

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING  
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
DARLINGTON, SC

February 15, 2010

A public hearing and regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 15<sup>th</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. A Notice of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 10-1 was published in the Hartsville Messenger and the News and Press on January 27, 2010.

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, Fire Chief David Williamson, Economic Development Director Robert Long, Emergency Services Director R. Allen Haynes, Sheriff Wayne Byrd, Captain Andy Locklair, Environmental Services Director Mike Dorriety, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Planning Director Doug Reimold, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jerry Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

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

Chairman Baldwin declared the public hearing open at 6:03 p.m. to receive comments on Ordinance No. 10-1 as listed above.

There being no comments, Chairman Baldwin declared the public hearing closed at 6:05 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Call To Order / Invocation / Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Baldwin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Blackwell led the pledge of allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Clarence Johnson showed his no farm no food sign and talked about factory farms spending/using taxpayers' money while family farms pay taxes. He also stated that factory farms ruin the land while family farms make the soil more fertile.

Approval Of Minutes - Regular Meeting of February 1, 2010

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Warr to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 1, 2010.

Ms. Nicholson stated that the minutes indicated that she had talked about clearing the corner of Washington Street and Martin Luther King Avenue. However, she wanted to clarify that this movement was during her first tenure on Council when she reported to Council about the drug dealers. This corner was one of the spots where drug dealers were selling drugs on bicycles. Ms. Nicholson said she wanted to clarify for the record that this was going on in the past. She and other constituents in the area were helping to clean up the drug traffic that was really bad during that time. Ms. Nicholson said the other corner that was identified was Blanding Drive near Ms. Bess' home. She wanted to clarify that this had happened in the past when Mr. Douglas and she had looked at this area during their first tenure. This was not a recent activity. Ms. Nicholson said she had also discussed this matter with Mr. Blackwell, who was Chairman of County Council at that time.

Mr. Cox pointed out that Ms. Nicholson was not requesting a change to the minutes. She was just making a clarification.

Ms. Nicholson confirmed this. She just wanted to put on record that this was not a recent activity; asking for the corner to be cleared. This was during the period when she was trying to eradicate drug traffic in this area.

Chairman Baldwin stated that the complaint that was made at Council's last meeting was cleared/cleaned up.

Ms. Nicholson confirmed that the matter had been cleaned up.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 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 - **THIRD READING**

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 10-1.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Other Items

Budget Transfer Request, Prison Farm

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the budget transfer request for the Prison Farm.

Prison Farm Director Jonathan McFadden was requesting to transfer \$12,500 to Overtime (1-027-42350-13000) from Salaries (1-027-42350-11100) due to vacancies.

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 21, 2009	Receive As Information
B. Library Director’s Report & Library Board Minutes, December 2009	Receive As Information
C. Pee Dee Workforce Investment Report, July 1, 2009 Thru December 31, 2009	Receive As Information
D. Building Permit Types Report, January 2010	Receive As Information

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Amendment To The Agenda For Personal Appearance

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Warr. to allow Ms. Donna Laurie, of the Census Bureau, to address Council.

The motion carried unanimously.

Personal Appearance, Ms. Donna Laurie, Census Recruiter

Ms. Laurie thanked individuals for helping her recruit people in Darlington County to work with the census. However, they (the Census Bureau) still needed people from Lamar (about 30 people) and Society Hill (about 22 people) areas. She requested help in getting people from those areas to be tested. These individuals would go out after the census forms are returned.

Ms. Laurie explained that they (the Census Bureau) needed a certain number of qualified candidates to pull from a pool of people. The Census Bureau was lacking about 30 qualified people from the Lamar area to draw from. Interested individuals should contact Ms. Laurie at 843-230-1250. She explained that a total of 87 people from Darlington County would be pulled from the pool to work. Ms. Laurie stated that she was being given pieces of information as needed. Currently, she only knew the goals. She did not know how many people would come from each area. However, the census workers would be under her supervision and everyone working in Darlington County would be residents of Darlington County.

Ms. Laurie indicated that practice tests were available at all the libraries, the Recreation Departments, at Mrs. Wilhelmina Johnson's Cultural Realism Center, and the Adult Education Centers. The tests consist of 28 basic knowledge questions that would take about 30 minutes to complete.

