

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING  
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
DARLINGTON, SC

May 5, 2025

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Notice of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 25-08 was published in the Hartsville Messenger on April 16, 2025.

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 Communications Director Michelle Hall, Codes Enforcement Staff Mary Tunstall, Detention Center Director Mitch Stanley, Emergency Management Director Molly Odom, Emergency Medical Services Director Kenny Bowen, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Interim Fire District Chief John Shoemake, Human Resources Director Ginger Winburn, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Sheriff Michael August, Mr. Steve Kalland with Carolinas Renewable Energy Development Assistance and Siting Hub (DASH), Dr. Lawrence Ford with South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, Mr. Jimmie Johnson with Christ City of Refuge, Ms. Jane Proell with Darlington Friends of the Library, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

News & Press and WMBF News (Myrtle Beach).

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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 - THIRD READING

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Tax Map/Parcel #</u>	<u>Plat Book/Page</u>
856 Oleander Dr. Darlington, SC	163-00-05-031	53/165

The Buyout Project is funded by a US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) for the purpose of

Darlington County acquiring property from voluntarily participating residential homeowners who are located in a floodplain and/or have suffered damages due to flooding during the 2015, 2016, or 2018 Presidentially-declared disasters and/or located in a program defined Disaster Risk Reduction Area.

Representatives for the South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR) and the voluntarily participating residential homeowners have negotiated Contract(s) for Sale of Real Estate to be executed in the name of, and on behalf of, Darlington County. Darlington County anticipates receiving ownership of the properties at no cost and will be perpetually responsible for the maintenance of the properties. The properties will be returned to green space in perpetuity through restrictive covenants.

The South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR) and Darlington County are acting in accordance with a Darlington County application for a Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation (CBDG-MIT) and a Grant Agreement executed November 21, 2022.

Chairman Hudson declared the Public Hearing open at 6 p.m. to receive comments on Ordinance No. 25-08.

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. Askins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Amendment To The Agenda To Bring Forth Resolutions.

**MOTION** made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Davis to bring forth the Resolutions.  
The motion carried unanimously.

### Resolutions

#### Resolution No. 794, Resolution Honoring The Late J. Lewis Brown

After Mr. Askins read the Resolution, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve Resolution No. 794.

The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution was presented to family members of the late J. Lewis Brown.

#### Resolution No. 797, Proclaiming National Emergency Medical Services Week, May 18-24, 2025

After Mr. Flowers read the resolution, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve Resolution No. 797.

The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution was presented to Emergency Services Director Kenny Bowen.

#### Resolution No. 798, Proclaiming June 2025 As Elevate Fatherhood Month

After Mr. Flowers read the Resolution, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve Resolution No. 798.

The motion carried unanimously. The Resolution was presented to Dr. Lawrence Ford, Director of Marketing and Communications with South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, and others.

#### Citizens' Comments

Mr. Jimmie Johnson talked about the services provided by Christ City of Refuge located in Hartsville. This organization is committed to combating homelessness by offering a unique, holistic approach in providing a safe and comfortable place where the residents can focus on working, saving money, and becoming contributing and self-sufficient members of the community. This organization focuses on programs to help people heal, grow, and rebuild their lives. A cottage, job, and transportation to and from work are provided so that people can save money and rebuild their lives. This service is free of charge. Mr. Johnson stated that the organization has completed their 7th cottage, named Grace, and needs more housing since the rate of homelessness has continued to grow. He requested to appear before County Council at another time to present information on what they are doing and how they are trying to combat this problem.

Mr. Flowers directed Mr. Johnson to contact the Clerk to Council for details about getting on Council's agenda to make a 10-minute Personal Appearance.

#### Personal Appearances

Mr. Leo Johnson - Concerns Regarding The Removal Of Battery Powered Camera(s) From The Corner Of Shaw Drive And Blanding Drive. The Deterioration of Roads (Cameo St, Elmwood Dr off Tigerlily Dr) & Trash/Litter Along Area Roads

Mr. Leo Johnson was not present at the meeting.

