

REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

May 5, 2014

A regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held May 5, 2014, 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 at the entrance of the County Administrator's Office and the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Wesley Blackwell, Vice Chairwoman Ms. Mozella "Pennie" Nicholson, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. Robbin Brock, Mr. Marvin Le Flowers (*arrived at 6:09 a.m.*), Mr. Bobby Hudson, Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Dale Surrett, Acting County Attorney Chris Scott, County Attorney James C. Cox, Jr. (*arrived at 6:40 p.m.*), Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Finance Director Perry Strickland, Emergency Services Director Charles Stewart, Central Communications Director David Sessoms, Fire Chief Kenny Stratton, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Recreation Director Ken McRae, Sheriff Wayne Byrd, Corrections Director Mitch Stanley, Human Resources Director Ginger Winburn, Planning Director Doug Reimold, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

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

Recognition of Retiree

Chairman Blackwell presented Mr. Johnny Beasley with a plaque in appreciation for 18 years of service with the Sheriff's Department. On behalf of fellow deputies, Sheriff Wayne Byrd presented Mr. Beasley with his service weapon.

Call To Order / Invocation / Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and recognized Mr. John Sweeney from the Office of U.S. House of Representative Tom Rice. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Ms. Nicholson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Ellen James Ramsburgh, co-owner of a farm about two miles beyond the City of Darlington, requested that Council's attention be placed on improving the entryway along Highway 52 into Darlington. She said people along this road were good stewards of their homes and land. However, with a little effort on the parts of others, this area could become a very attractive entrance into Darlington. Ms. Ramsburgh asked County Council to work with City Council to improve this entryway into Darlington.

Mr. C. Wayne Howle, a resident of Kelleybelle Road in Hartsville, asked County Council to continue to push forward on Ordinance No. 13-31 for funds for three fire stations so that the county will have a unified fire district.

Chairman Blackwell responded that Council had approved the ordinance and the loan was signed on today.

Approval Of Minutes - Joint Meeting Of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, & Legislative Delegation, March 31, 2014

MOTION was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the minutes of the joint meeting of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, the Board of Education, and legislative delegation held on March 31, 2014.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Regular Meeting, April 7, 2014

MOTION was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 7, 2014.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 14-02, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Corporate Purposes Of Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; To Make Appropriations From The General Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council; And To Make Provisions For The Fiscal Affairs Of Said County For Said Fiscal Year **(Based upon the proposed budget request presented by the County Administrator per Resolution No. 628 approved by County Council on August 19, 2013.) - SECOND READING**

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Hudson to carry over second reading of Ordinance No. 14-02.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-03, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Fees For The Countywide Enhance 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; To Make Appropriations From The County Emergency Telephone System Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council **(Based upon the proposed budget request presented by**

the County Administrator per Resolution No. 628 approved by County Council on August 19, 2013.)- SECOND READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 14-03.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-04, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For The County Library System Of Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; To Make Appropriations From The County Library System Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council (Based upon the proposed budget request presented by the County Administrator per Resolution No. 628 approved by County Council on August 19, 2013.) - SECOND READING

MOTION was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 14-04.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-05, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For The County Environmental Services Fund For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; To Make Appropriations From The County Environmental Services Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council (Based upon the proposed budget request presented by the County Administrator per Resolution No. 628 approved by County Council on August 19, 2013.) - SECOND READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Blackwell and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 14-05.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-06, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For The County Fire District Of Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; To Make Appropriations From The County Fire District Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council (Based upon the proposed budget request presented by the County Administrator per Resolution No. 628 approved by County Council on August 19, 2013.) - SECOND READING

MOTION was made by Ms. Nicholson and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to carry over second reading of Ordinance No. 14-06.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-07, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Fees For The Development Partnership Fund For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; To Make Appropriations From The County Development Partnership Fund Of Said County For Such Purposes For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; And To Provide For Budget Control Of Said Appropriations By The County Council (Based upon the proposed budget request presented by the County Administrator per Resolution No. 628 approved by County Council on August 19, 2013.) - SECOND READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to carry over second reading of Ordinance No. 14-07.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-08, An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Fire Control Purposes Within The Hartsville Fire Protection District For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015; To Appropriate Said Funds For Payment To The City Of Hartsville As Authorized By Chapter 26, Article III, Of The Darlington County Code Of Ordinances (Hartsville Fire Protection District) And Pursuant To An Agreement With The City As Authorized Therein; And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance (***Based upon the proposed budget request presented by the County Administrator per Resolution No. 628 approved by County Council on August 19, 2013.***) - **SECOND READING**

MOTION was made by Mr. Hudson and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to carry over second reading of Ordinance No. 14-08.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-09, 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, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015 (***Based upon the proposed budget request presented by the County Administrator per Resolution No. 628 approved by County Council on August 19, 2013.***) - **SECOND READING**

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mr. Hudson to carry over second reading of Ordinance No. 14-09.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 643, Proclamation for Peace Officers' Memorial Day, May 15th

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve Resolution No. 643.

