

SPECIAL MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

May 23, 2016

A special meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 23rd day of May 2016, at 9 a.m., at Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments, 2314 Pisgah Road, Florence, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the meeting notice, giving the date, time, and place of the meeting was mailed in advance to the local newspapers, 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 Nos. 16-13, 16-14, and 16-15 was published in the News and Press and the Hartsville Messenger on April 27, 2016.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice Chairman Robbin Brock, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. David Coker, Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Marvin Le Flowers and Ms. Mozella Nicholson.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Terence Arrington, Acting County Attorney Chris Scott, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Emergency Management Director Mac McDonald, Economic Development Director Frank Willis, Elections/Voter Registration Director Hoyt Campbell, Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy, Prison Farm Director Johnathan McFadden, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Fire District Chief Kenny Stratton, Central Communications Director Gary White, EMS Director Michelle Moore, Human Resources Manager Ginger Winburn, Interim Development Services Director Terri Cribb, Interim Recreation Director Lee Andrews, Corrections Director Waddell Coe, Chief Deputy Sheriff James Hudson, Deputy Auditor Margaret Rogers, Sheriff Wayne Byrd, Environmental Services Director Renee Howle, Assistant Environmental Services Director Paula Newton, Sheriff Deputy John McLeod, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance No. 16-13, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V. (Finance), Division 7 (Fees), Section 2-412 (Fee

Schedule), Item (5) (Environmental Services Dumping Fees/Charges), To Increase The Annual Recycling/Solid Waste Service Charge Levied Upon All Residential Properties; To Add A New Fee For Returned Checks For Non-Sufficient Funds; And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - Second Reading

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open at 9:02 a.m. to receive public comments on Ordinance No. 16-13.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 16-14, An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Ordinary County Purposes For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016 And Ending June 30, 2017 To Provide For The Expenditures And Revenues For The Payment Thereof - Second Reading

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive public comments on Ordinance No 16-14.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 16-15, 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, 2016, And Ending June 30, 2017 - Second Reading

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive public comments on Ordinance No 16-15.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

SPECIAL MEETING

Call To Order/Invocation And Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Kilgo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 15-32, An Ordinance To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of A Not Exceeding Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$3,500,000) General Obligation Bond Of Darlington County, South Carolina, To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto (Environmental Services) - Third Reading

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 15-32.

Mr. Kilgo stated that the presentation by Michael Baker International only covered what it would take to upgrade Environmental Services and did not include anything about selling the service to a private vendor. Therefore, he could not support the ordinance based on inadequate information from Michael Baker.

Mrs. Johnson stated that she could not support the ordinance because there were many other needs in the county.

Mr. Douglas said Council did not have enough information.

The motion failed with each Council member voting no.

Ordinance No. 16-12, An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 15-21 (Darlington County FY15/16 Budget Ordinance) For A Supplemental Appropriation To The General Fund To Receive And Expend Hospitality Tax Revenue - Second Reading, As Amended

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve seconded reading of Ordinance No. 16-12, as amended.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Douglas to amend Ordinance No. 16-12 to add/include \$15,000 for Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce for Freedom Fest Fireworks Festival in July.

Mr. Arrington distributed a visitor's guide book that he had published with the assistance of the Historical Commission and Recreation staff. He explained that the ordinance was modified to appropriate only \$7,500 to pay for the production of the visitor's guide book. The ordinance, as amended would move hospitality tax revenue to the General Fund to pay for the visitor's guide, only. The visitor's guide would be distributed to the municipalities and placed throughout the county.

Mr. Kilgo commended the visitor's guide.

Mr. Coker presented concerns about giving \$15,000 for the Chamber's Firework Festival when other municipalities will have a fireworks display. He was concerned that this may open Council to other requests.

Mr. Kilgo reported that during the first year of the Chamber's Firework Festival, there also was a fireworks display in Hartsville. However, Hartsville stopped with their fireworks display because the one at the Raceway was such a hit. He said the Chamber's Firework Festival being held at the Darlington Raceway gives the county more recognition than anything else, except for the race. He talked about past attendance at the Chamber's Fireworks Festival at Darlington Raceway.

Mr. Arrington stated that Council could move all the Hospitality Tax revenue to the General Fund for other things.

Mrs. Johnson thought Hospitality Tax revenue could not be included in the General Fund budget. She indicated that all areas of the counties should be able to obtain some of the funds such as with the Accommodations Tax funds. She commended the visitor's guide.

