

REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

March 3, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 3rd day of March 2025, 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, SC.

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, Central Communication Director Michelle Hall, Codes Enforcement Staff Mary Tunstall, Emergency Management Director Molly Odom, Emergency Medical Services Director Kenny Bowen, Fire District Chief John Shoemake, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Sheriff Michael August, Chief Deputy Sheriff Cliff Howle, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

News & Press.

REGULAR MEETING

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. Coker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Belinda Valle presented her opposition regarding solar farms. She asked Council to obtain more information before making decisions that may have long-term effects on the residents.

Personal Appearances - Ms. Rechel Anderson, Owner/Executive Director, Enriching Growing Minds (E.G.M.), LLC - Update On New Residential Group Home Facility In Darlington

Dr. Rechel Anderson shared information about the Enriching Growing Minds (E.G.M.) residential group home care facility located at 1471 High Hill Road in Darlington County. This facility is licensed through DSS (South Carolina Department of Social Services) and can house ten youths from ages 12 to 21 years old. This facility accepts placements from DSS, offers rehabilitative services, and provides a loving, safe, and clean environment. Dr. Anderson invited Council members to attend the facility's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. An invitation will be sent to the Clerk to Council to distribute to Council members.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

- 5.A. Darlington County Animal Shelter Quarterly Report, July - September 2024
- 5.B. Darlington County Animal Shelter Quarterly Report, October - December 2024
- 5.C. Darlington County Humane Society Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2024 & January 13, 2025
- 5.D. DCHC&M Board Member Packet with Visitor Stats and Board Minutes - February 6, 2025
- 5.E. Pee Dee Regional Council Of Governments COGNitive Connections Monthly E-Newsletter, February 21, 2025
- 5.F. Darlington County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Activities, March 2025
- 5.G. Darlington County Library System Activities, March 2025
- 5.H. Financial Update Through January 2025
- 5.I. Fire District Call Volume Report, February 2025
- 5.J. E-911 Call Volume Report, January 2025
- 5.K. Reminder! Statement Of Economic Interest Due March 30th

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes – Minutes Of Regular Meeting, February 3, 2025

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held on February 3, 2025.

The motion carried unanimously.

Amendment To The Agenda To Bring For The Executive Session - Receipt Of Legal Advice Pertaining To Ordinance No. 25-05, An Ordinance Authorizing Darlington County To Accept Ownership And Responsibility Of Property Through The Buyout Program With South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR)

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker to bring forth the executive session for receipt of legal advice pertaining to Ordinance No. 25-05, An Ordinance

Authorizing Darlington County To Accept Ownership And Responsibility Of Property Through The Buyout Program With South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR).

The motion carried unanimously.

Vote For Executive Session - Receipt Of Legal Advice Pertaining To Ordinance No. 25-05, An Ordinance Authorizing Darlington County To Accept Ownership And Responsibility Of Property Through The Buyout Program With South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR)

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker for Council members, the county attorneys, and the county administrator to go into executive session for receipt of legal advice pertaining to Ordinance No. 25-05, An Ordinance Authorizing Darlington County To Accept Ownership And Responsibility Of Property Through The Buyout Program With South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR).

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

The Council and the named individuals went into executive session at 6:07 p.m. and reconvened at 6:25 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken in executive session.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 25-03, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Appendix A (Development Standards Ordinance), Article 3 (How Development Districts Are Established And Governed - Airport Districts And Flood Hazard Districts), To Update Section 3.4 (Flood Hazard Districts), And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - THIRD READING

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 25-03.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 25-01, An Ordinance Authorizing Pursuant To Chapter 44 Of Title 12, South Carolina Code Of Laws, 1976, As Amended, The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee Agreement Between Darlington County, South Carolina And IP Solar, LLC And Certain Affiliates Relating To A Proposed Solar Farm Development Located At Tax Parcels 050-00-01-004, 073-00-01-069, 074-00 -01-001 Near Underground Branch Road, And 074-00-01-074 Near Persimmons Drive; And Authorizing Other Related Matters - SECOND READING - CARRY OVER REQUESTED

There was no motion for second reading of Ordinance No. 25-01. Therefore, Ordinance No. 25-01 died for lack of a motion.

