

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

December 3, 2018

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 3rd day of December 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 Ordinance No. 18-14 was published in the News and Press and the Hartsville Messenger on November 14, 2018.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, County Attorney James C. Cox, Jr., Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Development Services Director Terri Cribb, Emergency Medical Services Director Kenny Bowen, E-911 Coordinator Michelle Moore, Economic Development Director Frank Willis, Environmental Services Director Renee Howle, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Human Resource Manager Ginger Winburn, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Recreation Director Le Andrews, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Emergency Management Coordinator Molly Odom, U.S. Small Business Administration/Office of Disaster Assistance Public Affairs Specialist Leroy Frazier, Mr. Linwood Epps, Ms. Thomasina Davis, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press, Mr. Kent Mahoney of the Messenger, and Mr. Matt Parris of ABC News15.

RECOGNITION

Chairman Hudson presented a plaque to Councilwoman Nicholson in appreciation for 16 years of service with Darlington County Council from January 2003 to December 2018.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Chairman Hudson declared the Public Hearing open at 6:02 p.m. to receive comments on Ordinance No. 18-14.

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 at 6:03 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Ms. Nicholson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Leroy Frazier, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Public Affairs Specialist, stated that in response to the Presidential Declaration regarding the recovery from Hurricane Florence, the closing date for the declaration was scheduled for December 5, 2018. Since the SBA Office will be closed on December 5, 2018, in observance of the National Holiday of Mourning for Former President George H.W. Bush, it will reopen on December 6, 2018, to receive applications. The closest SBA Business Recovery Center to Darlington County is located at Florence-Darlington Technical College in Florence. Mr. Frazier pointed out that it is the job of the SBA to respond and provide federal assistance to make homes and businesses whole again. He encouraged individuals who were impacted by Hurricane Florence to apply to SBA. As an update, Mr. Frazier presented the number and amount of loans provided for homes, businesses, and economic injury in response to Hurricane Florence in South Carolina and in Darlington County. The Business Recovery Center will be open until further notice.

Ms. Thomasina Davis, of Prosperity Child Care in Lamar, said she was following up on a response to her request from last month for land behind the Robert L. Grooms Building in Lamar. She wanted to know what had been accomplished and the process.

Mr. Stewart responded that Ms. Davis should contact the County Administrator's Office for the staff to evaluate the request.

Mr. Linwood Epps, a citizen, asked why the one percent tax referendum did not pass. He indicated that he voted for the referendum. However, many other people had questions about what the county would do with the funds. Mr. Epps said people wanted to know whether the county would build two buildings, build one building and move one building, or renovate the current building. He stated that two years ago, the school district was asked to withdraw its one percent because the county wanted it then. However, the county still does not know what it is going to do with the \$20 million. Mr. Epps suggested that Council members take advantage of the TV stations' three-minute spot every week to encourage people to vote for it and explain why.

Personal Appearances

There were no personal appearances.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

- 6.A. Pee Dee Workforce Development Board Quarterly Report For Period Ending September 30, 2018
- 6.B. Darlington County Beaver Program Report, October 2018
- 6.C. CTC (County Transportation Committee) October Minutes, November Agenda, & October C Program Statement
- 6.D. Rubicon Family Counseling Services - Darlington County Plan, FY2019
- 6.E. Darlington County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Report, November 2018

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to approve receiving the Consent Agenda items as information.

The motion carried unanimously.

Amendment to the agenda to bring forth Executive Session

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to amend the agenda to bring forth Executive Session for discussion of employment relating to compensation of proposed positions referenced in Ordinance No. 18-14.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - Discussion Of Employment Relating To Compensation Of Proposed Positions Referenced In Ordinance No. 18-14

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo for Council members, the County Administrator, and the County Attorney to go into Executive Session for discussion of employment relating to compensation of proposed positions referenced in Ordinance No. 18-14.

The motion carried unanimously.

County Council, the County Administrator, and the County Attorney went into Executive Session at 6:14 p.m. and reconvened at 6:35 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Approval Of Minutes – Minutes of Joint Meeting Of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, & Legislative Delegation, October 29, 2018

Approval Of Minutes – Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, November 5, 2018

MOTION made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve the minutes of the Joint Meeting held on October 29, 2018, and the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting held on November 5, 2018.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

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

MOTION made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve second reading of Ord. 18-14.

The motion carried unanimously.

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 over his appointment to the Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals and Parks & Recreation Commission.

Mr. Flowers carried over his appoint 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 over her appointment to the Airport Commission, Board of Assessment Appeals, Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals, Library Board, and Parks & Recreation Commission.

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

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

Administrative Update

County Administrator Charles Stewart did not have an update.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Ms. Nicholson stated that this was her last meeting as a County Council Member. She expressed appreciation for the years that she was able to share with citizens, the county, and her colleagues. She also thanked the staff for the Drop-In.

Mr. Douglas mentioned the large amount of water in the ditches and the ditches not being cleaned. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Brown thanked Ms. Nicholson for her service, commitment, and time in office. He then explained that when the one percent sales tax referendum question was formed regarding the courthouse, County Council members were restricted and could not make comments publicly or use the press to convey their thoughts as Council members. Therefore, Council members had to be very cautious about making any comments. He then thanked County Council and the City of Hartsville for their support through Accommodations Tax Funds for the Player's Championship Jr. Golf Tournament that was held last weekend in Hartsville. This event brought 120 players and 80 hotel rooms booked for at least two nights.

Ms. Thomas commended Ms. Nicholson for her support and encouraged her to volunteer in the community. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mr. Kilgo commended the Darlington Rescue Squad's Christmas Parade that was held on yesterday and the strategic changes that were made which helped with the afternoon activities. He also thanked the Kiwanis Club for hosting the Carolighting Program and the Darlington Garden Club for providing the Christmas Tree in the courtyard on the Square. Mr. Kilgo also thank Facilities Manager Andrew Smith, Recreation Director Lee Andrews, Darlington Fire Department, and Darlington Police Department for making this event possible. He encouraged everyone to go see the Christmas Tree. Mr. Kilgo then mentioned that Mr. Curtis Boyd and his crew draped the lights around the dying Bradford Pear Trees.


Chairman Hudson thanked Ms. Nicholson for her service and expressed his appreciation for her work. He announced that Lamar High School Football team will be playing in the State Championship on Friday in Columbia. He thanked the staff and wished everyone happy holidays

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,


J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council


Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of January 2, 2019.