

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

October 7, 2024

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 7th day of October 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 Darlington County Government Building located at 1 Public Square in Darlington.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Notice of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 24-16, Ordinance No. 24-17, Ordinance No. 24-18, and Ordinance No. 24-19 was published in The Hartsville Messenger and News and Press on September 18, 2024.

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, Codes Enforcement Director Terri Cribb, Economic Development Director J. Lewis Brown, Emergency Management Director Molly Odom, Emergency Services Director Kenny Bowen, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Human Resources Director Ginger Winburn, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Mr. Will Johnson of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, Mr. Don Strickland of Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Stephen Drew/News & Press.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance No. 24-16, An Ordinance To Authorize And Approve An Agreement For The Development Of A Multi-County Park Agreement By And Between Florence County And Darlington County, Such Multi-County Park To Be Geographically Located In Florence County And Darlington County And Established Under Section 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South

Carolina 1976, As Amended; Authorizing The Inclusion Of Certain Property Located In Florence County In The Multi-County Park; And Other Matters Related Thereto - SECOND READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open at 6 p.m. to receive comments on Ordinance No. 24-16. There being no comments, the public was closed.

Ordinance No. 24-17, An Ordinance Authorizing Under Title 12, Chapter 44 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement, By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And A Project Known To The County As Project Rob, As Sponsor, And One Or More Sponsor Affiliates To Provide For A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive And Certain Special Source Revenue Credits For The Benefit Of A Project In The County; And Other Related Matters - SECOND READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive comments on Ordinance No. 24-17. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 24-18, An Ordinance Authorizing The Enlargement Of The Joint County Industrial Park Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Florence County, South Carolina; And Other Matters Related Thereto (Project Rob) - SECOND READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive comments on Ordinance No. 24-18. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 24-19, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 6 (Animals), Article II. (Animal Control) To Add A Section Governing The Tethering Of Pets, And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - SECOND READING

Chairman Hudson declared the public hearing open to receive comments on Ordinance No. 24-19. 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. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment To The Agenda

MOTION made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Davis to amend the agenda to bring forth Resolution No. 786.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 786, A Resolution Honoring The Late Judge Michael Shea Holt, Sr.

After Mr. Coker read the resolution, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve Resolution No. 786 honoring the late Judge Michael Shea Holt, Sr.

The motion carried unanimously.

Recess

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Davis for Council to take a five-minute recess.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council recessed at 6:09 p.m. and reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Coker and Mr. Askins presented Resolution No. 786 to members of Judge Holt's family who were present at the meeting.

Citizens' Comments

Mr. Dylan Meggs commended the proposed ordinance governing the tethering of pets. He stated that a great deal of time and effort had gone into the document, and many believe that it was fair and not overly reaching. He hopes that Council will consider the ordinance for better animal welfare in the community.

Personal Appearances - Mr. Don Strickland, PDRTA Executive Director - Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority Progress Update

Mr. Don Strickland, PDRTA's Executive Director, provided a service update as PDRTA celebrates its 50th anniversary. PDRTA serves six counties in the Pee Dee region. Being a political subdivision receiving federal and state funds, PDRTA must have local support to access federal funds. PDRTA currently offers 38 total routes; has five new services (Chesterfield County Connect, Chesterfield Demand-Response, Pageland Express, Darlington County Internship, and Hartsville Demand Response); offers fixed routes, paratransit/demand response service, vanpools, and Park-n-Ride; ADA-accessible vehicles; bike racks on all buses; and surveillance cameras on all vehicles. Last month, PDRTA made 39,000 passenger trips which included 22,000 for workforce, 4,000 for educational purposes, 7,000 for medical-related purposes, and the remainder for essential services representing a 35 percent increase in ridership. Mr. Strickland reported that FLATs (Florence Area Transportation Study) funded PDRTA's 2024 Transit Study to look at system redesign, transit development/coordination, workforce transportation, demand response/micro-transit, and regional coordination plan. He also provided information regarding Darlington County ridership showing a 100 percent increase from FY21 to current. PDRTA currently offers dedicated demand response rides to/from several area employers and has partnered with Darlington County School District to provide transportation for student internships and with Byerly Foundation to install twelve bus shelters in the City of Hartsville and provide demand response services. Mr. Strickland explained that PDRTA's demand response services in Darlington County has maxed out, and the current fixed routes in Hartsville, Darlington, Society Hill, Hartsville to Darlington, and Darlington to Florence are not covering the need in Darlington County. Based on the number of passenger trips in FY24, PDRTA is projecting 44,550 passenger trips in FY25 and has doubled its ridership in four years. Therefore, PDRTA must consider how to move forward

because the numbers will continue to grow. PDRTA's proposed investments include the installation of five of the twelve bus shelters in Hartsville, heavy-duty-low-floor-easy-access buses in Darlington County, increased ridership services to/from work, and additional work with the School District's internship program and with economic development. Mr. Strickland concluded by stating that PDRTA is funded through local referendum or user fees which can be considered in order to provide additional services in the area.