Ordinance No. 25-02, An Ordinance Authorizing The Enlargement Of The Joint County Industrial Park Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Florence County, South Carolina Relating To A Proposed Solar Farm Development Located At Tax Parcels 050-00-01-004, 073- 00-01-069, 074-00- 01-001 Near Underground Branch Road, And 0074-00-01-

074 Near Persimmons Drive; And Other Matters Related Thereto (IP Solar, LLC) - SECOND READING - CARRY OVER REQUESTED

There was no motion for second reading of Ordinance No. 25-02. Therefore, Ordinance No. 25-02 died for lack of a motion.

Ordinance No. 25-04, An Ordinance To Amend The Agreement For Development Of A Multi-County Industrial And Business Park By And Between Darlington County And Marlboro County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park So As To Include Additional Property In Darlington County And Marlboro County As Part Of The Joint County Industrial Park, And Other Matters Relating Thereto - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 25-04. Mrs. Godbold recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold recusing herself due to a conflict of interest.

Ordinance No. 25-05, An Ordinance Authorizing Darlington County To Accept Ownership And Responsibility Of Property Through The Buyout Program With South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR), Group 1 - SECOND READING

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 25-05.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 25-06, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II. (County Council), Division 3. (Meetings), To Allow Virtual Attendance At Council Meetings And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance, FIRST READING - BY TITLE ONLY

The title of Ordinance No. 25-06 was read for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 25-07, An Ordinance Authorizing The Sale Of Property Near The Mazingo Building In Darlington - FIRST READING - BY TITLE ONLY

The title of Ordinance No. 25-07 was read for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 25-08, An Ordinance Authorizing Darlington County To Accept Ownership And Responsibility Of Property Through The Buyout Program With South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR), Group 2 - FIRST READING - BY TITLE ONLY

The title of Ordinance No. 25-08 was read for first reading. No action required.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 790, An Inducement Resolution Supporting And Providing For Incentives For A Proposed Investment By IP Solar, LLC Relating To A Proposed Solar Farm Development Located At Tax Parcels 050-00-01-004, 073-00-01-069, 074-00-01-001 Near Underground Branch Road, And 074-00-01-074 Near Persimmons Drive, And Other Matters Related Thereto - CARRY OVER REQUESTED

There was no motion regarding Resolution No. 790. Therefore, Resolution No. 790 died for lack of a motion.

Resolution No. 792, Identifying A Project To Satisfy The Requirements Of Title 12, Chapter 44 Of The South Carolina Code, So As To Allow Investment Expenditures Incurred By A Company Known To The County As Project Beaver, Its Affiliates And Related Entities, To Qualify As Expenditures Eligible For A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes Arrangement With Darlington County, South Carolina For The Development Of An Utility Scale Solar Generating Facility Located Between Society Hill Road And N Governor Williams Highway; Providing For Other Related Economic Development Incentives, Including Special Source Revenue Credits; And Other Matters Related Thereto - CARRY OVER REQUESTED

There was no motion regarding Resolution No. 792. Therefore, Resolution No. 792 died for lack of a motion.

Resolution No. 793, Designating April 2025 As Fair Housing Month

MOTION made by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve Resolution No. 793.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 795, A Resolution Approving The Addition Of Universal Industrial Gases, LLC As A Sponsor Affiliate To An Existing Fee Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina, And Nucor Corporation; And Other Related Matters

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve Resolution No. 795.

Mrs. Godbold recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold recusing herself due to a conflict of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards/Commissions/Committees

Historical Commission. **MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to appoint Dr. Mac Chapman to the Historical Commission.

The vote was unanimous. Dr. Chapman will serve a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Library Board. **MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to reappoint Mr. Gene Norwood to the Library Board.

The vote was unanimous. Mr. Norwood will serve a second term commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2029.

