

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

May 7, 2018

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 7th day of May 2018, at 6 p.m., at Darlington County Courthouse, 5th Floor Courtroom, 1 Public Square, 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 the Sale of 6.71 Acres to Darlington County Animal Shelter was published in the News and Press and the Hartsville Messenger on April 11, 2018. The Notice of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 18-04 was published on April 18, 2018, in the News and Press and the Hartsville Messenger pursuant to Section 4-9-130 of South Carolina Code of Laws. The Notice of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 18-05 was published in the News and Press and the Hartsville Messenger on April 11, 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, Acting County Attorney Terry Quinn, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Airport Manager Barry Kennett, Development Services Director Terri Cribb, Emergency Medical Services Director Kenny Bowen, E-911 Coordinator Michelle Moore, Environmental Services Director Renee Howle, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Fire Chief Ricky Flowers, Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy, Human Resource Manager Ginger Winburn, Prison Camp Director Jessie Williams, Recycling Coordinator Gary White, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Sheriff Tony Chavis, Tax Assessor Kyle Johnson, Emergency Management Coordinator Molly Odom, Chief Deputy Sheriff Josh Edwards, Lieutenant Robby Kilgo, South Carolina Aeronautics Commission Executive Director James Stephens, South Carolina Aeronautics Commissioner Chris Bethea and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

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

Recognition of Retirees

In their absence, Chairman Hudson recognized Mrs. Benzina Scott for 12.33 years of service with Darlington County and Mrs. Linda Turner for 25 years of service with Darlington County.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Sale of Two Tracts Totaling 6.71 Acres to Darlington County Animal Shelter, Inc., \$5

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open at 6 p.m. to receive comments on the sale of 6.71 acres to Darlington County Animal Shelter.

Mr. Ben Hatfield, on behalf of the Darlington County Humane Society, reported that the Humane Society initiated a capital campaign in October with the goal of raising \$1 million to build a new shelter. They are at \$370,000 to making this goal. The proposed land is adjacent to the existing shelter and needed to construct the new shelter.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 18-04, An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Ordinary County Purposes For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, And Ending June 30, 2019; To Provide For The Expenditures Thereof; And To Provide For Revenues For The Payment Thereof, As Amended - SECOND READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive comments on Ordinance No. 18-04.

Mr. Kilgo stated for the record, that this was the county's budget.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 18-05, 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, 2018, And Ending June 30, 2019 - SECOND READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive comments on Ordinance No. 18-05.

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. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Coker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Personal Appearances - Ms. Harriet L. Hobbs, President/CEO, Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce - Upcoming Activities & Concerns Regarding Fireworks at Freedom Fest 2017

Ms. Harriet Hobbs, President/CEO for Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce, talked about recent Chamber events to include Bow Ties and Pearls held in April, Open House, a Historic Tour, Book Signing, and Concert on Liberty Lane scheduled for May 10th, a ribbon cutting for Papa John's Pizza on May 16th, and Ladies Day at the Chamber on May 17th.

~ ~ Councilwoman Nicholson arrived at 6:09 p.m. ~ ~

Ms. Hobbs announced that the Chamber has a new fireworks vendor for Freedom Fest. It was her understanding that there was confusion about the fireworks at last year's Freedom Fest. She explained that the Chamber hired a company to do the fireworks. However, the company arrived six hours late and set up the fireworks as it rained. Since the fireworks were not covered and got wet, Darlington City Fire Chief Pat Cavanaugh would not allow them to be shot due to the possibility of them exploding. She clarified that the County of Darlington was a presenting sponsor for Freedom Fest, and the Hospitality Tax funds received from the county were placed in the Chamber's General Fund. Ms. Hobbs wanted to make it clear that Chamber representatives did not touch the fireworks and had nothing to do with what happened.

