

REGULAR MEETING  
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
DARLINGTON, SC

October 3, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2022 at the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Hwy. 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. M. 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, Clerk to Council J. Janet Bishop, Acting County Attorney Jacob Godwin, Central Communications Director Michelle Hall, Emergency Services Director Kenny Bowen, Environmental Services Director Gary White, Codes Enforcement Director Terri Cribb, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Fire District Chief Ricky Flowers, Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy, Human Resources Director Ginger Winburn, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Sheriff James Hudson, Tax Assessor Kyle Johnson, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Stephan Draw of the News and Press and a reporter from TV15 News.

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

There were no citizen comments.

Personal Appearances

There were no personal appearances.

Consent Agenda (Receive As Information)

There were no Consent Agenda items.

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes Of Regular Meeting, September 12, 2022

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 12, 2022.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 22-14, To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of A Not Exceeding Six Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollar (\$685,000) General Obligation Bond Of Darlington County, South Carolina (Hartsville Fire Protection District), To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto - SECOND READING

**MOTION** made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 22-14.

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

Ordinance No. 22-15, 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 Stamey Solar, LLC And Certain Affiliates, Thereby Replacing The 2018 Stamey Solar Fee Agreement; And Authorizing Other Related Matters - FIRST READING

Ordinance No. 22-15 was read for first reading. No action required.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 746, A Resolution Honoring Franklin Hines

**MOTION** made by Ms. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve Resolution No. 746 honoring Mr. Franklin Hines.

The motion carried unanimously. After Mr. Flowers read the resolution, Mr. Davis and Ms. Thomas presented it to Mr. Hines' son, Khalfani Hines, and grandson, Justin Hines.

Resolution No. 747, Commissioning Stephen B. Schwartz As A County Codes Enforcement Officer For The County Of Darlington

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve Resolution No. 747 commissioning Stephen B. Schwartz as a County Codes Enforcement Officer.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 748, Commission John K. Tiller As A County Codes Enforcement Officer For The County Of Darlington

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve Resolution No. 748 commissioning John K. Tiller as a County Codes Enforcement Officer.

The motion carried unanimously.

### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

### Other Items

#### Appointments To Boards/Commissions

Mr. Flowers carried over his appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals and the Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals.

#### Appointment To The Economic Development Partnership Board

**MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to appoint Ms. Nicole Flippin of Duke Energy to the Economic Development Partnership Board as Darlington Progress appointee. She will complete the term of Mr. Donald Clark through June 30, 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Section 504/ADA Compliance Plan, Self-Evaluation, Transition Plan, And All Its Contents

**MOTION** made by Mr. Askins and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve Section 504/ADA Compliance Plan, Self-Evaluation, Transition Plan, and all its contents.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Request To Amend The Darlington County Policy Book To Add Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) And Americans With Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the request to amend Darlington County Policy Book to add the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) policies to remain compliant with ADA.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Purchase Replacement Fire Engine

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the purchase of a fire engine to replace the 1992 Engine that was totaled in an accident. This new engine will replace an older engine that is currently a first out engine in Dovesville and the current Dovesville engine will be recycled to Pond Hollow substation as a second out engine. The new engine will be purchased on a cooperative purchasing contract at a cost of \$551,266 of which \$249,000 will come from insurance proceeds and the balance (\$302,266) from the Fire District Fund balance.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Replace Lighting At Two Lamar Dixie Fields And Install Lighting At Lydia Baseball Field

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mrs. Godbold to accept the bid from Ridgeway Electrical, LLC to replace/upgrade the lighting at two Lamar Dixie fields with new LED lighting and utilize the lights removed from Lamar to install a lighting system at Lydia Baseball Field at a cost of \$161,830 using Hospitality Tax funds.

Mr. Davis asked whether a fence could be erected around Lydia Ballfield to keep people from parking on other people's property.

Mr. Stewart responded that bids would have to be solicited to fence the entire area.

Mr. Flowers explained that the grass parking lot flows into the neighborhood on the Hartsville side. Although there is designated parking, when there is a big crowd, people park wherever. Therefore, something is needed to separate the neighborhood from the ballpark. The railroad side, the back side, and the highway side are fine; it's the neighborhood.