Mr. Kilgo indicated that there was no other way to disperse Hospitality Tax revenue than through County Council.

The motion to include \$15,000 for Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce Fireworks Festival carried with Mrs. Johnson opposing.

The motion to approve Ordinance No. 16-12 carried with Johnson opposing.

Ordinance No. 16-13, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V. (Finance), Division 7 (Fees), Section 2-412 (Fee Schedule), Item (5) (Environmental Services Dumping Fees/Charges), To Increase The Annual Recycling/Solid Waste Service Charge Levied Upon All Residential Properties; To

Add A New Fee For Returned Checks For Non-Sufficient Funds; And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - Second Reading

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 16-13.

Council and the staff talked about the status of the equipment, etc. at the landfill and the additional revenue from increasing the Solid Waste Fee from \$53 to \$60. Council asked and Mr. Arrington to present information regarding the financial impact on Environmental Services as a result of the additional \$7 Solid Waste fee.

The motion carried with Mrs. Johnson and Chairman Hudson opposing.

Ordinance No. 16-14, An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Ordinary County Purposes For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016 And Ending June 30, 2017 To Provide For The Expenditures And Revenues For The Payment Thereof - Second Reading

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 16-14.

Mr. Kilgo talked about the need for an absentee voting box in Hartsville such as in Darlington and estimated that this would cost about \$9,000 and would occur in October and November. Mr. Kilgo stated at the next Council meeting, he will make the motion to include funds in Elections/Voter Registration's budget for this purpose. With this, residents in Hartsville would not have to drive to Darlington to vote or mail their ballot.

Mrs. Johnson said Council should decide what should be in the budget.

Mr. Arrington talked about the budget being transparent with no new revenue.

The motion carried unanimously

Ordinance No. 16-15, 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, 2016, And Ending June 30, 2017 - Second Reading

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 16-15.

The motion carried with Mr. Kilgo opposing.

Ordinance No. 16-16, An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement In An Amount Not Exceeding \$3,600,000 Relating To The Purchase Of Vehicles And Payment Of Related Costs For Darlington County, Authorizing The Execution Of Other Necessary Documents And Papers, And Other Matters Relating Thereto - First Reading

The title of Ordinance No. 16-16 was read for First Reading. No action required.

Mr. Arrington mentioned that the agenda package contained a long list of needed vehicles/equipment. He also reported that the county had one more lease purchase payment and the current lease would be paid off. The would have to utilize a new lease purchase to obtain vehicles/equipment and pay the same amount as the current lease purchase.

Mr. Douglas questioned how the county got behind with replacing vehicles/equipment.

Chairman Hudson responded that the former County Administrator wanted a Capital Improvement Plan, but it was never implemented.

Mr. Arrington talked about the cost to maintain the older vehicles and the cost the departments were paying for repairs.

Chairman Hudson asked about the costs associated with operator's errors and suggested that Council look at doing away with employee/operator's error.

Other Items

Flowers Forestry, LLC would like temporary access across a very small portion of county owned property

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brock to approve Flowers Forestry's request for temporary access across a small portion of county owned property.

The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) Contract for EMS and Fire Assessment

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brock to approve ESCI's contract for EMS and Fire assessment.

Mr. Kilgo asked and the staff indicated that the funds to pay for the assessment would come from EMS radio tower project and from the Fire District.

Mr. Brock was concerned that the assessment may indicate that the county needs more equipment, personnel, and/or facilities.

Mr. Arrington explained that the vendor would conduct their analysis and present their recommendations. He also pointed out that there would not be a mandate that the county has to do anything.

Chairman Hudson was concerned that \$35,000 could be used for something else.

The motion failed with each Council member voting no. Mr. Coker suggested that the county conduct the assessments internally.

Change Order for Tanker 8 Purchase

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brock to approve the change order to Tanker 8 purchase.

The motion carried unanimously.

As stated in the agenda package, the changes to Tanker 8 increased the cost by \$5,500 from \$376,069 to \$381,569.

Vote For Executive Session - Discussion Regarding Proposed Contractual Arrangement

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mrs. Johnson for County Council, the County Administrator, the Acting County Attorney, and Honeywell Representatives to go into executive session for discussion regarding a proposed contractual arrangement.

Mr. Arrington handed out information regarding infrastructure issues to be discussed in executive session. He indicated that Council members may need to make site visits.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council recessed at recessed at 9:45 a.m. prior to going into executive session.

Adjournment

Council adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. JaNet Bishop
Clerk to Council

Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of June 6, 2016.