

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

April 17, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Courthouse Annex/EMS Building

1625 Harry Byrd Highway, Darlington, SC

Notice of Meeting

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the meeting notice/agenda providing the date, time, and place of the committee meeting was emailed/mailed to the local newspapers, applicants, County Council, and Committee members, and posted on the county’s website. The meeting was live-streamed on Darlington County Council Live Meetings Facebook page.

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Winfred Harrington (Chair), Mr. Templin Hardee (Vice Chair), Ms. Allison Pederson, and Mr. Dan Moses.

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. John Crawley, Mr. James “Ashley” Flowers, and Ms. Desiree Fogle.

Also Present:

Clerk to Council/Staff Support J. JaNet Bishop and Emergency Management Director Molly Odom.

Reports Present:

None.

Meeting Summary

The Committee elected Mr. Winfred Herrington as Chairman and Mr. Templin Hardee as Vice Chairman of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for FY25/26.

The staff noted that Darlington County has a total of \$69,071 available in Accommodations Tax funds for FY25/26. Of this amount, \$26,225 was designated for the 30% Special Funds to be used for advertising and promotion for ongoing tourist promotion programs, and the Chambers of Commerce had applied for these funds. The remaining \$42,846 was designated for tourism-related expenditures.

It was also noted that the remaining funds (\$42,846) must be divided so that each of the four county areas receives the following amounts:

- 37% (\$15,853) for the Hartsville area,
- 37% (\$15,853) for the Darlington area,
- 13% (\$5,570) for the Lamar area,
- 13% (\$5,570) for the Society Hill area.

The Committee was reminded that in making recommendations for each application, to keep in mind the definition of travel/tourism as provided in the South Carolina Code of Laws, which states, *"the action and activities of people taking trips outside their home communities for any purpose except daily commuting to and from work."* The Committee was also reminded of the State Tourism Expenditure Review Committee's interpretation, which added to the definition of travel by stating *"activities associated with all overnight trips away from home in paid and unpaid accommodations and day trips to places 50 miles or more, one way, from the travelers' origin."*

For the 30% Special Funds (\$26,225), the Committee did not want to fund both Chambers the same amount or equally because Darlington Chamber of Commerce had applied for funds from both the 30% Special Funds and the 65% Remaining Funds (Freedom Fest). After discussing funding amounts for the Chambers, the Committee recommended \$18,225 for Hartsville Chamber of Commerce and \$8,000 for Darlington Chamber of Commerce from the 30% Special Funds. The Committee also recommended \$5,000 for Darlington Chamber of Commerce for Freedom Fest from the 65% Remaining Funds.

As for the Hartsville Community Center Building Commission/Center Theater Upgrades, initially, several members did not recommend any funding for this project since the theater was closed for construction and there was no anticipated date to reopen. Therefore, other projects could benefit from the limited Accommodations Tax funds for FY25/26. The Committee also mentioned the value the Center Theater will bring to the area once it reopens and recommended \$1,500 in support of the Center Theater upgrades.

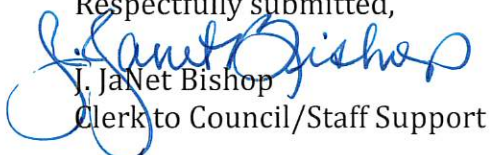
Since there were limited funds for Lamar and Society Hill areas (\$5,570 for each area), and both areas only received two applications each for similar events, the Committee recommended to equally divide the available funds between the applicants. Therefore, \$2,785 was recommended for each of the applicants in Lamar and Society Hill areas (Christmas on Main, Lamar Egg Scramble Jamboree, Society Hill Catfish Festival, and New Vision Community Development Corp. Rice Festival).

After discussing and consenting on amounts for each applicant, a motion was made by Mr. Dan Moses and seconded by Ms. Allison Pederson to submit the Committees' FY25/26 Accommodations Tax funding recommendations as listed on the next page (page 3) to Darlington County Council for consideration.

The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned. Committee members were invited to attend the Darlington County Council meeting when the Committee's recommendations are considered.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council/Staff Support

**ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FY 25/26 RECOMMENDATIONS**

APPLICANTS / EVENTS	REQUESTS	AVAILABLE FUNDS	COMMITTEE RECOMMEN D 04/18/25
30% Special Fund (\$26,225)			
1 Hartsville Chamber of Commerce	\$ 26,225	Available Funds ↓	\$ 18,225.00
2 Darlington Chamber of Commerce	\$ 13,000		\$ 8,000.00
Total Special Funds	\$ 39,225	\$ 26,225	\$ 26,225.00
65% Remaining Funds (\$42,846)			
Darlington Area - 37% = \$15,853			
1 Darlington Chamber of Commerce/Freedom Fest	\$ 10,000	Available Funds ↓	\$ 5,000.00
2 Darlington Downtown Revitalization/Buildup Dton Website	\$ 18,000		\$ 4,200.00
3 Families Engagement/SportTravel Fest	\$ 7,000		\$ 1,500.00
4 Grand Old Post Office Foundation/Concert Series	\$ 15,000		\$ 2,577.00
5 Southeastern Bluegrass Asso. Of SC/Monthly Concerts	\$ 15,000		\$ 2,576.00
Total for Darlington Area	\$ 65,000	\$ 15,853	\$ 15,853.00
Hartsville Area - 37% = \$15,853			
1 Butler Heritage Foundation/Butler Heritage Week	\$ 10,000	Available Funds ↓	\$ 4,000.00
2 Gospel in the Park Series	\$ 15,000		\$ 3,000.00
3 Hartsville Comm Ctr Bldg Comm/Center Theater Upgrades	\$ 20,000		\$ 1,500.00
4 Hartsville Community Chorus/Spring Concert	\$ 1,000		\$ 250.00
5 Kalmia Gardens of Coker College/Video Promotion Storybook	\$ 5,360		\$ 1,500.00
6 Nickelson Media/Juneteenth Community Celebration	\$ 6,000		\$ 2,300.00
7 SC Jr. Golf Foundation/Players Championship	\$ 9,000		\$ 3,053.00
8 Women's League of Hartsville/Mistletoe Market	\$ 1,000		\$ 250.00
Total for Hartsville Area	\$ 67,360	\$ 15,853	\$ 15,853.00
Lamar Area - 13% = \$5,570			
1 Christmas on Main - Lamar	\$ 3,500	Available Funds ↓	\$ 2,785.00
2 Lamar Egg Scramble Jamboree	\$ 4,000		\$ 2,785.00
Total for Lamar Area	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,570	\$ 5,570.00
Society Hill Area - 13% = \$5,570			
1 New Vision Community Dev. Corp./Rice Festival	\$ 15,000	Available Funds ↓	\$ 2,785.00
2 Society Hill Catfish Festival	\$ 3,000		\$ 2,785.00
Total for Society Hill Area	\$ 18,000	\$ 5,570	\$ 5,570.00
Total 65% Remaining Funds Requests	\$ 157,860		
Total 65% Remaining Funds		\$42,846	\$ 42,846.00
Total Available Funds (30% Special Funds & 65% Remaining Funds)		\$69,071	\$ 69,071.00