#### Mr. Justin Lindermann, Carolinas Development Assistance And Siting Hub (C-DASH) Program - Solar Development

On behalf of Mr. Justin Lindermann, Mr. Steve Kalland, of North Carolina State University, talked about the Carolinas Renewable Energy Development Assistance and Siting Hub (the Carolinas DASH project) and their work in conjunction with the South Carolina State Energy Office. Mr. Kalland explained that C-DASH assists counties in South and North Carolina that are seeing an increase in siting requests for solar and wind projects. Assistance includes helping counties hash through information so that they can make the right decision and figure out how to structure ordinances, etc. Mr. Kalland indicated that C-DASH is not associated with any private sector companies. This project is a part of North Carolina State University; supported by the US Department of Energy; focuses on utility-scale solar as opposed to rooftop solar; and comes with no cost to the county. The project includes three main activities: (1) stakeholder engagement through public hearings/meetings to update understanding of local perspectives about renewable energy development; (2) resource development to address stakeholder questions, including an online technical assistance hub; and (3) education and technical assistance to communities, local governments, landowners, and developers on topics related to renewable energy planning, permitting, and siting. Mr. Kalland presented a QR code to access the project and maps of various size project sites in South Carolina and North Carolina.

Mr. Flowers asked whether this information would be tied to or linked to the county website. He felt that it would be easier and simpler for people in Darlington County who have questions regarding this matter to use a link on the county website.

Mr. Kalland responded that the information is tied to the State Energy Office website. However, the county could provide a link on the county website, too, or contact his office for someone to appear at a public meeting to provide information.

Mr. Stewart stated that this would have to be cleared.

Mr. Askins asked about a database of ordinances governing this matter.

Mr. Kalland responded that they are in the process of collecting such information and hope to have a database of all the ordinances in North and South Carolina on their website by the end of the summer.

Ms. Jane Proell - Darlington County Library, Friends Of Darlington Library, Library Proposed FY25/26 Budget

Ms. Proell, Friends of the Darlington Library President, reported that the South Carolina State Library was established by the General Assembly to be responsible for public libraries and outlined the roles and responsibilities for library directors, library boards, and Friends groups. According to these guidelines, the Friends groups are tasked with volunteering to help raise funds and serve as advocates for the libraries. The Friends groups are expected to contribute to the library's strategic plan and support its expectations. Ms. Proell reported that since becoming the President of the Friends of Darlington Library in January 2025, she had to make numerous requests to receive a copy of the library's strategic plan dated 2019 – 2021. She also expressed concerns about there not being a more current strategic plan, the process for her to obtain full administrative access to the Friends Facebook page, and certain items in the library's proposed budget (repairs to the facility's steps, renovation of the garage area, the van wrap for the mobile outreach vehicle, and the proposed new truck). Ms. Proell stated that in order for the Friends group to provide the quality services, she needs to know the library's goals and the justifications of expenditures to meet those goals.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

- 6.A. Darlington County Humane Society Board Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2025 & March 17, 2025
- 6.B. Airport Commission Minutes, January 16, 2025
- 6.C. Pee Dee Regional Council Of Governments COGnitive Connections Monthly E-Newsletter, April 2025
- 6.D. Darlington County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism-May Activities
- 6.E. Library System's Calendar of Events/Activities, May 2025
- 6.F. Invitation - Olympia Armory Grand Opening, May 14, 2025
- 6.G. Coffee With The COG Invitation, May 22, 2025
- 6.H. Financial Update Through March 31, 2025
- 6.I. Fire District Call Volume Report, April 2025
- 6.J. 911 Call Volume Report, March 2025

**MOTION** 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 And Regular Meeting, April 7, 2025

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting held on April 7, 2025.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes – Minutes Of Special Meeting, April 16, 2025

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on April 16, 2025.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes – Minutes Of Budget Worksession, April 16, 2025

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve the minutes of the Budget Worksession held on April 16, 2025.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

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 - THIRD READING

**MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 25-08.

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, SECOND READING - CARRY OVER REQUESTED

**MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Douglas to carry over second reading of Ordinance No. 25-06.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 25-07, An Ordinance Authorizing The Sale Of Property Near The Mazingo Building In Darlington - SECOND READING

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 25-07. Mrs. Godbold recused herself.