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Board/Commissions/Committees - Alcohol & Drug Citizen Advisory Committee (*Flowers, Blackwell Blackwell*), Ambulance Commission (*Hudson*), Construction Board Of Adjustment & Appeals (*Flowers*), Jetport Commission (*Flowers*), Library Board (*Flowers, Nicholson*), and Parks & Recreation Commission (*Blackwell*)

Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee. Chairman Blackwell nominated Mr. Sam Ingram for appointment to the Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee.

The vote was unanimous to appoint Mr. Ingram to the Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee. Mr. Ingram will replace Mr. Brian Rudick and serve until he resigns or is replaced by County Council.

Ambulance Commission. Mr. Hudson nominated Ms. Anne Weaver for appointment to the Ambulance Commission.

The vote was unanimous to appoint Ms. Weaver to the Ambulance Commission. Ms. Weaver will complete the term of Mr. Craig Lacross, which expires June 30, 2014.

FY14/15 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee’s Funding Recommendations & Applicants’ Request For Lump Sum Appropriation

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to accept the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee’s funding recommendations.

Mr. Kilgo recused himself since he is a member of the Darlington Veterans Committee. He said the Chairman of the of the Veterans Committee asked him to tell Council that they could not have gotten this work done without the assistance of JaNet Bishop, Clerk to Council, and he greatly appreciates everything she did to make this possible.

Ms. Nicholson recused herself since she is the legal advisor for Butler Heritage Foundation. She said the Board thanks Council and Mrs. Bishop, Clerk to Council, for her work in helping with this request.

Mrs. Johnson recused herself since she is the Executive Director for CRC (Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex).

The motion carried with Mr. Kilgo, Ms. Nicholson, and Mrs. Johnson abstaining.

The FY14/15 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee’s funding recommendations were as follows:

	PROGRAMS / EVENTS	APPLICANTS / SPONSORS	REQUESTS	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND
1	Antiques Trail \$5,100 Operating, \$675 Capital	City of Darlington	\$ 5,775	\$ 500
2	Butler Heritage Week \$15,000 Contractual	Butler Heritage Foundation	\$ 15,000	\$ 4,000
3	Car Hauler Parade/RaceFest on the Square \$5,000 Operating	Hartsville Chamber of Commerce/DC Tourism	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,600
4	Darlington 5K Race \$5,000 Operating	City of Darlington	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,500
5	Darlington County Tourism \$20,000 Personnel, \$13,600 Operating, \$2,500 Travel, \$1,000 Contractual	Hartsville Chamber of Commerce/DC Tourism	\$ 37,100	\$ 15,800
6	Darlington Veterans Memorial \$5,000 Contractual	Darlington Downtown Revitalization Asso.	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,200

7	Eastern SC Heritage Region/Darlington Focus \$5,000 Operating, \$5,000 Contractual	Florence Convention & Visitor Bureau	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,800
8	FanFest 500 \$3,000 Operating	Hartsville Chamber of Commerce/DC Tourism	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000
9	Gospel Music on the Square \$3,000 Operating	City of Darlington	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000
10	Hartsville Family Fireworks Festival \$5,000 Operating	Hartsville Chamber of Commerce/DC Tourism	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000
11	Hartsville Genealogical Library \$1,500 Operating, \$1,500 Capital	Old Darlington Dist. Chapter, SC Gen. Society	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000
12	Lamar Egg Scramble Jamboree \$3,500 Operating, \$7,000 Contractual	Lamar Egg Scramble	\$ 10,500	\$ 3,000
13	Market on the Square \$1,200 Operating	Darlington Downtown Revitalization Asso.	\$ 1,200	\$ 700
14	Players Championship \$10,000 Operating	SC Junior Golf Foundation	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,300
15	RenoFest \$13,000 Contractual	Hartsville Arts Council	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,600
16	Society Hill Catfish Festival \$3,000 Operating	Society Hill Catfish Festival	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
17	Sweet Potato Festival \$4,000 Operating	Pilot Club	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000
18	Taste of Darlington \$2,500 Operating	Darlington Downtown Revitalization Asso.	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,200
19	The Total Package \$7,000 Personnel, \$10,000 Operating, \$10,500 Contractual	Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex	\$ 27,500	\$ 3,000
20	YMCA \$5,000 Contractual	Hartsville YMCA	\$ 5,000	\$ 800
			\$ 173,575	\$ 60,000

Request For Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) To Extend The Performance Period For The Grant Agreements For The South Darlington Watershed Project From September 30, 2014 To September 30, 2015

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the request for NRCS to extend the performance period for the grant agreements for the South Darlington Watershed Project from September 30, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request To Purchase 15 Auto External Defibrillator AED's, Fire District

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the purchase of 15 auto external defibrillators.

