

**PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC**

November 5, 2018

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 5th day of September 2018, at 6 p.m., at the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda providing the date, time, and place of the meeting was emailed to the local newspapers, persons requesting notification, and posted on the county's website, on the bulletin board in the lobby of the courthouse, and at the entrance of the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building.

The Notice of Public Hearing for U.S. Department Of Agriculture Lease Extension To Commence On January 1, 2019, And End On December 31, 2021, For 4,178 Rentable Square Foot Of Office Space For Darlington County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office And Darlington County Natural Resources And Conservation Service (NRCS) Office Located In The Mazingo Building, 300 Russell Street, Darlington, South Carolina was published in the News and Press and the Hartsville Messenger on October 10, 2018.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice Chairman Marvin Le Flowers, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. J. Lewis Brown, Mr. David Coker, Ms. Mozella Nicholson, and Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, Acting County Attorney Christopher Scott, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Airport Manager Barry Kennett, E-911 Coordinator Michelle Moore, Environmental Services Director Renee Howle, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Fire Chief Ricky Flowers, Human Resources Manager Ginger Winburn, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Recycling Coordinator Gary White, Recreation Director Le Andrews, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Emergency Management Coordinator Molly Odom, Ms. Thomasena Davis, Mr. Leroy Frazier, Ms. Judy Alexander, Ms. Louise Howard, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press, Mr. Jim Faile of the Messenger, and WPDE TV15 Reporter.

PUBLIC HEARING

U.S. Department Of Agriculture/Darlington County Service Center Lease Extension To Commence On January 1, 2019, And End On December 31, 2021, For 4,178 Rentable Square Foot Of Office Space For Darlington County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office And Darlington County Natural Resources And Conservation Service (NRCS) Office Located In The Mozingo Building, 300 Russell Street, Darlington, South Carolina

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open at 6 p.m. to receive comments on the proposed lease extension with U.S. Department of Agriculture for office space in the Mozingo Building through December 31, 2021.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order / Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

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

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Thomasena Davis, of Prosperity Child Care, stated that she had appeared before Council several months ago requesting a donation of the land directly behind the Robert L. Groom Building in Lamar. She indicated that Prosperity Child Care would be willing to pay fair market value for the land.

Mr. Leroy Frazier, Small Business Administration Public Affairs Specialist, reported that Small Business Administration was providing federal assistance in the form of low-interest loans to businesses, nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and residents for physical disaster and economic injury caused by Hurricane Florence. Small Business Administration has provided over \$33 million to assist businesses and homeowners in South Carolina with over 93 percent going to homeowners. The Disaster Recovery Center is located at the National Guard Armory in Darlington. Mr. Frazier encouraged individuals to take advantage of this opportunity for low-interest loans that will be available until November 20, 2018. Of the individuals referred by FEMA, only ten to fifteen percent have contacted Small Business Administration. Mr. Frazier reiterated the amount of loans and the interest rates that businesses, nonprofit organizations, and homeowners could receive. He provided his contact information.

Ms. Judy Alexander stated that she was representing the residents of Sunrise Acres Subdivision located on the southeast side of Darlington on Highway 52 Bypass beginning at Cross Street. She was concerned that there is a problem in getting information regarding accountability. Ms. Alexander stated that when she enters public buildings, there is no one accountable to give her information that she needs. She wanted to know who is accountable for her community.

Ms. Louise Howard, of Sunrise Acres, reported that there is a problem with mosquitoes in her area, and this area had not been sprayed for mosquitoes. She asked whether something could be done about this situation.

Personal Appearances

There were no Personal Appearances.

Amend Agenda To Bring Forth Executive Session - Discussion Of Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement With The Town Of Lamar

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Brown to amend the agenda to bring forth executive session for discussion of proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Lamar.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - Discussion Of Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement With The Town Of Lamar

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Brown for Council, the County Attorney, and the County Administrator to go into executive session for discussion of proposed Intergovernmental Agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council, the County Attorney, and the County Administrator went into executive session at 6:12 p.m. and reconvened at 6:37 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken in executive session.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

A. Historical Commission Board Minutes, Stats and Updates, October 2018

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes – Minutes of Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, October 1, 2018

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held on October 1, 2018.

The motion carried unanimously

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 18-11, An Ordinance Developing A Multi-County Park With Lee County; Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of An Agreement Governing The Multi-County Park; Authorizing The Inclusion Of Certain Property Located In Darlington County In The Multi-

County Park; Authorizing The Execution Of An Intergovernmental Agreement; And Other Matters Related Thereto - THIRD READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 18-11.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 18-12, To Amend The Allocation Of Multi-County Park Revenues Within Darlington County Under The Agreement Governing The Darlington-Florence Industrial Park Dated April 21, 2016, With Respect To Project Watauga; And Authorizing Other Related Matters - THIRD READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 18-12.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 18-14, An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 18-04, FY18/19 County Budget, To Add New Additional Income And Two New Employee Positions And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance- FIRST READING - BY TITLE ONLY

The title of Ordinance No. 18-14 was read for first reading. No action required.

Resolutions

There were no Resolutions.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards & Commissions To Fill Vacancies & Expired Terms

Mr. Hudson carried of his appointment to the Construction Board of Adjustment/Appeals and Parks & Recreation Commission.

Mr. Flowers carried of his appointment to the Airport Commission, Alcohol/Drug Citizen Advisory Committee, Ambulance Commission, Board of Assessment Appeals, Construction Board of Adjustment/Appeals, and Historical Commission.

