

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

OCTOBER 5, 2015

A public hearing and regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 5th day of October 2015, 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, persons requesting notification, and posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to the County Administrator's Office.

A Notice of Public Hearing to receive comments on the Rural Development Projects was published in the News and Press and the Hartsville Messenger on September 16, 2015.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Vice Chairman Robbin Brock, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. David Coker, Mr. Marvin Le Flowers, Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, and Ms. Mozella Nicholson.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Terence Arrington, County Attorney James C. Cox, Jr., Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Airport Manager Barry Kennett, Interim Emergency Preparedness Director Mac McDonald, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Elections/Voter Registration Director Hoyt Campbell, Planning Director Doug Reimold, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Economic Development Director Frank Willis, Sheriff Wayne Byrd, Chief Deputy Sheriff James Hudson, Board of Education Member Connell Delaine, Darlington City Administrator Howard Garland, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Jim Faile of the Messenger and Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Rural Development Projects consisting of new equipment purchase(s) for the following county departments: Codes Enforcement, Environmental Services, Historical Commission, Information Technology, Parks and Recreation, Prison Farm, Recycling, Roads and Bridges, and Tax Collector's Office. Citizens may comment on such items as economic and environmental impacts, service area, and alternatives to the project.

Vice Chairman Brock declared the public hearing open at 6 p.m. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Call To Order / Invocation And Pledge Of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Brock called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Flowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Darlington City Administrator Howard Garland, on behalf of the Mayor and Darlington City Council, thanked the county's staff (Interim Emergency Preparedness Director Mac McDonald, Sheriff Byrd, County Fire Chief Kenny Stratton, Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans, Codes Enforcement Officer Chris Cudd) for their assistance during the recent storm to ensure that the town was safe.

~ Councilwoman Nicholson arrived at 6:03 p.m. ~

Emergency Preparedness Director's Report

Vice Chairman Brock recognized Interim Emergency Preparedness Director Mac McDonald so that he could present an update on the damages caused by the recent storm.

Mr. McDonald presented a handout detailing the condition of the roads after the storm and talked about the impact of the storm, flooding events, and road closures. He reported that the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was activated on Saturday morning and recovery and preliminary damage assessments began today to determine whether the county would qualify for federal disaster declaration. If the threshold is met, the Governor will request the federal disaster declaration, which will determine whether the county will get individual assistance (available for homeowners/property owners) and/or public assistance to reimburse local governments for costs incurred during the response and recovery efforts. If the county receives the federal disaster declaration, FEMA will then conduct another preliminary damage assessment to validate the findings so that the determination can be made as to what will be available.

Ms. Nicholson said she thought the President had declared South Carolina as a disaster area.

Mr. McDonald responded that this was correct. He explained that the Governor had requested the federal disaster declaration in preparation for a response to the disaster. This made federal assistance available to the state and local government in terms of food, commodities, etc. However, the county would have to determine the extent of impact for the next round of the federal disaster declaration, which would bring in assistance and recovery monies.

In response to Vice Chairman Brock's question as to how many of the affected roads (road that were closed) were county roads, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson stated that all the road closures were state roads.

Personal Appearances

There were no personal appearances.

Consent Agenda

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
A. Planning Commission Minutes, July & August 2015	Receive As Information
B. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report, September 2015	Receive As Information
C. Public Information Release RE: Meetings To Receive Public Input Regarding Green Infrastructure Map & Plan	Receive As Information
D. Economic Development Fall 2015 Quarterly Newsletter	Receive As Information

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes Of The Property Tax Rollback Discussion, Public Hearing, & Regular Meeting, September 21, 2015

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the minutes of September 21, 2015.

Ms. Nicholson requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that she wished happy holidays to the Jewish citizens in Darlington County on Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. She pointed out that the minutes only states that she wished everyone a happy holiday.

MOTION was made by Ms. Nicholson and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to amend the minutes to reflect that Ms. Nicholson wished happy holidays to the Jewish citizens in Darlington County on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Brock called for the vote on approval of the minutes, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 15-28, An Ordinance Authorizing Pursuant To Title 12, Chapter 44 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement, By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina, And A Company Known To The County As Project Beacon IX, As Sponsor, And One Or More Sponsor Affiliates To Provide For A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive And Certain Special Source Revenue Credits; And Other Related Matters - **THIRD READING**

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 15-28.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 15-29, 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, 2015, And Ending June 30, 2016 - **FIRST READING**

The title of Ordinance No. 15-29 was read for first reading. No action required.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 657, Memorandum Of Agreement For Acceptance Of Additional Road Right-Of-Way To Improve A Portion Of Cross Swamp Road With Paving

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve Resolution No. 657.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Johnson requested more information regarding the Resolution and the location of the road. She also wanted to know whether this road was on the priority list for road improvement/paving.

Someone from the audience stated that Cross Swamp Road was located between Tomahawk Road and Una Road in the Oates Community.

Mrs. Johnson presented her concerns that this road was not listed on the priority list. She said Council needs to refer to the list of priorities.

Mr. Douglas stated that he thought the county was not accepting any more rights-of-way.

Mr. Arrington pointed out that this was a CTC (County Transportation Committee) project which the county has no control. He also pointed out that the CTC is appointed by the Senator. County staff members (Mr. Arrington, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, and Planning Director Doug Reimold) attend the meetings and work collaboratively with the CTC. Mr. Arrington stated that the county does not have the authority to tell the CTC what they can and cannot pave.