Mr. Surrett indicated that the cost for the defibrillators would be \$22,716.75.

The motion carried unanimously.

Long Range Planning Grant For Library, \$2,500

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Hudson to approve the long-range planning grant for the library.

The motion carried unanimously.

Bid Report To Resurface Gilchrist Road, Thorngate Circle, & Ripley Station Road

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to award the bid for resurfacing Gilchrist Road, Thorngate Circle, and Ripley Station Road to C.R. Jackson in the amount of \$ 332,182.60.

The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Transfer Request, Detention Center

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the budget transfer request for the Detention Center.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Corrections Director was requesting to transfer \$50,000 to Overtime (1-21-42320-13000) from the following line items: \$42,600 from Regular Full-Time Salary/Wages (1-21-42320-11100) and \$7,400 from Incentive Pay (1-21-42320-14400) to complete the fiscal year due to high turnover rate of employees at the Detention Center. Vacation hours and annual in-service training hours for officers.

Budget Transfer Request, Prison Farm

MOTION was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Hudson to approve the budget transfer request for the Prison Farm.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Prison Farm Director was requesting to transfer \$2,700 to Overtime (1-027-42350-13000) from the following line items: \$300 from HVAC Repairs (1-27-42350-43400); \$500 from Clinical (1-27-42350-344000), \$200 from RE&MC (1-27-42350-43700), \$300 from Bldg/Const. (1-27-42350-45000), \$400 from First Veh. Serv. (1-27-42350-43800), and \$1,000 from Brdg/Clng (1-27-42350-61100) to pay officers to fill in during employees' annual leave.

Budget Transfer Request, Fire District

MOTION was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the budget transfer request for the Fire District.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Fire Chief was requesting to transfer \$6,350 to Insurance (014-036-42200-52000) from Council Discretionary (014-036-42200-80400) to increase the premium due to updating policy to reflect new agreed value of apparatus.

Request To Replace 61 CPU/Computer Hard Drives In Various County Offices

MOTION was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve the request to replace 61 computer hard drives in various county offices.

Mr. Surrett explained that the computers have Microsoft XP software. The county could change the software, which would cost a great deal of money, or purchase new hardware containing the new software. The staff felt that it would be more appropriate to purchase new hardware with the new software. He also reported that the line item account already exists for countywide computer replacement.

The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Transfer Request, Sheriff's Office

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the budget transfer request for the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Kilgo talked about the number of recent wrecks involving cars in the Sheriff's Department. He said it was time to rein in the spending for automobiles in the Sheriff's Department and time for them to share. Mr. Kilgo felt that it would be wise for those people who cannot seem to keep their car on the road, to take a defensive driving class. He indicated that since he has questions about the wrecks, he would not vote to approve the budget transfer request.

The motion carried with Mr. Kilgo opposing.

The Sheriff was requesting to transfer \$28,000 to RE&MC/Veh. & Equip. (001-035-42100-43700) from the following line items: \$9,300 from Salaries (001-035-42100-11100), \$5,100 from Incentive (001-035-42100-14400), \$4,300 from Worker's Comp (001-035-42100-26000), and \$9,300 from Fuel (001-035-52100-62100) for replacement of two damaged vehicles.

FY2014 Local JAG Grant, Sheriff's Office

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the FY2014 Local JAG Grant.