Ms. Nicholson carried of her appointment to the Airport Commission, Board of Assessment Appeals, Construction Board of Adjustment/Appeals, Library Board, and Parks & Recreation Commission.

Mr. Brown carried of his appointment to the Alcohol/Drug Citizen Advisory Committee and Construction Board of Adjustment/Appeals.

Mr. Coker carried of his appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

U.S. Department Of Agriculture/Darlington County Service Center Lease Extension To Commence On January 1, 2019, And End On December 31, 2021, For 4,178 Rentable Square Foot Of Office Space For Darlington County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office And Darlington County Natural Resources And Conservation Service (NRCS) Office Located In The Mazingo Building, 300 Russell Street, Darlington, South Carolina

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the Lease Extension with U.S. Department of Agriculture for office space in the Mazingo Building through December 31, 2021.

The motion carried unanimously.

E-911 Call Handling Upgrade/Full Hardware Replacement

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve acceptance of AT&T's quote in the amount of \$194,195 for E-911 telephone system upgrade using available funds from Emergency Telephone Fund with 80 percent reimbursement from the State.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request State Contract Purchase Of A Boom Mower, \$172,490 - Roads And Bridges

MOTION was made by Ms. Nicholson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the State Contract purchase of a boom mower from Atmax Equipment Company for \$172,490 paid from Fund Balance.

The motion carried unanimously.

Roof Repairs On Two (2) T-Hangars At Darlington Airport, \$31,400

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve awarding the bid contract to Associate White Roofing to repair roof/roof leaks on two T-hangars at the County Airport at a cost of \$31,400.

The motion carried unanimously.

Intergovernmental Agreement With The Town Of Lamar For Darlington County Magistrate Craig L. LaCross To Serve As Lamar Municipal Court Judge

MOTION was made by Ms. Nicholson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Lamar for Darlington County Magistrate Craig LaCross to serve as Lamar Municipal Court Judge.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update – Mr. Charles Stewart, County Administrator

Lamar Recreation. Mr. Stewart reported that the Dixie fields and new concession stand/storage area in Lamar were almost complete. Pictures will be available for Council by December or January.

Lake Darpo. Mr. Stewart also reported that at the next meeting, Council will consider a plan regarding Lake Darpo. Lake Darpo Dam suffered a breach during Hurricane Florence,

and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has reclassified the dam from low risk to high risk because of the roads that could be affected downstream. Once this process is complete, DHEC will report back to the county. The county will put the dam back in place in order to utilize Lake Darpo area.

Fire District – Protect The Protectors Program. Fire Chief Ricky Flowers announced that Darlington County Fire District was chosen by State Farm Insurance for responders to receive a free home security system from the Protect the Protectors Program. After Hurricane Florence, State Farm asked whether this would be something the Fire District would be interested in. The security systems will be provided at no cost to the county and consists of a home camera that links to a cell phone so that firefighters can watch activity at their home through a Smartphone when they are away.

Update - Hurricane Damages. In response to Councilwoman Thomas' questions as to whether there were serious damages in the county due to the recent hurricane, Emergency Services Coordinator Molly Odom stated that damages to numerous residential homes were reported and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) resources were directed to those areas to follow up. Ms. Odom also reported that there was flood damage at the courthouse; roof damage at the jail, the E-911 Center, and Voter Registration's main office; two Sheriff vehicles damaged by fallen trees; breach of Lake Darpo Dam; and 23 county roads washed out. The City of Hartsville had damage to their lift station caused by the flooding of Black Creek at Highway 15 Bypass; the Town of Society Hill had two buildings with roof leaks, and the City of Darlington had extensive damage to its public infrastructure lines.

Mr. Stewart added that Ms. Odom provided damage information to FEMA so that they could reach out to the individuals. However, some people wanted self-recovery and others registered and provided their information to FEMA for assistance.

Ms. Odom also mentioned that Darlington Long Term Recovery Group, which was founded after the 2015 flood, has maintained their activity level and has assisted individuals with recovering from the 2015 flood, Hurricane Matthews, and Hurricane Florence. This organized group was now providing assistance to get people to the Disaster Recovery Center to register their damages.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Ms. Thomas wanted everyone to know that when she visits the various departments, she is seeking information. She commended the staff in the offices she has visited. Ms. Thomas said she would like to look at some of the heavy equipment the county will buy.

Mr. Brown thanked the staff for their work. He commended Emergency Management Coordinator Molly Odom for the detailed communications she provided during the recent hurricane.

Mr. Flowers requested an update on youth football and youth basketball. Recreation Director Le Andrews provided the registration dates for youth basketball for Darlington, Hartsville, and Lamar. He also reported that youth football season had ended; All-Stars will begin playing this Saturday; and the county does not play All-Stars in basketball. Youth basketball is a county league that only plays within the county, and all kids are included and participate in the postseason tournament. In basketball, all the kids are treated as All-Stars.

Mr. Douglas questioned why inmate labor was not being utilized to cut the grass at the tenant house at Lake Darpo. He said the tenant was recently using a push lawn mower. Mr. Stewart stated that he would follow up to find out why the Prison Camp was not mowing the yard.

Mr. Coker announced that Hartsville Country Club will host the South Carolina Junior Golf Player's Championship in a couple of weeks. The top 120 golfers in the State will come to Hartsville to play. He said the local hotels will sell out for this event, which is a big deal in the State.

Chairman Hudson thanked the staff and encouraged everyone to vote on tomorrow.

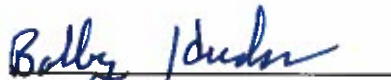
Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Hudson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of December 3, 2018.