

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

April 30, 2018

The Town of Society Hill hosted the joint dinner meeting of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, and Legislative Delegation on April 30, 2018, at 6 p.m., at The Depot, 122 W. Depot Street, Society Hill, 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, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. J. Lewis Brown, and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Chairman Marvin Le Flowers, Mr. David Coker, Ms. Mozella Nicholson, and Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Darlington County Board Of Education Members Connell Delanie, Warren Jeffords, Billy Baldwin, and Wanda Hassler, Darlington County School District Acting Superintendent Willie E. Boyd, Sr., City of Darlington Mayor Gloria Hines, City of Darlington Council Members John Segars, Elaine Reed, Shelia Baccus, Bryant Gardner, John Milling, and Carolyn Bruce (Mayor Pro-Tem), City of Darlington Administrator Howard Garland, City of Darlington Police Chief Kelvin Washington, City of Darlington Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Pridgen, City of Hartsville Council Members Johnny Andrews (Mayor Pro-Tem) and Teresa Mack, Society Hill Mayor Tommy Bradshaw, Society Hill Town Clerk Brenda Nettles, Society Hill Council Members Deborah Harrell, Tammy Gandy, and Carolyn Oliver, Lamar Mayor Darnell Byrd McPherson, Lamar Council Member Inez Lee, Senator Gerald Malloy, County Transportation Committee Member Roosevelt Wallace, and Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy.

REPORTERS PRESENT

None.

Welcome / Invocation

Society Hill Mayor Tommy Bradshaw welcome everyone to the dinner meeting and the old Railroad Depot. He noted that this facility was built in 1866, rebuilt after the civil war, and recently restored as a functioning museum and visitor center.

Darlington County Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy presented information regarding the history of Society Hill, the Depot, and the Pee Dee Area. He briefly talked about each of the exhibits which included the 379 year old Morgan James Bible (the oldest document in the Pee Dee area), the archeological remnants from the first courthouse at Long Bluff, the third library created in South Carolina which was in Society Hill (the oldest living library in the State with its original founding collection); the living room suit of Zack Wines (the oldest African American Free Merchant in Darlington County and postmaster for Society Hill until 1902), portraits of two freed African Americans living in Darlington County in 1865, Mercantilism in Society Hill including Coker Rogers Store, an alcohol prohibition still, historic houses in Society Hill, and maps and plats of Darlington County.

Prior to dinner being served, the invocation was presented by Society Hill Councilwoman Deborah Harrell, Mayor Pro Tem.

Items From The Floor

Senator Gerald Malloy commended the efforts to improve the Depot and Society Hill Library. Highlights of his comments included the availability of funds for the Town of Lamar water project, the completion of Lowders Lake project, progress on the courthouse project, status of the TERI (Teachers & Employees Retention Incentive) Program, the State's budget process, members of the House of Representatives being up for election, funds for teachers' pay raise and school buses, the closure of several school districts, progress of the criminal justice system, the upcoming 2020 census, the need for corporation between the school district and the county as it relates to spending money and taxing authority, the need for infrastructure for economic development/ jobs, local government funds, expansion of the Governor's School, the Department of Transportation's request for municipalities to move/relocate utilities, efforts of the Darlington County Water and Sewer Authority Board to locate water in the Society Hill/Mt. Rona area, and seven years reauthorization for First Steps.

Senator Malloy welcomed Darlington Police Chief Kelvin Washington and thanked Dr. Willie Boyd for 50 years of service with Darlington County School District. He announced that School Board Member Harmon Baldwin is a candidate for the House of Representatives. Senator Malloy offered his assistance to Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy to establish a museum in Darlington County.

Darlington Mayor Gloria Hines thanked Senator Malloy for his efforts for the City to Darlington to obtain an Enhancement Grant for sidewalks. The work will begin in October.

Mayor Bradshaw recognized members of Society Hill Town Council (Deborah Harrell (Mayor Pro Tem), Carolyn Oliver, and Tammy Gandy), Society Hill Clerk Brenda Lee Nettles, and Society Hill Police Chief David Young.

Mayor Bradshaw reported on the completion of the Town's roof replacement project, the 1950 library providing a long-term lease to Rosenwald High School Foundation for a museum to promote the history of Rosenwald High School, preservation of the Coker Rogers building, a park on Church Street, a potential prospect for St. David's Academy building, and the potential expansion of the old Galey and Lord building by the new owners. He also talked about federal funds used to restore train depots for educational purposes and how Society Hill was settled, became the Cheraw District, grew, and declined.

Lamar Mayor Darnell McPherson introduced Lamar Town Council Member Inez Lee. She commented that her mother, Ms. Doris Byrd, once served on Lamar Town Council. Mayor McPherson talked about establishing a working group to focus on similar issues to promote and help each other meet challenges and move the communities forward. As the newly elected Mayor, she is learning about governance, her role, how to motivate and encourage all citizens to become involved and accountable, how to make the town better, etc.

