

October 31, 2016

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

Darlington County Board of Education hosted the joint dinner meeting of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, and Legislative Delegation on October 31, 2016, at 6 p.m., at Darlington County School District Administrative Office Training Room, 120 East Smith Avenue, 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 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, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr., and Ms. Mozella Nicholson.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Chairman Robbin Brock, Mr. David Coker, and Mr. Marvin Le Flowers.

ALSO PRESENT

Interim County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Darlington County Board Of Education Members Connell Delanie, Maureen Thomas, Jamie Morphis, Warren Jeffords, Thelma Dawson, and Wanda Hassler, Darlington County Superintendent of Education Eddie Ingram, Darlington County School District Public Information Officer Audrey Childers, City of Darlington Administrator Howard Garland, City of Darlington Council Members John Segars, Coleman Cannon, Sr., Elaine Reed, and Carolyn Bruce, City of Darlington Clerk Gloria Pridgen, City of Hartsville Council Members Bob Braddock and Johnny Andrews, Society Hill Mayor Tommy Bradshaw, Society Hill Council Members Deborah Harrell, Denise Douglas, and Carolyn Oliver, Senator Gerald Malloy, and Sheriff-Elect Tony Chavis.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

Welcome / Invocation

Darlington County Board of Education Chairman Connell Delaine welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board of Education Member Maureen Thomas presented the invocation and the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Darlington County School District Public Information Officer Audrey Childers divided everyone into groups to initiate group discussions on the following questions: What makes you most proud about our county? Our cities? Our school district? What is the number one problem you believe is facing your entity? How can we work together to tackle and resolve these challenges?

After dinner, Mrs. Childers facilitated the discussion giving each group an opportunity to share their answers/comments on the topics provided.

Items From The Floor

Society Hill Mayor Tommy Bradshaw announced the Town's upcoming dedication ceremony for their long-term lease of the old library to Rosenwald Foundation, the Catfish Festival, and the Veterans' Day Celebration. He also reported that the Town was seeking a new police chief and considering an ordinance to address dilapidated structures.

City of Darlington Mayor Pro-Tem Coleman Cannon briefly talked about the new Wal-Mart in Darlington and the opening of an ice cream parlor in the near future. He also talked about damages caused by Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Cannon expressed regrets from Mayor Hines who could not attend the meeting.

City of Hartsville Mayor Pro-Tem Johnny Andrews announced the opening of EdVenture Children's Museum satellite location in Hartsville. The formal announcement will be made in December. He also talked about the completion of College Avenue road paving project, the ribbon cutting for the county's absentee voting site (Hartsville Fire Department), Captain D's Restaurant, the LighterSide Restaurant, and Griggs Circle Bakery.

Darlington County Council Chairman Bobby Hudson introduced the county's Interim County Administrator Charles Stewart. Chairman Hudson stated that the county would be making an economic development announcement soon, and eventually, have an absentee voting site in Lamar and in Society Hill. He pointed out that Darlington County was the only county in eastern South Carolina with a satellite absentee voting prescient.

Darlington County School District Superintendent Eddie Ingram commended the district's graduation rate and briefly talked about a forthcoming assessment of where the students are five years after graduation. He also talked about the digital transformation project, the new director for Darlington County Institute of Technology, the Youth Apprenticeship Program, the digital portfolio system, the establishment of a business cabinet, damages caused by Hurricane Matthews, and their upcoming budget process. Dr. Ingram said he would be glad to host a meeting with leaders of the various municipalities and county to establish a taskforce to develop a countywide strategic plan.

Chairman Hudson announced that Time Warner Cable services would become available in the Town of Lamar.

Mrs. Childers announced that Senator Malloy and Sheriff-Elect Tony Chavis had to leave the meeting early.

Darlington County Board of Education Chairman Connell Delanie thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for participating in the discussion. He stressed that the county, in general, must come up with innovative ways to keep young people in the county. Mr. Delaine pointed out that Act 388 robbed the School District, and the District has to come up with innovative ways to use current resources.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. JaNet Bishop
Clerk to Council

Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of December 5, 2016.