Amendment To The Agenda For Executive Session For The Discussion of Personnel Matters

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to amend the agenda to bring forth executive session for personnel matters.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - The Discussion Of Personnel Matters

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo for Council, the Acting County Attorney, and the County Administrator to go into executive session for the discussion of personnel matters.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council and the individuals listed above went into executive session at 6:16 p.m. and reconvened at 6:22 p.m. Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

- 6.A. Historical Commission Board Minutes, Stats and Updates, April 5, 2018
- 6.B. Renovation/Construction In SC Dept. of Health & Human Services Office Located In The Mazingo Building, 300 Russell Street In Darlington - No Cost To The County
- 6.C. Building Permits Report, March 2018
- 6.D. Building Inspections Report, March 2018

6.E. Pee Dee Workforce Development Board Quarterly Report For Period Ended
March 31, 2018

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 Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, April 2, 2018

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held on April 2, 2018.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes of Budget Worksession, April 23, 2018

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve the minutes of the budget worksession held on April 23, 2018.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes Of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, & Legislative Delegation, April 30, 2018 - CARRY OVER REQUESTED

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to carry over approval of the joint meeting held on April 30, 2018.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 17-18, To Amend The Existing Agreement Governing The Darlington-Florence Industrial Park By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Florence County, South Carolina To Enlarge The Boundaries Of The Industrial Park To Include Certain Property Now Or To Be Hereafter Owned And/Or Operated By A Company Identified For The Time Being As Project Dates, Located In Darlington County, South Carolina; And Authorizing Other Related Matters, AS AMENDED - THIRD READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 17-18, as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 18-03, An Ordinance Calling For A Referendum To Authorize The South Carolina Department Of Revenue To Issue Temporary Permits In The County Of Darlington To Allow For The Possession, Sale, And Consumption Of Alcoholic Liquors By The Drink To Bona Fide Nonprofit Organizations And Business Establishments Authorized To Be Licensed For Consumption-On-Premises Sales And To Allow The Sale Of Beer And Wine At Permitted Off-Premises Locations Without Regard To The Days Or Hours Of Sales - THIRD READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 18-03.

Mr. Coker asked whether the County would issue temporary permits.

Mr. Stewart's response was no. He explained this was the language from State law to give permission to the Department of Revenue to issue temporary permits. Once the Department of Revenue has this permission, they can issue annual permits for the sale of beer and wine on Sundays to businesses in the unincorporated areas in the county. This was already being done in the incorporated limits of the City of Darlington and the City of Hartsville.

Mr. Flowers clarified that this was to place this matter on a referendum.

Mr. Stewart confirmed that this would place the matter on a referendum so that the voters can vote whether they want this to occur or not. However, the temporary permit language is confusing but specifically called for in State law. The language could not be altered.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 18-04, An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Ordinary County Purposes For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, And Ending June 30, 2019; To Provide For The Expenditures Thereof; And To Provide For Revenues For The Payment Thereof. As Amended - SECOND READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 18-04.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 18-05, 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, 2018, And Ending June 30, 2019 - SECOND READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 18-05.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 18-06, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II. (County Council), Section 2-31 (Compensation Of Council Members And Officers), Subsection (a) (Established), To Increase The Compensation Of Council Members And Officers And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - FIRST READING

The title of Ordinance No. 18-06 was read for First Reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 18-07, To Impose A One Percent Sales And Use Tax, Subject To A Referendum, Within Darlington County Pursuant To The Capital Project Sales Tax Act, To Define The Specific Purposes And Designate The Projects For Which The Proceeds Of The Tax May Be Used; To Provide The Maximum Time For Which The Tax May Be Imposed; To Provide The

Cost Of The Projects Or Facilities Funded From The Proceeds Of The Tax; To Provide For A County-Wide Referendum And To Prescribe The Contents Of The Ballot Question In Such Referendum; To Authorize A Referendum On The Issuance Of Not Exceeding \$20,000,000 General Obligation Bonds Of Darlington County; To Provide For The Conduct Of Such Referendum; To Provide For The Administration Of The Tax; To Provide For The Payment Of The Tax; And To Provide For Other Matters Relating Thereto - FIRST READING

The title of Ordinance No. 18-07 was read for First Reading. No action required.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 689, EMS Week Proclamation, Designating The Week Of May 20-26, 2018 As Emergency Medical Services Week

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve Resolution No. 689.

