

REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

August 5, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 5th day of August 2024, 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 and on the bulletin board in the lobby of the courthouse.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice-Chairman Marvin Le Flowers, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. Michael Kirk Askins, Mr. David Coker, Mr. Albert Davis, III., Mrs. Angie Stone Godbold, and Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, County Attorney James H. Lucas, Attorney Adam Gainey, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, E911 Central Communications Director Michelle Hall, Emergency Management Director Molly Odom, Emergency Services Director Kenny Bowen, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Fire District Chief Ricky Flowers, Human Resources Director Ginger Winburn, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Sheriff James Hudson, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

News & Press.

Call To Order / Invocation / Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Askins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Brady Hill reported that at the end of the last Council meeting, he thought he heard a request for the administrator to show paperwork regarding the matter involving his storage building. He stated that he would like to be present when the information is reviewed. Mr. Hill also mentioned that this matter should not be a legal one, although it needs to be settled. He talked about wanting to be treated like everyone else regarding permits/inspections for portable storage buildings.

Chairman Hudson responded that the staff would get back in touch with Mr. Hill.

Ms. Carolyn Hannah, on behalf of New Vision Rice Festival, thanked the Council for its support (Accommodations Tax Funds) and invited everyone to attend the Rice Festival on September 7th beginning with a parade at 10 a.m. She requested that the county mow the grass along the highway for the parade. Ms. Hannah also mentioned that the Festival has added a Friday night event featuring Level 10 Band. She invited everyone to attend and bring their lawn chair.

Ms. Lucinda Hubbs briefly talked about animal welfare and thanked those individuals who are working to amend the animal ordinance. She also talked about her misjudgment/misunderstanding regarding Council's previous actions.

Personal Appearances

There were no Personal Appearances.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

- 5.A. County Transportation Committee (CTC) Meeting, June 26, 2024
- 5.B. Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority Quarterly Newsletter, July 2024
- 5.C. E-911 Call Volume Report, June 2024
- 5.D. Beaver Management Program Report, June 2024
- 5.E. Darlington County Humane Society Animal Shelter Quarterly Report, April - June 2024
- 5.F. Fire District Call Volume Report, July 2024
- 5.G. Financial Update through June 30, 2024
- 5.H. Pee Dee Regional Council Of Governments COGNitive Connections, July 19, 2024
- 5.I. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2024
- 5.J. Darlington County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism-Activities

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes – Minutes Of Public Hearing And Regular Meeting, July 1, 2024

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held on July 1, 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 24-08, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article IV. (Boards, Commissions, And Committees), Section 2-201 (Membership) To Clarify The Definition Of Membership For Appointments By County Council To A Board, Commission, Or Committee Enumerated In Section 2-204; And Division

5 (Economic Development Partnership Board) To Restructure The Economic Development Partnership Board; And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - THIRD READING

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 24-08.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold opposing.

Ordinance No. 24-13, An Ordinance To (I) Amend The Existing Joint County Industrial And Business Park Agreement Effective As Of November 17, 1997, As Amended, Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Marlboro County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Joint County Industrial And Business Park So As To Include Additional Property In That Portion Of The Joint County Industrial And Business Park Geographically Located In Darlington County, South Carolina; (II) Amend The Existing Fee Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Nucor Corporation Effective As Of July 1, 2019 To Include Additional Real Property And Extend The Investment Period; And (III) Other Matters Relating Thereto - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 24-13.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold recusing herself from the vote.

Ordinance No. 24-14, 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), To Increase The Compensation Of Council Members And Officers And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 24-14.

The motion carried with Mr. Coker and Mrs. Godbold opposing.

Ordinance No. 24-15, Authorizing An Amendment To The Agreement Governing The Joint County Industrial And Business Park By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Marlboro County, South Carolina, In Order To Expand The Boundaries Of The Park To Include Certain Property Located In Marlboro County And Other Matters Related Thereto - (First Industrial) - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 24-15.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

There were no Resolutions.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards/Commissions/Committees

Mrs. Godbold carried over her appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Ms. Thomas carried over her appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals and the Planning Commission.

Chairman Hudson carried over his appointment to the Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee.

Mr. Flowers carried over his appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals and the Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee.

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

Mr. Coker carried over his appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals, Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Historical Commission, and the Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee.

County Transportation Committee (CTC) Allocation To Improve Blazing Trail Road, \$291,634 - CPCN P043499

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve acceptance of the CTC's allocation of \$291,634 to improve Blazing Trail Road.

The motion carried unanimously.

Purchase Of A New Holland Tractor And Woods Batwing Cutter From Altman Tractor Company – Roads And Bridges Department

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of a New Holland Tractor and Woods Batwing Cutter (\$110,484) for the Roads and Bridges Department to replace the existing equipment nearing its end of life.

Mr. Davis wanted to know what the tractor would be used for.

Mr. Stewart replied that the tractor would be used for mowing. The existing equipment will probably be placed on GovDeals for parts or whatever remaining life it may have.

The motion carried unanimously.

Purchase Of 3000C Force Feed Loader from LeeBoy – Roads and Bridges Department

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of a 3000C Force Feed Loader from LeeBoy (\$303,579) for the Roads and Bridges Department.

Ms. Thomas wanted to know what the equipment would be used for.

Mr. Stewart explained how the equipment picks up and force-feed dirt that is scrapped up. A picture of the equipment was in the budget book.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ambulance Remounts - EMS

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of five ambulance remounts for EMS.

The motion carried unanimously.

Clarification Regarding The Vote For Ordinance No. 24-14

Mr. Askins stated that he made a mistake in his vote for Ordinance No. 24-14 because he was looking at the wrong ordinance. He wanted to know how he could correct his vote.

Attorney Lucas explained that Mr. Askins could make a motion to reconsider the vote whereby Ordinance No. 24-14 received second reading and there would have to be a second to the motion and a vote to bring it up again. The motion to bring it back up again would be to reconsider the vote whereby Ordinance No. 24-14 received second reading.

Administrative Update

Mr. Stewart provided a handout and updated the Council on Tropical Storm Debby and the potential for major flooding and light winds. The EOC (Emergency Operation Center) will be open and ready to respond.

Mr. Davis asked whether a decision had been made about employees working during the storm.

Mr. Stewart responded that employees received the telephone number to the Employee Information Line to call for updates regarding county operations.

Ms. Thomas expressed concerns about flooding in her council district and seniors not receiving certain information/updates. She will talk with the County Administrator later about getting information to seniors.

Mr. Stewart provided the telephone number for the Public Information Line (843-398-4469). He also explained that the EOC will operate at a minimal level that includes coordination with the municipalities and police offices. This event probably will not require shelters.

Ms. Thomas asked about the procedures if emergencies should occur.

Mr. Stewart referred to the information that was previously distributed about preparing for storms.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mr. Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked them to be safe.

Mr. Douglas also thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Flowers invited everyone to attend Friday night football games at the local schools to support the schools, students, and families.

Ms. Thomas commended Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority's newsletter that was included in the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Askins expressed his condolences to the family of the late Judge Michael Holt.

Chairman Hudson talked about the number of calls received at E911, law enforcement, fire, and EMS, and commended the employees and staff of Darlington County.

Vote For Executive Session

There was not a vote for executive session.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Chairman Hudson to adjourn the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting held on September 9, 2024.