Mrs. Johnson stated that she was not allowed to take the test. Ms. Laurie had indicated that elected officials could not be hired.

Mrs. Warr indicated that she was willing to be tested and work.

Ms. Laurie pointed out that Council members could volunteer in some other capacity, but could not go door to door. She would obtain a list of the individuals who would be going door to door when they are selected in March.

Mrs. Griffiths added that Council members would not know the names of the individuals who do not return a census form. Therefore, Council would not be able to help in that capacity.

Ms. Laurie said this information would be confidential and would not be distributed. Only the individuals selected to go door to door would have this information.

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

Mrs. Griffiths requested that Council allow Economic Development Director Robert Long make a presentation before Council.

There were no objections.

Administrative Update, Mr. Robert Long, Economic Development Director

In reference to the I-20 Industrial Park that was recently certified, Mr. Long reported that Dargan King & Knight (a forestry company) had looked at the property to provide a value of the timber. Mr. Tim Dargan estimated that there may be about \$15,000 worth of timber on this property. Therefore, Mr. Long requested Council's authorization to proceed with getting this property timbered and to set the funds aside for development of this park.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to grant permission to Mr. Long to get the property timbered and to set the funds aside for development of the I-20 Industrial Park.

Mr. Flowers stated that former Economic Development Director Dave Bailey and he had looked at the property five to six years ago, and \$15,000 may be on the high side. He said that depending upon market conditions when the timber is cut, the amount may decrease by about 30 percent to about \$9,500 to \$9,800.

Mr. Blackwell asked whether a hedge would be around the outside perimeter of the property.

Mr. Long responded that the plan would be to leave a 50 to 100 feet buffer around the property

The motion carried unanimously.

Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Ms. Nicholson thanked Sheriff Byrd for addressing the complaint that was presented at the last Council meeting. She then requested clarification about the date and place of the proposed Census Rally Program that Councilwoman Wilhelmina Johnson had distributed prior to the Council meeting.

Mr. Douglas commended the Sheriff for addressing the complaint that was presented at Council's last meeting.

Mrs. Warr expressed her disappointment about an article she had read in the February 7, 2010 issue of the Morning News. She said the article was not correct about the Airport Commission being under the Planning Commission. Mrs. Warr said comments also were made about the Airport Commission and the widening of Highway 52. She said some of the information in the article was mistaken. Mrs. Warr questioned why someone at the Planning Commission meeting did not correct Mr. Culbertson at that time.

Prior to the Council meeting, Mrs. Johnson distributed a tentative program for a census rally scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> at the courthouse. It was Mrs. Johnson's understanding that March 20<sup>th</sup> would be the census kick-off day for South Carolina. She said Ms. Donna Laurie, Census Recruiter, had been feeding her information and other materials. Mrs. Johnson said Darlington County needed to pull out and have so many people around the square that another place would have to be found for them. She said everyone and the Census Committee could do the work for the rally. If this were decided, every elected official would be doing something. However, this may be more work for more people, but everyone would be counted. This rally would be one of the best in the state. Mrs. Johnson said Mr. Milton Smalls, of the Census

Bureau, indicated to her that everyone from all over the state would try to spend a little time in Darlington on March 20<sup>th</sup>. She welcomed additions to the program to make it bigger.

Mrs. Warr suggested that such event should be held at Lamar Egg Scramble for a larger crowd.

Mrs. Johnson stated that Darlington was the county seat and she would be asking each municipality, each of the 32 census tracts, and each of the 16 federal census groups to put on their own rally. She said everyone should have received a copy of the sites that were selected for the leaders to meet. Mrs. Johnson said someone would have to contact the 32 census tract leaders.

Mrs. Warr asked the time frame for the rally. She also questioned who would coordinate such a rally.

Mrs. Johnson said the proposed rally would last from two to three hours beginning at about 11 a.m. She said everyone and the committee would coordinate the event.

Mrs. Warr stated that this would be something that Council would have to vote on. She questioned whether this was a county function or something that Mrs. Johnson was presenting to Council.

Mr. Cox clarified that this was not a county function. This was a citizen's initiative.