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
A. Finance Review Committee Minutes, April 7, 2014	Receive As Information
B. Historical Commission Minutes, March 6, 2014	Receive As Information

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| C. Pee Dee Mental Health Center Board Of Director's Minutes, February 28, 2014 | Receive As Information |
| D. Building Permit Types Report, March 2014 | Receive As Information |
| E. County Building Inspections Report, February & March 2014 | Receive As Information |
| F. Darlington County Animal Shelter Quarterly Report, January - March 2014 | Receive As Information |
| G. NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card Program Report, March 2014 | Receive As Information |
| H. Marlboro/Darlington County Beaver Program Report, March 2014 | Receive As Information |
| I. Darlington County Jetport Results From Race Weekend | Receive As Information |
| J. Darlington County Financial Reports, 3 rd Quarter Report, January - March 2014 | Receive As Information |
| K. Board Of Fire Control Minutes - Jan. 10, 2013, Mar. 7, 2013, May 16, 2013, Aug. 8, 2013, Sept. 5, 2013, Oct. 10, 2013, Nov. 4, 2013, Jan. 23, 2014, Feb. 26, 2014, Mar. 3, 2014, & Mar. 27, 2014 | Receive As Information |
| L. S.C. Department Of Health & Environmental Control General Mine Operating Permit For Brady's Pit/Brady Hill, Located On Flatnose Road In Dovesville | Receive As Information |
| M. Information From Darlington County Environmental Services RE: Events Using Darlington County Solid Waste Collection Containers | Receive As Information |

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Personal Appearances

Mr. Shawn Melton - Darlington County Fire District

Mr. Shawn Melton, a volunteer with Darlington County Fire District, reported that he was let go from Pine Ridge Station 8 because he submitted leave for surgery. He explained that during the month of June, a new fire chief was voted in at Station 8 where he

served as Assistant Chief. The bylaws for Station 8 were never implemented because the county Fire District had implemented SOG's (Standard Operating Guidelines) and SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures). However, the new chief took it upon himself to vote in the station's bylaws. Mr. Melton stated that when he missed several meetings in June to spend time with his family and to travel, the new chief was not the chief, and the former chief knew where he was. Mr. Melton stated that he then submitted leave to have surgery in July and did not return until January. He also submitted a transfer in November. When he signed his leave to return, it was bounced around and never approved. Then in February, he received a letter from the chief requesting him to turn in his gear because he had violated the Station's bylaws - not Darlington County's policy. Mr. Melton felt that there were two sets of rules. He questioned the Fire District having policies/bylaws created by the Fire Board and individual stations having their own bylaws.

Chairman Blackwell requested the County Administrator and the Fire Chief to investigate this matter.

Mr. Surrent indicated that there exists a Volunteer Grievance Process that Mr. Melton could go through. He also indicated that the Personnel Policy would not apply to volunteers since they are not employees.

Ms. Nicholson did not think that the Fire District's bylaws could supersede the county's personnel policies and procedures adopted by county ordinance. She requested a legal opinion regarding this matter.

~ County Attorney James C. Cox, Jr. arrived at 6:40 p.m. ~

Ms. Nicholson mentioned a case in Horry County wherein the Supreme Court indicated that any rules adopted by departments do not supersede those rules adopted by ordinance.

Mr. Hudson felt that the volunteers were under contract with the county since the county furnishes the equipment and gear. Therefore, they should be governed by County policy and not something made up by the stations.

Chairman Blackwell requested that the staff report back to Council regarding this matter.

Mr. Melton said there were rules created by the Fire Board, but individual stations were establishing bylaws that supersede the Fire District's policies.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to refer this matter to Mr. Cox to review the authority of the individual stations to implement bylaws and report to Council as to whether they are legal.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Jackie Kirven - Request For Permission To Construct A New Building At the Darlington County Animal Shelter

Ms. Kirven talked about how the current facility for cats was inadequate, substandard, and do not meet the Humane Society United States guidelines. She described the current facility, which was build with donated funds. Ms. Kirven reported that a Committee developed a plan for a cat intake building, which would not change what they do, but where they do it. The proposed building would be 28 x 32 and set across from the current office building. It would be used to house cats and eliminate the three metal energy inefficient, unsafe structures/storage sheds. Ms.

Kirven said they would raise the money to do this. She requested permission from County Council to allow them to explore funding for a cat intake building to be placed on the county Animal Shelter grounds.

Chairman Blackwell suggested that this matter be placed on Council's next agenda. He indicated that this would not cost the county anything. However, the building would be a Darlington County building.

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to grant the request to construct the new building.

Mr. Flowers also stated that Council would have to grant permission to construct the building, etc. This was just to grant permission to pursue it.

Ms. Kirven indicated that the Building Codes Department had a copy of their preliminary plans.

Ms. Nicholson clarified that Ms. Kirven was not seeking funds from the county. Ms. Kirven responded that they would seek funds from the county, but not for the cat intake house.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update - Mr. Dale Surrett, County Administrator

Environmental Services - Events using Darlington County Solid Waste Collection Containers/Service. Mr. Surrett pointed out that Council had approved the Egg Scramble's request to use county solid waste collection containers at their event. For this event, the county collected 3.37 tons of garbage and would have charged \$50.75 per ton at the gate had it been brought by a private company. This equated to a total of \$171.03 in tonnage, 86 miles of travel, and three hours of driver time.