The motion carried with Mrs. Godbold recusing.

Ordinance No. 25-09, An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Ordinary County Purposes For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, And Ending June 30, 2026; To Provide For The Expenditures Thereof; And To Provide For Revenues For The Payment Thereof - SECOND READING

**MOTION** made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 25-09.

The motion carried with Mr. Davis and Ms. Thomas opposing.

Ordinance No. 25-10, 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, 2025, And Ending June 30, 2026 - SECOND READING

**MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Askins to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 25-10.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 25-11, An Ordinance Authorizing Darlington County To Accept Ownership And Responsibility Of Property Through The Buyout Program With South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR), Group 3 - SECOND READING

**MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 25-11.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 25-12, An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Project Viper Providing For A Payment Of A Fee In Lieu Of Taxes, And Other Matters Related Thereto -SECOND READING - CARRY OVER REQUESTED

**MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to carry over second reading of Ordinance No. 25-12.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 25-13, An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And Project Joint Providing For A Payment Of A Fee In Lieu Of Taxes, And Other Matters Related Thereto - SECOND READING - CARRY OVER REQUESTED

**MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to carry over second reading of Ordinance No. 25-13.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 25-14, An Ordinance To Amend Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article V. (Finance), Division 7 (Fees), Section 2-412 (Fee Schedule) To Amend Certain Fees And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - SECOND READING

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 25-14.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 25-15, An Ordinance Authorizing Darlington County To Accept Ownership And Responsibility Of Property Through The Buyout Program With South Carolina Office Of Resilience (SCOR), Group 4 - FIRST READING

The title of Ordinance No. 25-15 was read for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 25-16, An Ordinance Authorizing The Purchase Of 1.50 Acres Located Near The Intersection Of Lamar Highway (Highway 401) And Zion Road, Being Situated Northeast Of The City Of Lamar, South Carolina - FIRST READING - BY TITLE ONLY

The title of Ordinance No. 25-16 was read for first reading. No action required.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Other Items

Appointments To Boards/Commissions/Committees

Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee. **MOTION** made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Coker to reappoint Ms. Lunella Williams to the Alcohol and Drug Citizen Advisory Committee.

The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Williams was reappointed to serve a term to commence July 1, 2025, and extend through June 30, 2029.

Planning Commission. **MOTION** made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Coker to reappoint Mr. Sylvester Wilson, Jr., to the Planning Commission.

The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wilson was reappointed to serve a full term to commence July 1, 2025, and extend through June 30, 2029.

Reappointments To The Pee Dee Workforce Development Board

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Coker to reappoint Mr. Terry Gainey (Organized Labor/SC Fraternal Order of Police), Mr. Wayne Simon (Private Industry/Hartsville Medical Enrichment Services), and Mr. Joe Bittle (Private Industry/CareSouth Carolina) to the Pee Dee Workforce Development Board as requested.

The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gainey was reappointed to serve a third term, Mr. Simon was reappointed to serve a fourth term, and Mr. Bittle was reappointed to serve a second term. Their term will commence July 1, 2025, and extend through June 30, 2028.

FY25/26 Accommodations Tax Funding Recommendations

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to accept/approve the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee’s FY25/26 funding recommendations (below).

The motion carried with Mr. Davis opposing.

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

<b>APPLICANTS / EVENTS</b>	<b>REQUESTS</b>	<b>AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>	<b>COMMITTEE RECOMMEND 4/17/25</b>
<b>30% Special Fund (\$26,225)</b>			
1 Hartsville Chamber of Commerce	\$ 26,225	Available Funds	\$ 18,225.00
2 Darlington Chamber of Commerce	\$ 13,000		\$ 8,000.00
<b>Total Special Funds</b>	<b>\$ 39,225</b>	<b>\$ 26,225</b>	<b>\$ 26,225.00</b>
<b>65% Remaining Funds (\$42,846)</b>			
<b>Darlington Area - 37% = \$15,853</b>			
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
<b>Total for Darlington Area</b>	<b>\$ 65,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,853</b>	<b>\$ 15,853.00</b>