Mrs. Johnson suggested getting the band from Darlington High School and the Jr. ROTC for the rally. She also requested a proclamation from Darlington County for consideration at Council's next meeting. She would work on a draft proclamation for the staff to finalize. Mrs. Johnson said Ms. Laurie, the committee, some of the others, Mrs. Griffiths, and she could take this from here. Mrs. Johnson said Mrs. Griffiths was working on the budget and there were some shortfalls that Council must talk about. She commended the work being done on the roads.

Mr. Flowers reported that he was fortunate enough to watch Lamar Firefighters practice and train on the extrication for vehicles. He handed out a letter from Chief Jason Bell of Station 14. In the letter, the members of Station 14 were thanking Mr. Flowers for taking the time to observe their training on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Flowers commended the firefighters for their efforts and professionalism.

Mr. Flowers also talked about his recent tour of the jail facility. He suggested that each Council member schedule a tour of this facility prior to the budget process. He was very impressed with the facility and the staff.

Mrs. Warr suggested a group tour of the jail just before a Council meeting.

Mr. Shaw complained that the cable wire from his house had been on the ground for two weeks. He said two people from Time Warner Cable were about 100 yards from his home and he told them that his cable wire was down. Mr. Shaw also told another person from Time Warner Cable who was working in front of his home about his cable wire being down. He talked about how the price of his cable service had increased and his cable wire being on the ground for two weeks. Mr. Shaw asked the staff to talk with Time Warner Cable regarding this matter.

Mr. Shaw also complained that the county was paying part of salary for Florence for Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA) to have buses with no one on them. He said Darlington County was paying a large part of the salary. Mr. Shaw talked about how the buses wait for people at Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center and no one ever comes out to ride the bus.

Mr. Shaw asked Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson to meet with him to discuss a driveway apron that needs repairing near the Darlington/Lee County line.

Chairman Baldwin reported that he had received a letter from Hartsville Mayor Mel Pennington expressing his sincere gratitude for County Council's willingness to extend the courtesy for the City of Hartsville to use the Magistrate's Courtroom. Chairman Baldwin also read a letter drafted by Deputy Fire Chief Kenny Stratton to Mr. Johnny Howle of Southern Auto Parts. The letter was thanking Mr. Howle for supplying the Fire District with vehicles for extrication training. Chairman Baldwin said he added a note to the letter expressing Council's appreciation for Mr. Howle's service and contributions to the County Fire District.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Shaw to send the letter to Mr. Howle.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Shaw congratulated Mr. Flowers for attending the Fire Department's training and for reporting back to Council. He said he had suggested that Council meet on Tuesday evenings since every fire department meets on Monday. Mr. Shaw said Council members could not attend the Fire Departments' meetings because County Council meetings were scheduled the same time.

Mr. Williamson mentioned that several stations did not meet on Monday evenings.

Mr. Cox pointed out that the census program that Mrs. Johnson presented was not a county function, but a citizen's initiative. He wanted to make sure that no one left the meeting thinking that the county would be coordinating this event. Mr. Cox said the staff was currently working on the budget.

#### Vote For Executive Session

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to vote for executive session for the discussion of personnel matters.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Executive Session

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Ms. Nicholson for County Council, Fire Chief David Williamson, EMS Director Allen Haynes, Special Programs Coordinator Mac McDonald, County Administrator Phyllis Griffiths, and County Attorney Jim Cox to go into executive session for the discussion of personnel matters.

The motion carried unanimously.

County Council, Fire Chief David Williamson, EMS Director Allen Haynes, Special Programs Coordinator Mac McDonald, County Administrator Phyllis Griffiths, and County Attorney Jim Cox went into executive session at 6:51 p.m. and reconvened at 7:24 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Baldwin announced that no action was taken during executive session

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.

Executive Session

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson for County Council, Mr. Cox, and Mrs. Griffiths 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. Economic Development Director Robert Long had left the meeting and was not present to go into executive session.

The motion carried unanimously.

County Council, Mr. Cox, and Mrs. Griffiths went into executive session at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Baldwin announced that no action was taken during executive session.

Adjournment

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 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 March 1, 2010.