Mechanicsville for their generous gift. The Association had provided the land for the existing fire station, too.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Flowers to accept the donation of 1.56 acres from Mechanicsville Community Association.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mr. Flowers requested background information on Arrowhead Road, a dirt road with a lot of tractor-trailer traffic.

Mrs. Johnson reported that during last month, it was stated that everyone should be given a chance to serve on different boards and commissions. She handed out information as to who had served on the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments Board for the past twenty years. Mrs. Johnson talked about poor people suffering as politicians play politics. She said this was being done on all levels of government. Mrs. Johnson stated that Council wanted to change things with the Boards and Commissions. However, if this was good for one thing, it should be good for all.

Mrs. Johnson presented her concerns about obtaining a complete census count. Although there were commercials, she stated that this was the first time in a long time that she had not seen even a pencil to give out to promote the census. In working with Elections/Voter Registration Director Hoyt Campbell, she found out that there were 16 federal tracts along with the 32 census tracts

in the county. She provided this information in a handout. Mrs. Johnson wanted to know who were the people working the tracts in Darlington County. She said Mrs. Griffiths had indicated that there were only two people working. Mrs. Johnson stated that from reading the minutes of the Census Committee meeting, the census workers needed a place to setup in each community just in case something was needed. She mentioned that there would be a big Census Kick-Off somewhere. However, people do not read a lot of the information sent to them. Mrs. Johnson commended the Employee Appreciation Banquet that was held in January.

Mrs. Warr stated that she had read quite a few articles in the newspaper about the 2010 Census. During the past few weeks, articles appeared in all the newspapers seeking part-time workers (up to 40 hours per week) to be paid \$14 per hour to follow-up on all addresses where the census forms are not returned. She said this would be an opportunity for Council to tap into all the people who were not counted. Mrs. Warr said she had inquired about whether it would be illegal for her to apply for one of the jobs since she knows the people in Lamar area. If they do not return their form, she would not mind going to them because she felt that the people would trust her better than they would trust a stranger and she may be able to pursue them to complete and submit their form.

Mrs. Johnson stated that it would be illegal for Mrs. Warr to accept one of the positions. Ms. Nicholson indicated that everyone would have to pass a test.

Mrs. Warr commended the efforts of the Census Committee and talked about the fact that some people do not intend to complete and submit the census form. She was willing to follow-up and contact people who do not submit their form. Mrs. Warr announced the Egg Scramble Jamboree and events scheduled for the last of March and first of April. A press released was placed at Council's desk.

Mr. Douglas asked Mrs. Griffiths to contact the Highway Department about getting the road resurfaced from Auburn Crossroad to North Governor's Williams Highway/Highway 52. He said this road (Floyd Road) had not been resurfaced since it was paved over 50 years ago. The road has a lot of truck traffic and huge potholes.

Ms. Nicholson asked Mrs. Griffiths to find out the owners of the property on Sarah Circle in Hartsville. She talked about several Council members (Mr. Douglas and Mr. Blackwell) previously visiting this area and the problem with determining which parcels were in the county and which were within the city limits. Ms. Nicholson suggested that if the corner could be cleared, this would create a good view from Washington Street and Martin Luther King Drive. She mentioned problems that she had encountered in this area and hoped that Sheriff Byrd would look into the complaints.

Ms. Nicholson thanked Ms. Johnson for providing the census information. She stated that she had talked with several people about volunteering their efforts to the census. Mr. Hoyt Campbell provided the names of people in the various communities that could be contacted for information. Ms. Nicholson commended the efforts of the Census Committee and mentioned the fact that she had been soliciting people to be tested to work with the census. She also talked about the requirement that people must pass the test. Ms. Nicholson asked Mrs. Griffiths to find out whether Council members (as a volunteer or paid worker) could go to residences where census forms were not returned.

Mrs. Griffiths reported that certain information would not be given to the county. This was the reason the Census Bureau had people taking the tests. She said the locators would be at facilities in the county and would go out. Mrs. Griffiths stated that she would try to find out about Council going out to do follow-up. However, it was her understanding that the county would not know who did not return their form. The county would only know which area had a low count. The locators would go out six times.

Mr. Reimold also stated that the Census would not identify specific residents. Recruiters, who test the people, were in the county.

Mrs. Johnson said that once people are tested, a background check has to be conducted. She commended the individual who was administering the test at her building since January. Mrs. Johnson said she was told that elected individuals could not be tested or hold a paid position with the Census; but they could volunteer.

Mrs. Griffiths pointed out that the individuals listed on Mrs. Johnson's list could not go door to door if they did not take and pass the test.

Ms. Nicholson indicated that she plans to go into the community to talk about the census.

Chairman Baldwin commended the Jetport Manager and the Jetport Commission. He also invited Council members to visit the Election/Voter Registration Office now located on Cashua Street in Darlington.

#### Vote For Executive Session

There was not a vote for executive session.

#### Adjournment

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mrs. J. JaNet Bishop, Clerk to Council

---

Mr. Billy Baldwin, Chairman  
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of February 15, 2010.