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards/Commissions/Committees Where There Are Expired Terms & Vacancies

Mr. Hudson (Council Dist. 4) carried over his appointment to the Construction Board Of Adjustment/Appeals.

Mr. Flowers (Council Dist. 5) carried over his appointment to the Airport Commission, the Board of Assessment Appeals, the Construction Board of Adjustment/Appeals, the Historical Commission, and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Ms. Nicholson (Council Dist. 6) carried over her appointment to the Airport Commission.

Mr. Coker (Council Dist. 8) carried over his appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Mr. Kilgo (Council Dist. 1) stated that the individual he appointed last year to the Parks and Recreation Commission had not attended any of the meetings. Therefore, he nominated Attorney Parker Howle to complete the unexpired term.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to appoint Attorney Parker Edwards Howle to fill the unexpired term on the Parks and Recreation Commission. This term will end on June 30, 2019.

The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment To The Courthouse Construction Advisory Committee (Physically Disabled Representative) - Council Chairman

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to remove this item (Appointment to the Courthouse Construction Advisory Committee) from the agenda until after the referendum.

The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment To Pee Dee Workforce Development Board

Mr. Brown stated that he would abstain from discussing/voting on this matter due to a conflict of interest.

It was the consensus of Council, with Mr. Brown abstaining, to reappoint Ms. Bernell Evans to the Pee Dee Workforce Development Board for a term to commence on July 1, 2018, and expire on June 30, 2021.

Agreement With Michael Baker International To Provide A Detailed Summary Of The Scope Of Work For Revisions To The Programming For The Darlington County Courthouse And Administration Building, \$52,272

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the agreement with Michael Baker International to provide a detailed summary of the scope of work for revisions to the programming for the Darlington County Courthouse and Administration Building.

Mr. Kilgo asked where the funds would come from to pay for this work, \$52,272.

Mr. Stewart responded that \$1.3 million was left in the current courthouse construction bond.

Mr. Flowers wanted to know whether this study would address the scheduling conflicts and logistics of moving offices.

Mr. Stewart explained that the next agreement with Michael Baker will address the courthouse only -- what it would take to remodel and bring it up to code. This agreement will address several things as outlined in the scope. Based on information from the next Michael Baker Agreement, it will address what it would take to expand and incorporate everything in the current building, whether the programming space that has already been realized as needed be placed into a building in the footprint just behind the courthouse of 30,000 to 33,000 square foot, and whether the remainder of the programming for space be placed back into the current courthouse building with the renovations. He stated that all this would be necessary before Council can make an informed decision of whether everything could fit in a 33,000 square foot building, whether there needs to be a two-story building, or whether the current building could be remodeled appropriately and remain with administration in it.

Mr. Flowers confirmed that this study would not address the logistics of the services as to what happens if an office has to move out the current building for a period of time.

Mr. Stewart stated that the study may slightly hint at the fact that should Council choose a new building, the current building would have available space on several floors. However, none of the studies will address the logistics/map of moving offices. From the information that will be presented, it will make it easier for Council to determine that if a

new building is built, it would be feasible to remodel the current courthouse for the remainder of the offices. The study would look at remodeling the current building in phases.
The motion carried unanimously.

Agreement With Michael Baker International For Suitability Report For The Proposed Renovation Of The Existing Darlington County Courthouse And Administration Building, \$32,736

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve the agreement with Michael Baker International for a suitability report for the proposed renovation of the existing Darlington County Courthouse and Administration Building, \$32,736.

The motion carried unanimously.

Sale Of Two Tracts Totaling 6.71 Acres To Darlington County Animal Shelter, Inc., \$5

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the sale of 6.71 acres to Darlington County Animal Shelter, Inc. for \$5.

The motion carried unanimously.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's FY18/19 Funding Recommendations

MOTION was made by Mr. Brown to approve the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's funding recommendations.