Darlington City Mayor Gloria Hines recognized members of Darlington City Council (Carolyn Bruce (Mayor Pro Tem), Elaine Reed, Shelia Baccus, Bryant Gardner, John Millings, and John Segars), Darlington City Administrator Howard Garland, Darlington City Clerk Gloria Pridgen, and Darlington City Police Chief Kelvin Washington. She talked about the progress of the stormwater drainage project, the City's ownership of Virgil Wells Stadium property, purchase of the ballfield property near Dixie Cup on the Old Florence Highway to combine softball to one area, improvements (lights and roof) to the Stanley and Baldwin gyms, the city facility to house the Soup Kitchen, and the receipt of an enhancement grant and funds from South Carolina Department of Transportation for sidewalk from Avenue F to Walgreens. She mentioned the new Tractor Supply Store and Little Ceasars Pizza.

Hartsville City Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Andrews recognized Hartsville City Councilwoman Teresa Mack and commended Mayor McPherson's efforts several years ago on Hartsville's All-American City Committee. He stated that if the county and municipalities would pass the Bailey Bill, which contains a provision to freeze the assessment and value on historic buildings, this would be an incentive for people who are of refurbishing/remodeling historic homes because they would not have to pay taxes on the increased value. Mr. Andrews talked about the opening of EdVenture Children Museum and Neptune Island, forthcoming promotional material for Hartsville Business Park located at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Highway 15 Bypass, and the Department of Transportation funding the roundabout in the downtown area. He also talked about a provision in the budget passed by Congress for opportunity zones to provide certain tax benefits to businesses that invest in the area. Hartsville submitted two areas (the Historic Butler District and the Governor School (Coker Avenue, Railroad Avenue, and business park area) area and received the Governor School area. The City is awaiting final approval from the Treasury Department and the US Government. Mr. Andrews briefly talked about the City's efforts to help develop the area in front of the Governor School for houses and businesses.

Hartsville Councilwoman Teresa Mack encouraged everyone to work with the Census to help the county and municipalities grow and receive various funds.

Darlington County Councilman Lewis Brown commended Hartsville businesses for working together and the leadership of various individuals. Mr. Brown also talked about improvements at Coker College and throughout the downtown area.

Darlington County Council Chairman Bobby Hudson commended Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy, the status of the county's budget, the I-20/340 Industrial Park, and the operation at Fiber Industries facility. He also talked about the upcoming referendum for Sunday sales of alcohol, the referendum for the courthouse project, and the problems at Cambridge Apartments in Lamar area. Chairman Hudson commended the members of Darlington County Council and Mr. Kilgo's initiative for the sales tax (Hospitality Tax) in the unincorporated area which has allowed the county to make improvements in recreation throughout the county. He recognized members of Darlington County Council (Bobby Kilgo, Dannie Douglas, and Lewis Brown).

Darlington County School District Acting Superintendent Willie Boyd recognized members of Darlington County Board of Education (Warren Jeffords, Wanda Hassler, Billy Baldwin, and Connell Delaine). Dr. Boyd stated that the School District has the largest restaurant and transportation system in the county, manages/expends over \$100 million annually, has 10,000 students and 1,500 employees, and will have three new schools in 2019 (one in Lamar area near Windham Road, one off Bay Road near Carolina Pines Hospital in Hartville, and one in Darlington at the old Cain Elementary site). He talked about the completion of the renovations at Lamar High School Athletic Center (restroom and concession stands) and the employment of a new Superintendent (Dr. Tim Newman from Orangeburg). Dr. Boyd indicated that he will be retiring (after 50 years of service with the School District) along with four principals and the Food Services Director. He briefly talked about the process of replacing retirees, the shortage of teachers, South Carolina having the strictest credentialing process, and the District's recruitment and retention program for teachers. Dr. Boyd pointed out that Darlington County School District has paid more money to teachers than any other county in the Pee Dee area. He also announced that Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology recently earned the Palmetto Finest Award - the highest award for schools in South Carolina. The locations for the Summer Feeding Program will be announced at a later date.

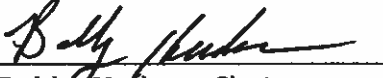
Board of Education Member Connell Delanie briefly talked about Dr. Boyd's retirement, that 13 Darlington County high school students will receive a high school diploma and an Associate Degree at the same time, and efforts to recruit students to Darlington County Institute of Technology (DCIT) and develop an Apprenticeship Program. He also talked about unfunded state mandates, the District's budget process, flooding problems at various schools, improving/enhancing the appearance of entrance areas in the county, and low enrollment at Rosenwald Elementary and Middle Schools. Mr. Delanie said the county must come up with a way to increase the tax base and population in Society Hill.

Mayor Bradshaw thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of June 4 2018.