Mrs. Godbold questioned whether there should be conversations with the county administration, economic development, and PDRTA about funds for more dedicated services to be proactive in getting students who have graduated to work.

Mr. Strickland responded that he would be willing to have conversations about demand response transportation in Darlington County using federal funds that may be available. He explained a similar service in Dillon County with Harbor Freight.

Mrs. Godbold expressed concerns about prepping students for opportunities and the county failing them regarding transportation since many teens are not getting their driver's licenses as early as before.

Ms. Thomas commended PDRA's services in Darlington County and offered County Council's assistance to work on an improvement plan.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

- 6.A. Beaver Management Program Report, August 2024
- 6.B. COGNITIVE Connections Newsletter, September 2024
- 6.C. Darlington County Humane Society Meeting Minutes, August 12, 2024
- 6.D. Darlington County Library System Calendar Of Events, October 2024
- 6.E. Economic Development Partnership Board Agenda (September 18, 2024) & Minutes (May 15, 2024)
- 6.F. Financial Update through August 31, 2024
- 6.G. Fire District Call Volume Report, September 2024
- 6.H. Library Board Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2024
- 6.I. Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Activities, October 2024
- 6.J. E-911 Statistics, August 2024

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, September 9, 2024

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held on September 9, 2024.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 24-16, An Ordinance To Authorize And Approve An Agreement For The Development Of A Multi-County Park Agreement By And Between Florence County And

Darlington County, Such Multi-County Park To Be Geographically Located In Florence County And Darlington County And Established Pursuant To Section 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended; Authorizing The Inclusion Of Certain Property Located In Florence County In The Multi-County Park; And Other Matters Related Thereto - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 24-16.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 24-17, An Ordinance Authorizing Pursuant To Title 12, Chapter 44 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Agreement, By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And A Project Known To The County As Project Rob, As Sponsor, And One Or More Sponsor Affiliates To Provide For A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Incentive And Certain Special Source Revenue Credits For The Benefit Of A Project In The County; And Other Related Matters - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 24-17.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 24-18, An Ordinance Authorizing The Enlargement Of The Joint County Industrial Park Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Florence County, South Carolina; And Other Matters Related Thereto (Project Rob) - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 24-18.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 24-19, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 6 (Animals), Article II. (Animal Control) To Add A Section Governing The Tethering Of Pets, And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mrs. Godbold and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 24-19.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 24-20, An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Tax And Incentive Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And A Company Known To The County As Project Infinity Acting For Itself, One Or More Affiliates And/Or Other Project Sponsors; To Provide For A Fee In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes, Certain Infrastructure Credits And Other Incentives; To Include The Project Within The Boundaries Of A Multi County Park; To Modify Building Permit And Review Fees Consistent With The Foregoing; And Other Matters Relating Thereto - FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY

The title of Ordinance No. 24-20 was read for first reading. No action required.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards/Commissions/Committees

Appointments to Boards and Commissions were carried over.

Request To Purchase Two Peterbilt Roll-Off Truck, Environmental Services

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the purchase of two 2024 Peterbilt Roll-Off trucks from The Larson Group of Florence at a cost of \$238,040 per truck to replace trucks nearing their end of life.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Thomas stated that she would like to see the trucks when they come in and see what they are used for.

Redesignation Of Pee Dee Local Workforce

MOTION made by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Davis to authorize the chairman to sign the Consortium Agreement documents and the Designation of Grant Recipient/Fiscal Agent document.

The motion carried unanimously.

PARD Grant Match For Recreational Football - Town of Lamar

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve up to \$10,000 from Hospitality Tax funds for a PARD grant match for the Town of Lamar to access PARD grant funds for new bleachers at the recreational football field in Lamar.

The motion carried unanimously.

Allocation Of Remaining ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds Of Loss Revenue

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve allocating the remaining ARPA Loss Revenue funds for economic development costs and improvements.

The motion carried unanimously.

CTC Bid Award For Type 2 Asphalt Paving For Blazing Trail Road

MOTION made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve acceptance of the bid award to C.R. Jackson, Inc. of Darlington County in the amount of \$201,855 for type 2 asphalt paving of Blazing Trail Road.

The motion carried unanimously. CTC (County Transportation Committee) funds were allocated to pave Blazing Trail Road located off S. Sansbury Road.