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas and Mr. Kilgo to amend the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's funding recommendations to delete the \$8,500 recommended for Hartsville Community Center Building Commission/Hartsville Center Theater and give \$1,500 to Butler Heritage Foundation and divide the remainder among Lamar Egg Scramble (\$2,333), the Pilot Club/Sweet Potato Festival (\$2,333), and Society Hill Catfish Festival (\$2,333).

Mr. Brown stated that he would oppose the amendment because Council chose a Committee to make the recommendations. He mentioned the difficulty in getting volunteers to serve on committees, and the Committee's recommendations being based upon validation of hotel stays. Mr. Brown clarified that he was not saying that some of the other projects were not good projects. However, there was a difference in people staying in hotels for several days versus people coming in for two to three hours. He stated that the Committee validated, as best they could, as to where the most money is spent, which generates the most revenue for the county. Therefore, he cautioned Council about going against the Committee's recommendations because the Committee members have spent a lot of their time, plus the funds have been reduced to \$25,000, basically one-third of what it once was. He felt that it would be a danger and precedence for Council to go against the Committee, and it opens a bigger discussion about how taxes are generated, particularly with the penny sales tax.

Mr. Coker agreed with Mr. Brown. He said Council designated a committee to make the recommendations. He questioned the point of having a Committee if Council does not trust that the Committee is going through the correct process.

Mr. Flowers stated that in looking at the recommendations, Hartsville Center Theater has its own taxing entity and the City spent or will spend \$1 million on a water park. The rest of the Accommodations Tax dollars were going to Hartsville for a Yoga Fest and some other things leaving out Darlington, Lamar, and Society Hill. Mr. Flowers said that no one that he represents was on the list to receive funds. However, if Council was worried about a dangerous precedence, why would Council take every dime of Accommodations Tax funds and send it to one municipality rather than saying that one event in Lamar, Society Hill, or Darlington is worthy of Accommodations Tax funds. He said this would be a dangerous precedence, plus funding something that is already funded by the City and has its own taxing entity.

Mr. Brown said that was not the point. The recommendations were based on who brings in the most revenue for the county. The other festivals could be funded with Hospitality Tax revenue which Council had talked about last year. He thought Council had talked about the other festivals receiving \$2,500 each from Hospitality Tax funds. Mr. Brown explained that some events have an economic impact of over one-half million dollars. Economic impact is a "heart" spent in the county. He briefly talked about South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism's factor about money turning seven times before it leaves the county.

Mr. Brown mentioned that he attended the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee meetings for about ten years, but not this year, and the Committee requests the applicants to validate who is coming in. It was not that the projects are not worthy, it was a determination of who generates the most people coming and staying in hotels. He emphasized that Council did talk about using Hospitality Tax revenue to fund the festivals that did not validate people staying at hotels. Each applicant has the option to validate how many people they bring in as tourists.

Mr. Flowers asked that if Hartsville Center Theater is that successful, why does it need to take money away from Lamar and Society Hill which are small with limited funding sources. He talked about money generated at Henry's Place in Society Hill which was not considered.

Mr. Brown reiterated that the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee asks applicants to validate who comes in.

Mr. Flowers questioned how Hartsville Center Theater was validated for \$8,500 for daily shows. He said people were not spending the night.

Mr. Brown stated that this is validated in conjunction with the hotels. The hotels ask people why they are in town and this is documented.

Mr. Coker said this was the whole point.

Ms. Nicholson said she would agree with Mr. Flowers. She talked about the number of people attending Butler Heritage Week activities and suggested giving all the money to Butler Heritage Foundation. Ms. Nicholson stated for the record that Butler Heritage Foundation contributes quite a bit with regards to hospitality revenue and is one of the older festivals that recognize the historic contributions to education and culture in Darlington County and African American heritage.

As for Butler Heritage Foundation, Mr. Flowers stated that he was recommending an additional \$1,500 because the Foundation had requested \$4,000 and the Committee had recommended only \$2,500. This would give the Foundation the amount they requested.

Mr. Douglas commented that all the funds were not just going to Butler Heritage Foundation. The funds would be split between Lamar Egg Scramble, Society Hill Catfish Festival, New Vision Community Development Rice Festival, and the Pilot Club Sweet Potato Festival.