Mr. Surrett said Mr. Hudson and Mr. Brock had suggested making a list of events that normally request solid waste collection containers and discuss during the budget worksession. Other events requesting such service include the Sweet Potato Festival, the Egg Scramble Jamboree, Society Hill Catfish Festival, Christmas In April, Taste of Darlington, Taste of Society Hill, Taste of Hartsville, Great America Cleanup events, Darlington Race, and the Sheriff's Office.

Local Government Funds Status. Mr. Surrett encouraged Council members to read, at their leisure, an article he handed out from a Spartanburg newspaper regarding Local Government Funds. He provided information, compared and discussed the level of local government funds received over the past ten years, interest income on funds held by the county treasurer, and revenue to support operations. He explained that during last year, Council asked him to present a proposed budget for the General Fund that would not use any Fund Balance. Those things not affected by the Local Government Funds would include part of the Emergency Telephone budget, Roads and Bridges, the library, and the Fire District.

Mr. Surrett reviewed the details of his proposal for the General Fund, which included expenditures and position eliminated, new positions added, lease purchase, the General Fund capital budget requests, and a proposal regarding School Resource Officers.

Recess

Council recessed at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

Proposed Budget Continued. Upon reconvening, Mr. Surrett presented his proposal for the Fire District and Environmental Services budgets, a five-year budget report, the recommendation for a General Obligation Bond for the I-20/340 Industrial Park and Courthouse projects, and his proposal for Emergency Telephone, the Library, and the Economic Development budgets.

Schedule Budget Workshops

It was the consensus of Council to schedule a Budget Worksession for Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 9 a.m.

Fire District Bond

Mr. Surrett reported that the county had received the bids on the \$500,000 note for the Fire District. The five-year note would have an interest rate of 1.49 percent.

Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Mrs. Johnson briefly presented her disapproval for the elimination of Building Codes. She wanted to know Mr. Surrett's justification for proposing this.

Mr. Surrett explained that in looking at areas of redundancy of efforts, this was proposed. He also explained that although the Building Codes Department conducts inspections, the owner is responsible for ensuring that things are built to codes. Others involved in making sure buildings are built to codes includes bankers, architects, engineers, contractors, etc. Mr. Surrett pointed out that the laws states that if you do not generate enough in fees to pay for building codes, you could ask for a five year waiver from doing building codes. He was not aware of a county without building codes, but as the legislature continues with cuts, there may be others without building codes. He indicated that many municipalities throughout the state do not enforce the code. The municipalities are required to have building codes unless they request a waiver.

Mr. Kilgo indicated that the ordinance (*section 2-83(i)*) states that Council members shall make every effort to get items of discussion to the Chairman or Administrator in a timely manner for inclusion on the agenda. He did this but the Chairman refused to place his matter on the agenda. Therefore, Mr. Kilgo presented a handout containing his request to be placed on Council's next agenda. He first presented (*a resolution*) this in March. Mr. Kilgo said his request would provide transparency and the citizens of Darlington County would be able to see the salaries being paid to public and elected officials, department heads, and anybody receiving over \$50,000 per year.

Mr. Kilgo suggested looking at the possibility of merging the Prison Farm with the Detention Center now that the Detention Center was using D pod for men. The 30+ people at the Prison Farm could be placed in D Pod and close the Prison Farm.

Mrs. Johnson questioned the days the recycling centers are closed and commended the efforts during the Great American Cleanup. She also commended Mr. Surrett on his budget recommendations.

In response to Mr. Kilgo's request, Chairman Blackwell responded that the Rules of Council state that if a Council member wants to place something on the agenda, and the Chairman does not want that item on the agenda, there would need to be a vote of Council to place the item on the agenda. Chairman Blackwell explained that he did not see a purpose for placing anyone's salary on the county's website when it is public information. He also stated that the tax bill represents more people than county employees. It represents school employees, municipal employees, etc., and the county does not have the authority to place the salaries of school and municipal employees on the website. This was the reason he did not place the matter on the agenda.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to place on Council's next agenda, consideration to instruct the County Administrator to post, on the county's website, the salaries of all Darlington County department heads, elected officials, and any other employee making more than \$50,000 per year. This would exclude employees working for the school district and the cities.

The motion carried with no one voting in opposition.

Vote For Executive Session

There was not a vote for executive session.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. J. JaNet Bishop, Clerk to Council

Mr. Wesley Blackwell, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of June 2, 2014.