

October 30, 2017

JOINT MEETING  
DARLINGTON COUNTY'S MUNICIPAL COUNCILS,  
COUNTY COUNCIL, BOARD OF EDUCATION, &  
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Darlington County Council hosted the joint dinner meeting of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, and Legislative Delegation on October 30, 2017, at 6 p.m., at Darlington Raceway Media Center, 1301 Harry Byrd Highway, 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 posted on the bulletin board in the County Administrator's Office and mailed in advance to Darlington County's Municipal Mayors/Managers/Clerks, Darlington County School District Superintendent, Darlington County Board of Education Chairman, Darlington County Legislative Delegation, Darlington County Council members, and the local newspapers.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr. and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Human Resources Manager Ginger Winburn, Darlington County Board Of Education Members Connell Delanie, Jamie Morphis, and Wanda Hassler, Darlington County School District Acting Superintendent Willie E. Boyd, Sr., Darlington County School District Public Information Officer Audrey Childers, City of Darlington Mayor Gloria Hines, City of Darlington Council Members John Segars, Elaine Reed, and Carolyn Bruce, City of Hartsville Council Members Johnny Andrews, Adlena Graham, Teresa Mack, and Billy Shirley, Society Hill Council Members Michelle Steen, Deborah Harrell, and Carolyn Oliver, Representative Robert Williams, and County Transportation Committee Member Roosevelt Wallace.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Duane Childers of the News and Press.

Welcome / Invocation

Darlington County Council Chairman Bobby Hudson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Darlington County Councilman Lewis Brown presented the invocation.

### Items From The Floor

Darlington City Mayor Gloria Hines reported on the opening of Little Caesars Pizza, the Tractor Supply Company, and a dialysis center to locate behind McDonald's. She briefly talked about bond/grant funding for the City's stormwater project and much needed maintenance on several ditches, especial along Chalmers Street.

Darlington County School District Public Information Officer Audrey Childers talked about the School District's search for a new Superintendent, the location of the new school facility in Hartsville, Lamar, and Darlington, the search for a new Chief Financial Officer, the new conference center at Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology, the new traffic pattern at Hartsville Middle School, North Hartsville Elementary School, and Thornwell School for the Arts, and upgrades at Lamar High School athletic facility.

Representative Williams reported that Senator Gerald Malloy and Speaker of the House of Representative Jay Lucas were unable to attend this meeting. He briefly talked about how the legislators were dealing with the issue of SCANA abandoning their nuclear project, the opioids drug epidemic, and the Legislative Oversight Committee's investigation of various State agencies to ensure they are following protocol.

Society Hill Councilwoman Carolyn Oliver indicated that Society Hill Mayor was unable to attend the meeting. She reported that the Town was cleaning up abandoned properties, working on historic properties, and had replaced the roof on various Town facilities. Ms. Oliver also mentioned the efforts of South Carolina Preservation Society to open a name brand restaurant in Society Hill. She announced the opening of the Old Train Depot in the near future and the Catfish Festival scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>.

County Councilman Le Flowers mentioned that South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) had completed the resurfacing and road widening project in Society Hill area.

Hartsville Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Andrews stated that the Bailey Bill would provide the Town of Society Hill an opportunity to rehab many of its historic properties. The Bailey Bill, passed by the legislature, allows local governments to offer a property tax abatement to encourage the rehabilitation of historic properties by freezing the assessed value of the properties. If the city passes this bill, this would negate the city's portion of the taxes. However, if the city and the county pass the bill, this would negate both portions of the taxes. Mr. Andrews also reported on the new traffic pattern at Hartsville Middle School, the new traffic circle at the intersection of Carolina Avenue and Home Avenue, the resurfacing of College Avenue, and repaving of Fifth Street (downtown portion). He also reported on the City's approval of an ordinance authorizing an Industrial Park at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Highway 15 Bypass, the opening of EdVenture (a children's museum), the expansion of the water park/splash pad, the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Christmas Parade scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>.

As for the Town of Lamar, Chairman Hudson mentioned that the Sheriff Department was working on the matter involving two shooting incidents at Cambridge Apartments and Spectrum's removal of old cable lines.

Ms. Jannie Lathan, the guest of County Councilwoman Mozella Nicholson, briefly talked about the Town's upcoming bid opening for control valve(s) and rehabilitation of two water tanks.

Chairman Hudson reported that Fibers Industries would be hiring from 130 to 150 people. Applications would be accepted online at [fibersindustries.com](http://fibersindustries.com) and [scready.net](http://scready.net).

County Administrator Charles Stewart provided the following tentative dates for five town hall type facilitated meetings where Council will receive public input regarding a new courthouse: November 16<sup>th</sup> at Hartsville Library, November 27<sup>th</sup> at Society Hill Library, November 28<sup>th</sup> at Lamar Library, November 29<sup>th</sup> at Darlington Music Hall, and November 30<sup>th</sup> at the Courthouse. Each forum will begin at 6 p.m. and facilitated by Mr. Charles Weathers of the Weathers Group. Mr. Stewart briefly talked about the sales tax process versus financing the project with property taxes.

County Councilwoman Mozella Nicholson talked about the need for Sunday beer and wine sales countywide. Darlington City Councilwoman Elaine Reed stated that this matter would be on the City's ballot in November.

County Administrator Charles Stewart and County Councilman Le Flowers talked about the improvements at Lamar Dixie Youth ballfield(s) using PARD funds.

Darlington City Councilwoman Elaine Reed reported on the status of the City's PARD grant and project.

In response to a question regarding the original design concept and location for a new courthouse, County Administrator Charles Stewart responded that Council was looking at what the county could afford, whether to build a new building or redesign the current building, etc. County Councilman Le Flowers briefly talked about the staff and elected officials shifting offices and moving things to temporarily address space and security issues/concerns. City of Darlington Councilwoman Elaine Reed suggested that the county consider what is needed and functional instead of building a facility based on a dollar amount. Board of Education Member Jamie Morphis suggested that the staff present a plan as to what is needed and obtain public input on that.

County Administrator Charles Stewart briefly talked about the needs, wants, property taxes, minimal security needs versus the appearance of the building, etc. County Councilman Le Flowers talked about the need to comply with ADA and other requirements. County Councilman Lewis Brown talked about how the court system and the function of the courthouse have changed over the years and the loss of tax revenue if Duke Energy leaves the county.

County Councilwoman Mozella Nicholson talked about the Judicial System's requirements, the need for feedback from court employees, judges, and former studies, and the need for alternative sources of revenue.

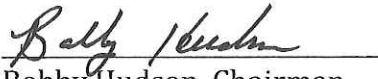
Representative Williams suggested that the county consider the local economy and establish three options to solicit input. He briefly commented on the upcoming census and the need to focus on infrastructure in Darlington County. Representative Williams thanked everyone for their leadership.

Chairman Hudson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop  
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman  
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of December 7, 2017.