Mr. Brown talked about Council members not attending the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee meetings, the fact that the Committee specifically asks applicants to validate what they say, and Council asking the Committee to make its decision based upon best value. He said the Committee was not saying that the projects are not worthy and would not get receive any money. The festivals would receive Hospitality Tax funds instead of Accommodations Tax funds. Plus, there was only \$25,000 in Accommodations Tax funds.

Mr. Flowers questioned the Yoga & Healing Arts Festival validating the number of people staying in hotels.

Mr. Brown responded that he does not attend the Accommodations Tax Advisory meetings as he did previously as an applicant.

Mr. Flowers mentioned that Council members have always been discouraged from attending the meetings so that the Committee can have open discussions without Council's influence in making the recommendations. He also stated that in previous years, Council accepted the Committee's recommendations, but not when every dollar is sent to one municipality and completely leave out the other three municipalities who have long-term successful festivals.

Mr. Brown asked about value and quantifying.

Mr. Flowers asked Mr. Brown to quantify all the years that Council threw thousands and thousands of dollars at RenoFest and it folded. Then Hartsville Center Theater had the opportunity last year to do it but did not.

Mr. Brown pointed out that RenoFest ended because the person who headed it did not want to do it any longer.

Mr. Kilgo called for a point of order.

Mr. Brown stated that this becomes a point of what Council considers to be tourism and quantify it.

Mr. Douglas called for the question on the amended motion (to amend the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's funding recommendations to delete the \$8,500 recommended for Hartsville Community Center Building Commission/Hartsville Center Theater and give \$1,500 to Butler Heritage Foundation and divide the remainder among Lamar Egg Scramble (\$2,333), the Pilot Club/Sweet Potato Festival (\$2,333), and Society Hill Catfish Festival (\$2,333)).

Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Douglas, Mr. Flowers, Mr. Kilgo, Ms. Nicholson and Ms. Thomas. Opposing were Mr. Brown, Mr. Hudson, and Mr. Coker.

The motion carried.

Ms. Nicholson requested that it be placed in the record that Dr. Taft Heatley, the current Director of Butler Heritage Foundation, and Former Director Linwood Lewis, attended the Accommodations Tax meetings.

Chairman Hudson called for the vote on the motion, as amended.

Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Douglas, Mr. Flowers, Mr. Kilgo, Ms. Nicholson, and Ms. Thomas. Opposing were Mr. Brown and Mr. Coker. Mr. Hudson abstained. The motion carried.

Mr. Stewart clarified that Council deleted all the funding for Hartsville Community Center Building Commission/Center Theater, moved \$1,500 to Butler Heritage Foundation to bring their total to \$4,000, and split the remaining \$7,000 among Lamar Egg Scramble, Pilot Club Sweet Potato Festival in Darlington, and Society Hill Catfish Festival.

Mr. Flowers confirmed that this was his motion.

Mr. Douglas stated that Mr. Stewart did not include New Vision Community Development/Rice Festival.

Mr. Stewart responded that Mr. Flowers did not include New Vision in his motion. Mr. Flowers confirmed that he did not include New Vision in his motion.

Mr. Stewart said the remaining \$7,000 would be split into thirds amongst the three community festivals (Lamar Egg Scramble, Pilot Club/Sweet Potato Festival, and Society Hill Catfish Festival).

Mr. Coker clarified that he voted no because Council should accept the Committee's recommendations because the Committee did its due diligence as to where the Accommodations Tax money should be spent based solely on what they were asked to do, specifically on the number of beds. Therefore, he felt that since the Committee put the time in to figure it out, Council should validate the Committee's recommendations. Mr. Coker said he has nothing against Butler Heritage Foundation or the festivals. However, the Committee deemed it that they do not place people in beds. He thought that this was what Accommodations Tax funds are for. Hospitality tax would have been different.

