

REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

March 15, 2010

A regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 15th day of March 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, and Mr. Alex "Buz" Shaw.

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT

Ms. Mozella "Pennie" Nicholson.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Phyllis Griffitts, County Attorney James C. Cox, Jr., Materials Manager Teresa Dickerson, Planning Director Doug Reimold, Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans, Environmental Services Director Mike Dorriety, Emergency Services Director R. Allen Haynes, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Economic Development Director Robert Long, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jerry Thompson, Sheriff Captain Andy Locklair, Deputy Sheriff Roger Graham, Deputy Sheriff Gary Street, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Blake Bondy, Mr. George Cannon, 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 at 6 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mrs. Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Clarence Johnson talked about the need for farms and farmers and the difference between factory farms and family farms.

Approval Of Minutes - Regular Meeting of March 1, 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 March 1, 2010.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

There were no ordinances.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

Committee Reports - Pee Dee Labor Demographics, Councilwoman Anne C. Warr

Mrs. Warr reported that 4,264 people in Darlington County were unemployed. Of this amount, only 55 percent have a high school diploma. She said there were jobs that had not been filled because they require a certain level of education. Mrs. Warr said that in Darlington County, 61 people completed their GED in the last training program and 261 received their high school diploma.

Other Items

There were no other items.

Consent Agenda

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
A. Census Complete Count Committee Minutes, February 18, 2010	Receive As Information
B. Recreation Department Monthly Report, January 2010	Receive As Information

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

Mrs. Johnson requested to discuss Consent Agenda Item A., Census Complete Count Committee Minutes, February 18, 2010. She indicated that the minutes from the Census Complete Count Committee stated what was being done for the Census Rally scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2010. Mrs. Johnson commended County Administrator Phyllis Griffitts and the Census Complete Count Committee for the Census Rally scheduled for March 20th. Mrs. Johnson indicated that she had requested the County Administrator to provide 1,000 programs with the Census Proclamation on the back to be distributed during the Census Rally.

The motion carried unanimously.

Personal Appearances - Mr. James R. Ladd, Chief Executive Officer, Matrix Technology Alliance, Inc. - The Essential Technology Center, A Dynamic Approach To Sustainable Economic Development

Mr. Ladd was not present at the meeting.

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

Mrs. Griffiths reported that she was working on the budget, which should be ready for Council by the end of March. She indicated that the Local Government Fund would probably be cut another \$400,000 for this year.

Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Mr. Shaw commended Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson and Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans. He briefly talked about the condition of the Animal Shelter.

Mr. Flowers reminded Council about Farm Bureau's Dinner scheduled for Monday night in Lydia.

Mrs. Johnson encouraged everyone to attend and promote the Census Rally scheduled for Saturday, March 20th. She presented her concern about Society Hill, oldest municipality in Darlington County, being left out the statewide Case Management System plan that was presented at the last Council meeting. She suggested that since the work had not begun, that Society Hill be added in the plan. It was her understanding that the magistrates had been combined, and there had not been a magistrate in Society Hill for five to six years. She wanted to know why. Mrs. Johnson mentioned that for the past five to six years and up until last year, \$8,000 was included in the budget for this position. She requested that Council discuss this matter to get a magistrate in Society Hill.

Mrs. Warr questioned when Council would have a budget workshop since there were a number of items that need to be discussed. She said Council should provide a response to Judge Baxley and Dr. Assey regarding the statewide Case Management System. Prior to the meeting, Mrs. Warr distributed articles about unemployment in Darlington County. She reported that she plans to run for re-election for Darlington County Council.

Mr. Douglas asked the status of the new recycling center for Mechanicsville/Mont Clare area. He commended the efforts of the Roads and Bridges Department.

Mrs. Griffiths responded that the staff had not found any property or the property owners had not made a commitment.

Mr. Blackwell requested additional information about Mr. Ladd before he appears before Council. He questioned whether Mr. Ladd needed to appear before the Economic Development Partnership.

Economic Development Director Robert Long indicated that Mr. Ladd had contacted him about appearing before County Council.

Mr. Blackwell said he was concerned about the upcoming budget and hopes that Council would take time to discuss the Stormwater Project fee.

Mrs. Griffiths stated that the county would not implement the revenue in the new fiscal year. She did not feel that the county was far enough along to implement it. Mrs. Griffiths said the county needed to get more information before establishing a fee.

Chairman Baldwin suggested scheduling a workshop in April to discuss the statewide Case Management System. He suggested Thursday, March 25th at 6 .p.m.

Mrs. Griffiths pointed out that the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee would be meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 25th.

Chairman Baldwin indicated that he had received a letter from Dr. Assey of the South Carolina Judicial Department and a letter from Judge Baxley.

Mr. Flowers suggested discussing this matter during the budget process rather than having a special meeting.

Mrs. Griffiths said she would have the budget by the end of March and the workshop could be scheduled for April. She was waiting to receive information from the state regarding the consumer price index.

Chairman Baldwin stated that Council would revisit dates for a workshop during the April 5th Council meeting.

Chairman Baldwin asked Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson about a beaver dam on West McIver Road.

Mr. Richardson indicated that he would check on this.

Mr. Douglas questioned whether a report has to be called in for the people to work on beaver dams.

Mrs. Griffiths responded that she tells people to call.

Chairman Baldwin reported that two years ago when he met with the FAA in Columbia, one of the last requests that had not been fulfilled was lowering the tax on aircraft. He said Council needed to look at this, and if there were no objections, he would request that it be placed on Council's next agenda.

Vote For Executive Session

MOTION was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to vote for executive session for the discussion of personnel matters at the Sheriff's Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mr. Douglas for County Council, the County Administrator, the County Attorney, and Chief Deputy Sheriff Jerry Thompson to represent the Sheriff's Department in executive session for the discussion of personnel matters at the Sheriff's Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council recessed at 6:35 p.m. prior to going into executive session and reconvened at 7:12 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Baldwin announced that no action was taken during executive session.

Budget Transfer Request

MOTION was made by Mrs. Warr and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the budget transfer requests for the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Byrd was requesting to transfer \$48,850 to Overtime (001-035-42100-13000) from the following line items: \$29,160 from Detention Salary (001-021-43200-11100), \$7,180 from Salary (001-035-42100-11100), \$6,330 from Civil Server (001-035-42100-11400), and \$6,180 from Incentive Pay (001-035-42100-14400) to cover overtime for the remainder of FY09/10. He also was requesting to transfer \$10,000 to Uniforms (001-035-42100-61700) and \$5,000 to Radio (001-035-42100-43500) from Health Insurance (001-035-42100-21200) to cover the shortfall for the balance of FY09/10.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. J. JaNet Bishop, Clerk to Council

Mr. Billy Baldwin, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of April 5, 2010.