Recreation Commission. **MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to reappoint Mr. Monty Batchelor to the Recreation Commission.

The vote was unanimous. Mr. Batchelor will serve a second term commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2029.

Planning Commission. **MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to reappoint Mr. Frankie Jernigan to the Planning Commission.

The vote was unanimous. Mr. Jernigan will serve a third term commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2029.

Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals. **MOTION** made by Chairman Hudson and seconded by Mr. Coker to reappoint Mr. Randy Reynolds to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

The vote was unanimous. Mr. Reynolds will serve a second term commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2029.

Historical Commission & Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals. **MOTION** made by Mrs. Godbold and seconded by Mr. Coker to appoint Mr. Stephens Josey to fill an unexpired term on the Historical Commission and reappoint Mr. Adger Watkins, Jr. to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

The vote was unanimous. Mr. Josey will fill an unexpired term on the Historical Commission through June 30, 2028, and Mr. Watkins will serve a full term on the Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2029.

Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee. **MOTION** made by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to reappoint Ms. Susan Abraham to the Alcohol & Drug Citizen Advisory Committee.

The vote was unanimous. Ms. Abraham will serve a term commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2029.

The remaining appointments/reappointments were carried over.

Hartsville Northern League Funding Request For Field Lighting, \$14,500

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Askins for the county to provide \$14,500 from the General Fund Balance towards the cost of lighting for Hartsville Northern League Field 4.

Mr. Flowers recused himself due to a conflict of interest.

The motion carried with Mr. Flowers recusing himself due to a conflict of interest.

Request For Gun Ownership Transfer From The Sheriff's Department Surplus

MOTION made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mrs. Godbold to approve the transfer and/or sale of surplus service weapons to retiring officers and those not returning to duty under the Sheriff's Department's new administration.

The motion carried unanimously.

Town Of Lamar Sewer Study

MOTION made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve \$78,300 from the Economic Development Fund for professional engineering services (Davis & Floyd) to evaluate the conditions of Lamar WWTP (wastewater treatment facility) and prepare conceptual exhibits for collection and transportation of wastewater from the I-20 exits at 131 and 137 to the Lamar WWTP (wastewater treatment facility).

Ms. Thomas wanted to learn more about this matter.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update

Statement of Economic Interest. Mr. Stewart reminded Council members to file their Statement of Economic Interest with the South Carolina Ethics Commission by March 30th. A reminder was included in the agenda package.

Drainage Project / South Carolina Office of Resilience. In response to Ms. Thomas' question regarding the grant status for the South Darlington Drainage project, Mr. Stewart reported that Council had voted on this at its last meeting (*Resolution No. 789, A Resolution Authorizing The County Administrator And County Council To Execute A Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Stormwater Infrastructure Program Agreement Between Darlington County And The South Carolina Office Of Resilience To Fund A Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Project That Will Mitigate The Impact Of Future Disasters*). The kickoff meeting was held, and the South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) will manage the grant and solicit Requests for Qualifications for a contractor to build the conceptual engineering plans. Although SCOR will have the final "say-so," SCOR will meet with the county to decide/select the contractor. Mr. Stewart also noted that it will probably be at least eight months before any construction happens.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mr. Coker expressed his condolences and acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Lewis Brown in his role as a County Council member and as Darlington County Economic Development Director.

Mr. Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed condolences to the family of Mr. Lewis Brown.

Mr. Douglas also expressed condolences to the family of Mr. Lewis Brown.

Ms. Thomas reported that she would talk with the County Administrator about grants at a later time.

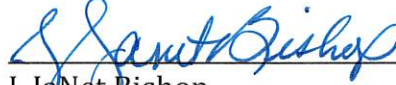
Mr. Askins expressed condolences to the family of Mr. Lewis Brown. He urged the county to follow through with Mr. Brown's dream relating to workforce development and establishing a campus in Hartsville.

Chairman Hudson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and commended the employees and the Sheriff's Office for their work. He also expressed condolences to the family of Mr. Lewis Brown.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Chairman Hudson and seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of April 7, 2025.