Purchase Of A New Full Block Engine For 1996 Sterling LT9500 Truck #2031 For Roads & Bridges, \$31,095 (Plus Core Charge, If Applicable)

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve the purchase of a new full block engine for the 1996 Sterling LT9500 truck #2031 from Carolina International Trucks in the amount of \$31,095, plus core charge, if applicable.

The motion carried unanimously.

Bid Award For Remodeling Of Hartsville Memorial Library. \$18,048

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the contract with Carolina Construction, Inc. to remodel Hartsville Library to allow for office space, meeting space, and more control of the Children Center.

The motion carried unanimously.

Bid Award For Emergency Dispatch Protocol System, \$267,835

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the contract with Priority Dispatch for the Emergency Protocol System, \$267,835.

Mr. Stewart explained that the emergency dispatch system is a software system that will allow for emergency medical dispatch. The surrounding counties have pre-arrival emergency medical dispatch wherein certain life-threatening situations, they provide pre-arrival instructions such as CPR, rescue breathing, how to control bleeding, etc. Darlington County currently does not provide this. He reported that there is approximately \$2 million in Emergency Telephone Fund Balance, and this is one of the items that the funds can be used for. The \$2 million Fund Balance is a 400% fund balance, which is extremely high but very limited on what it can be used for. Mr. Stewart also reported that the county will get approximately \$80,000 back from the State as part of an incentive program for centers to do this. He mentioned the emergency police dispatch and emergency fire dispatch components that fire and law enforcement can choose to implement certain protocols to help dispatchers dispatch, receive the information they want, and send to officers or responding firefighters. However, the primary cost and motivation are the pre-arrival emergency medical dispatch instructions.

Mr. Kilgo asked whether the county's E-911 system will indicate where cell phone calls are coming from.

Mr. Stewart indicated that the technology is available. In the future, the county will be able to locate cell phone callers and re-route them accordingly.

Ms. Thomas asked about emergency vehicles not going down dirt roads due to the condition of the roads.

Mr. Stewart stated that there had not been a call where an emergency vehicle did not respond due to the condition of the road.

The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Transfer Request To Purchase Mobile And Portable Radios For Sheriff's Office, \$50,739.56

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve the budget transfer of \$50,739.56 from Sheriff's Office Fuel-Vehicle and Equipment line item to the Sheriff's Office line item to purchase mobile and portable radios.

The motion carried with Mr. Kilgo abstaining.

PARD Grant For Lamar Dixie Concession Project, \$23,616.56

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to approve acceptance of the PARD grant for Lamar Dixie Concession in the amount of \$23,616.56 with a local match in the amount of \$5,904.14 from Hospitality Tax revenue.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update - Aviation System Plan and Economic Impact Report, briefing by James Stephens - Executive Director, SC Aeronautics Commission

Mr. James Stephens, South Carolina Aeronautics Commission Executive Director, reported that over the past 18 months, the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission looked at system plans and economic impact of the fifty-seven publicly owned and public use airports throughout the 46 counties. They looked at the ability of the airport systems to meet the needs of the local communities, to meet the established performance measures and facility objectives, and then compared the estimated annual economic impacts and contributions at each facility. He talked about the economic impact analysis which included direct and indirect/induced impacts; activity centers to measure annual economic impact; the process to estimate total annual economic impacts; total statewide airport-related economic impacts; statewide airport supported tax revenues; total annual economic impact for Darlington County Airport; factors to assign/recommend airport roles; and current airport roles (commercial, corporate, business/recreation, recreation/local).

Mr. Stephens stated that part of his responsibilities for the State is to communicate the needs of each respective airport. For Darlington County Airport, they estimated that there are 34 total jobs at the airport or supported through the airport (county staff, tenants, individuals hired to make capital investment projects, visitors, etc.) representing over \$1.5 million dollars in payroll, and \$2.9 million in annual spending, resulting in \$4.5 million annual economic impact of Darlington County airport.