CTC Bid Award For Type 2 Asphalt Paving For Oakdale Green Street And Primus Park Road

MOTION made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Godbold to approve the bid award

to Evans Pavement Services, Inc. in the amount of \$135,048 for type 2 asphalt paving of Oakdale Green Street and Primus Park Road.

The motion carried unanimously. CTC (County Transportation Committee) funds were allocated to pave Primus Park Road located in Hartsville and Oakdale Green Street located off Turnpike Road near Darlington.

Administrative Update – Mr. Charles Stewart, County Administrator

Taxes. Mr. Stewart reported that property tax bills will go out today and are available online. Reassessment notices were mailed during the last two weeks.

Electronic Sign. In response to a question from the last Council meeting about the status of the electronic sign that the county funded with the City of Darlington, Mr. Stewart confirmed that the City of Darlington had purchased the sign and was waiting for it to arrive and install on the Square.

City of Darlington’s Grant. In response to a question from the last Council meeting regarding the City of Darlington’s grant, Mr. Stewart reported that he received information that the City encountered some hangups/delays with surveying and the approval process. He also received information that the City was working on several parking lots and a few other things.

Opioid Committee. Mr. Stewart reported that the Opioid Committee recently met with citizens in various areas of the county, and Rubicon was now working on a proposal and will meet with the cohort group (Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Pharmacy, and Healthcare Providers) to discuss the results and forward to the formal Opioid Committee to review. The recommendations will be presented to County Council in December or January.

Economic Development Strategic Plan. Mr. Stewart also reported that the county has embarked on an Economic Development Strategic Plan which will be a great place to include transportation for workforce development. Two public meetings have been scheduled for October 28th (at 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.). Postcards announcing the meetings will be distributed. Citizens may attend the meeting or complete an online survey to provide input.

Lake Robinson Sire Test. Mr. Stewart announced that the Ten-Mile EPZ (Emergency Planning Zone) around Lake Robinson will hear a three-minute siren test on Wednesday, October 9th.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mr. Coker briefly reflected on his relationship with Judge Holt. He commended the people who fought for animals, the committee for developing a plan that everyone seemed comfortable with, and the Sheriff for making sure that everything was taken care of.

Mr. Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and PDRTA for its services.

Ms. Thomas asked whether the unallocated ARPA Loss Revenue funds could be used for things in each Council district.

Mr. Stewart clarified that tonight, Council allocated the remaining ARPA Loss Revenue funds for infrastructure type study or needs with the idea that grants from the state and other sources require a conceptual or basic engineering study. Therefore, the idea was to allot the remaining funds for a project that Council sees fit to get the initial study and pre-engineering in order to apply for larger amounts of funds when they become available for infrastructure. He mentioned that Ms. Thomas' proposal for the sidewalk project may be a project to go after with pre-engineering upon County Council's approval. Ms. Thomas will meet with Mr. Stewart to further discuss this matter.

Mr. Askins also reflected on his relations with Judge Holt. He thanked everyone for their efforts regarding the tethering ordinance which serves as an example of how to make positive change by bringing all the parties affected together, finding something that will work, and making something happen.

Mrs. Godbold thanked everyone for working on the animal tethering ordinance and coming up with something that everyone seemed ok with. She felt that this was a good way to tackle such a problem. She also thanked Mr. Strickland for the update and commended PDRTA's 50th anniversary celebration activity and services.

Chairman Hudson thanked everyone for working on the project.

Vote For Executive Session - (1) Discussion Of Matters Relating To The Proposed Location, Expansion, Or The Provision Of Services Encouraging Location Or Expansion Of Industries Or Other Businesses In The Area Served By The Public Body - Project Infinity (Ordinance No. 24-20) and (2) Discussion Of Negotiations Incident To Proposed Contractual Arrangements And Proposed Sale Or Purchase Of Property RE: The Lee County/City of Hartsville /Darlington County Jointly Owned/Operated Industrial Business Park (2000)

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Davis for Council to go into executive session for (1) discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body - Project Infinity (Ordinance No. 24-20) and (2) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property RE: The Lee County/City of Hartsville/Darlington County Jointly Owned/Operated Industrial Business Park (2000).

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker for Council, the county attorneys, and the county administrator to go into executive session after a five-minute recess for (1) discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body - Project Infinity (Ordinance No. 24-20) and (2) discussion

of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property RE: The Lee County/City of Hartsville/Darlington County Jointly Owned/Operated Industrial Business Park (2000).

The motion carried unanimously.

Council recessed at 6:43 p.m. and reconvened at 7:06 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken in executive session.

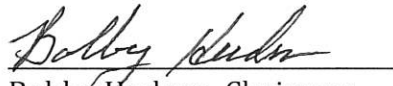
Adjournment

MOTION made by Chairman Hudson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of November 4, 2024.