Mr. Coker reported that from the information provided in the agenda package, the road was being moved away from a canal and paved, making the area safer for travel. The county already has the road, but was moving it over at no cost to the county.

Mrs. Johnson stated that within the last three to four months, County Council signed a statement complaining about CTC taking over the role of County Council. The statement was sent to South Carolina Association of Counties to defend Council's position. She said Council needs to look into how the CTC established their priority list for road improvements because roads are a major role of County Council.

Mr. Arrington said it would be a good idea to recommend a road list to the CTC for consideration. He pointed out that the CTC has no desire to take on the role of County Council. As a Committee, the CTC was doing what it was appointed to do. Mr. Arrington also explained

that the CTC has and will consider projects presented by the county/staff. It was not a matter of the CTC not wanting to work with Council. He stated that he would look into Mrs. Johnson's concern as to the role of the CTC.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Other Items

Annual Appointments & Appointments To Fill Vacancies On County Boards & Commissions: Alcohol & Drug Citizen Advisory Committee (Hudson), Airport Commission (Flowers), Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals (Douglas, Flowers), Library Board (Flowers), Parks & Recreation Commission (Flowers), Planning Commission (Douglas, Flowers)

The appointments were carried over.

Request To Purchase A New 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup Truck For County Airport

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the state contract purchase of a new truck for the county Airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase A New Bush Hog For County Airport

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the state contract purchase of a bush hog for the county Airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase A New Tractor For County Airport

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the purchase of a new tractor for the county Airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

CTC Funds For Surveying For Road Improvements To Watts Place, Lantern Drive, & Candlelight Drive, \$5,500 PCN209182

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve CTC funds for surveying for the roads listed.

The motion carried unanimously.

CTC Funds To Pave Lake Darpo Parking Lot & Tennis Court (\$97,165 PCN209232) And Road Leading Into Lake Darpo (\$48,000 PCN209231)

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve CTC funds for paving Lake Darpo parking lot, tennis court, and road leading to Lake Darpo.

Mr. Arrington explained that the staff was implementing improvements at Lake Darpo, and he approached the CTC about paving these areas and they agreed. This was one of those collaborative efforts between the county and the CTC. He also mentioned that the staff would be talking with the CTC to fund another project. Mr. Arrington commended the staff for their efforts on the Lake Darpo project.

The motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation Proclaiming October 2015 As Domestic Violence Awareness Month

MOTION was made by Ms. Nicholson and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the proclamation.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update - Mr. Terence Arrington, County Administrator

Mr. Arrington expressed his appreciation to EOC participants (Mac McDonald, Michelle Moore, Gary White, the Sheriff's Department, the Fire District, etc.) for their efforts during the storm to ensure the safety of county residents.

County Telephone System. Mr. Arrington reported that the current telephone system in the courthouse has been problematic. He provided documentation to Council showing how much the county was currently paying for the telephone system and the cost for a state contract vendor (Spirit Communications) to upgrade the system. The cost to upgrade the telephone system at the courthouse would be less than the current cost. Mr. Arrington was providing this information so that Council would have an understanding of what was being done. He indicated that no action from Council was needed and no additional funds would be spent other than what was already being spent on the current phone system.

Council Worksession. Mr. Arrington reported that the agenda package included a meeting notice for a worksession scheduled for Wednesday, October 15th at 4 p.m. for Council and the City of Darlington to receive information about Michael Baker International. He stated that Council had approved the staff to proceed with a contract for architectural and engineering for the courthouse project, and funds were available to get the county a concept or design. Michael Baker International would walk the county through the process from start to finish, including any studies regarding infrastructure, etc. For the worksession, Mr. Arrington indicated that he would prepare a PowerPoint presentation showing all the courthouse issues. He commended Building Maintenance Director Andrew Smith for his efforts in continually trying to patch things in the building. Mr. Arrington stated that it might be worth considering a new facility versus patching up an old building that is continuously falling apart and outdated. He also mentioned that the courthouse study committee would be resurrected at some point.

Ms. Nicholson requested that the President of Darlington County Bar Association be invited to the meeting.

Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Mr. Flowers asked whether the staff had obtained information about a bond for the landfill.

Mr. Arrington indicated that he would meet with Bond Attorney Ben Zeigler on tomorrow to discuss this matter.

Mr. Flowers thanked and commended the staff for their work/efforts during the recent storm.

Mrs. Johnson commended the staff and suggested that Council establish a priority list of things that must be done and a plan of action. She mentioned her plan on leadership and management and briefly talked about the staff not having the tools to work with, such as the Roads and Bridges Department. Mrs. Johnson reported that she contacted SC Department of Transportation regarding the need for a stop sign on the road beside Taco Bell that crosses Juleswood Drive and leads to Franklin Street on to Highway 52. She also talked about Darlington County being the only county in the state without a historical museum.

Mr. Coker, Ms. Nicholson, Mr. Douglas, and Vice Chairman Brock commended the staff for their work and efforts during the storm.

Vice Chairman Brock asked the status about the county entering a contract with a vendor to review the county's tax records for homestead exemptions. Mr. Arrington confirmed that the company was currently reviewing/researching county records.

Vote For Executive Session

There was not a vote for executive session.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. JaNet Bishop
Clerk to Council

Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of November 2, 2015.