<b>Hartsville Area - 37% = \$15,853</b>			
1	Butler Heritage Foundation/Butler Heritage Week	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,000.00
2	Gospel in the Park Series	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,000.00
3	Hartsville Ctr Comm 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
<b>Total for Hartsville Area</b>		<b>\$ 67,360</b>	<b>\$ 15,853</b>
<b>Lamar Area - 13% = \$5,570</b>			
1	Christmas on Main - Lamar	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,785.00
2	Lamar Egg Scramble Jamboree	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,785.00
<b>Total for Lamar Area</b>		<b>\$ 7,500</b>	<b>\$ 5,570</b>
<b>Society Hill Area - 13% = \$5,570</b>			
1	New Vision Community Dev. Corp./Rice Festival	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,785.00
2	Society Hill Catfish Festival	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,785.00
<b>Total for Society Hill Area</b>		<b>\$ 18,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,570</b>
<b>Total 65% Remaining Funds Requests</b>		<b>\$ 157,860</b>	
<b>Total 65% Remaining Funds</b>			<b>\$ 42,846.00</b>
<b>Total Available Funds (30% Special &amp; 65% Remaining Funds)</b>			<b>\$ 69,071.00</b>

Request To Purchase a Cummins Generator, W. Glen Campbell Detention Center

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of a Cummins generator from Cummins Sales and Services at a cost of \$107,186.62 from the General Fund Balance to replace the generator at the Detention Center.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request For Assistance With Kitchen Renovation Project At Rubicon Family Counseling, \$5,000

**MOTION** made by Mrs. Godbold and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the request for \$5,000 (from the General Fund Balance) to be used towards the kitchen renovations at Rubicon Family Counseling facility in Hartsville.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update

There was no report.

Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mr. Coker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the Council's recognition of the late J. Lewis Brown.

Mr. Davis also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their work around the county. He wished the Clerk to Council a happy birthday.

Mr. Douglas thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished them a safe travel home.

Ms. Thomas thanked everyone for attending the meeting and commended the efforts of the Library Board and Library staff for planning/offering activities at the library.

Mr. Askins talked about Mr. Lewis Brown's legacy to encourage Workforce Development, the county delegation, and Economic Development to secure funds for a technical campus in Hartsville.

Mrs. Godbold thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the Council for supporting the kitchen renovations at Rubicon, which will help families.

Chairman Hudson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the efforts of the Sheriff's Department.

Vote For Executive Session - 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 - RE: I-20 Industrial Park And Marlboro Pee Dee Electric

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to vote for executive session for 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 - RE: I-20 Industrial Park and Marlboro Pee Dee Electric.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - 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 - RE: I-20 Industrial Park And Marlboro Pee Dee Electric

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas for Council members, the county attorneys, and the county administrator to go into executive session, after a 5 minute recess, for 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 - RE: I-20 Industrial Park and Marlboro Pee Dee Electric.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council took a five-minute recess at 6:48 p.m. before going into executive session with the named individuals and reconvened at 7:19 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken in executive session.

Amendment To The Agenda To Bring Back Appointments To Boards And Commissions

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Davis to amend the agenda to bring back Appointments To Boards and Commissions due to an oversight.

The motion carried unanimously.

Appointments To Boards And Commissions.

Airport Commission. **MOTION** made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Coker to reappoint Mr. Kenneth Krueger, Jr., to the Airport Commission.

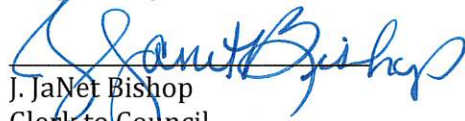
The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Krueger was reappointed to serve a fourth term to commence July 1, 2025, and extend through June 30, 2029.

The motion carried unanimously.

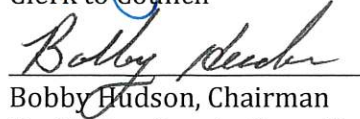
Adjournment

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. JaNet Bishop  
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman  
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of June 2, 2025.