Mr. Stephens talked about the system plan analysis which consisted of evaluating the inventory, the forecast, evaluation, airport roles, facility/service objectives, costs, recommended plan, current infrastructure, projected aviation demand, market area characteristics, gaps and redundancies from system evaluation (such as two airports in Darlington County), and FAA roles from asset. Darlington County airport is role is corporate business which most of the surrounding airports are below the county's level in the role the airport plays in the system. He briefly reviewed the various benchmark of the roles of the county's airport and the airport report card regarding the objectives to meet the roles. Mr. Stephens applauded the county for being in compliance on everything except for trees growing in the approach zone.

He stated that the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission has programs that are offered to the county to take care of maintenance of the county airport. If the county is provided a maintenance grant, the State will pay 75 percent of the costs with the county paying 25 percent. If the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission help the county obtain a federal grant, the FAA will pay 90 percent of the cost, the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission will pay five percent and the county will pay five percent.

Mr. Stephens indicated that a study conducted several years ago identified pieces of payment at the airport that needed attention and was included in the county's five-year capital investment plan that was submitted to the FAA. He talked about capital investment and return on investment at the airport. He stated that in order for Council to continue to increase the return on investment, the county needs to continue to support the airport and airport manager, secure FAA and state funding, and grow the airport by attracting more based customers, building hangars to increase based customer count, and recruit a fixed based operator to provide aviation services to based customers, and in turn attract more aircraft.

Mr. Stephens introduced South Carolina Aeronautics Commissioner Chris Bethea who was recently appointed to represent the 7th District which includes Georgetown, Horry, Florence, Marion, Dillon, Darlington, Marlboro, and Chesterfield Counties.

Commissioner Bethea invited everyone to call him with any concerns or questions. He reiterated that federal dollars are an excellent return on investments.

Mr. Kilgo commended the recent air show held in Myrtle Beach. He also pointed out that the entrance road to where the air show was held is named after Billy Farrow, a Darlington County resident who gave his life for this county some 76 years ago. Mr. Kilgo and Mr. Flowers provided the history of Billy Farrow.

Repairs To The Courthouse Annex/EMS Building

Mr. Stewart reported that the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building was being repaired as a result of a water damage from a line break in the men's restroom.

Opportunity Zones.

Mr. Stewart said Councilman Kilgo asked him to speak about opportunity zones. However, the Department of Commerce has not indicated what the opportunity zones will mean. He reported that Senator Scott tagged something onto the federal budget (about \$1.5 million) for economic development and stimulus packages throughout the nation. Therefore, they are looking for zones of opportunity. The municipalities and the county cannot submit the same location. Hartsville has submitted the new Hartsville Industrial Park area and the county has submitted the current I-20 Industrial Park. There has been no official word on paper, however, the county has been notified that both locations were designated as opportunity zones. However, the county has to wait for the Department of Commerce to work out the details regarding incentives. Hopefully, this will entice someone to invest in one of these locations.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mr. Kilgo stated that he recently attended a NACo (National Association of Counties) meeting in Charleston to discuss jails, the overcrowded conditions of jail, dockets, how to move cases expeditiously, etc. He mentioned that Charleston County has established a Committee that includes everyone. He will provide a copy of the information to the Administrator and the Sheriff, especially information on "stop and release" where a ticket is issued for charges such as simple possession of marijuana instead of locking individuals in jail until they appear before the Magistrate.

Prison Farm - Inmate Labor

Mr. Flowers stated that during the Budget Worksession, he talked about this matter and since the budget appears to be well in hand, he made a **MOTION** to begin the transition to end Darlington County housed inmate labor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kilgo.

Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Kilgo and Mr. Flowers. Opposing were Mr. Brown, Mr. Coker, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Hudson, Ms. Nicholson and Ms. Thomas.

The motion failed.

Mr. Coker stated that Council needs to be cautious in dealing with committees that Council appoints and how Council ask them to use their time, efforts, and due diligence. He said it is tough to go against what they ask unless it is oblivious.

Chairman Hudson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

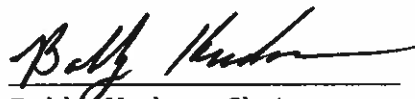
Adjournment

MOTION was made by Ms. Nicholson to adjourn the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of June 4, 2018.