Mr. Stewart will look at the area, get measurements, and look at various alternatives to find out what could be installed to keep people from driving on other people's property.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Pictometry Aerial Imagery and Software For The Tax Assessor's Office And Other County Departments

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Davis to accept the contract with Connect Eagleview for Pictometry Aerial Imagery and Software (the first project) for the Tax Assessor's Office and other county departments at a cost of \$239,649 using General Fund SLFRF (American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) loss revenue.

Ms. Thomas asked how often this is done.

Mr. Stewart explained that this is done every five years for the reassessment process to keep the photography updated. This also allows the Assessor's Office to do a lot of their reevaluations from software comparison of aerial imagery because of its detailed photographs. In addition to using the software for tax data, the photographs are also used by E-911 for response assistance, used by the Sheriff's Department and Fire Department to print maps of areas for searches, and used as the base imagery that citizens see online.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Highway 34 Cashua Ferry Boat Landing Rehabilitation

**MOTION** made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mrs. Godbold to approve/authorize the county to provide the needed rehabilitation at the Highway 34 Cashua Ferry Boat Landing to include full-depth patching of holes in the pavement, a 2" asphalt overlay of approximately 7,537 sq. yards of parking and drive areas, and the replacement of approximately 618 linear feet of wooden guard rail.

Ms. Thomas asked about the grant that requires a 25 percent match from the county.

Mr. Stewart explained that South Carolina Department of Natural Resources applied for a Sport Fish Restoration Grant from the United States Department of the Interior. The State is the applicant but named the county as a subgrantee to receive the grant to get the work done. The grant requires a 25 percent match on the total project. There will be a federal grant of approximately \$99,000 and the county has to provide \$33,194.25 (possibly from Hospitality Tax funds), which the staff is hoping that the State will provide as matching funds. However, if the State does not provide the matching funds, the county will provide the money to not lose the \$99,000 in federal funds to get the project done. This site is located at the county line at the Great Pee Dee River.

Mr. Douglas asked whether county employees will do the work.

Mr. Stewart responded that a contractor will patch the holes, asphalt, etc. However, the county staff may install the fence.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Darlington County Watershed Study Mitigation Buyout Program

**MOTION** made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the county's participation in the South Carolina Office of Resilience's CDBG-Mitigation Buyout Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Darlington County Classification and Compensation Study and Analysis

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Davis to award the bid to Evergreen Solutions, LLC to perform the Classification and Compensation Study and Analysis for Darlington County at a cost of \$56,525 from General Fund SLFRF (American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) Loss Revenue.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Administrative Update

As an update on Hurricane Ian, Mr. Stewart reported that the county activated the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) to watch the weather as the hurricane made landfall in South Carolina as a category one hurricane. All public safety sectors were active at the EOC but no shelters were opened. There were responses to assist with 10 electrical hazards and 46 traffic hazards from fallen trees and vehicle incidents and two damage assessment surveys completed (a tree on a home and a partial wall collapse at a small business). Although the county did not receive the amount of precipitation as forecasted, minor flooding was reported in areas that normally flood from stormwater. There was no damage to county facilities except for the Prison Camp losing electricity for three hours.

#### Requests / Comments - Members Of Council

Mr. Davis thanked the staff for working during the hurricane. He also asked everyone to keep his family in prayers with the death of his uncle, Mr. Sam Davis of Hartsville.

Mr. Askins expressed his appreciation for Mr. Franklin Hines' contributions to Hartsville. He was glad that his classmate, Mr. Khalfani Hines, was present with his son, Justin Hines.

Mrs. Godbold announced that the Sweet Potato Festival will be held this weekend with over 100 vendors. She expressed her appreciation for the work that will take place at Highway 34 Cashua Ferry Boat Landing and pointed out that the coloring book that was included in Council's agenda packet several months ago was produced using a grant she had received and was able to do through Darlington County Historical Commission. The coloring books will be available in the county at some point.

Vote For Executive Session - Discussion Of Negotiations Incident To Proposed Contractual Arrangements

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to vote for executive session for discussion of negotiation incident to proposed contractual arrangements.

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas for Council to go into executive session with the county Administrator for discussion of negotiation incident to proposed contractual arrangements.

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Davis for Council to take a five-minute recess prior to going into executive session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - Discussion Of Negotiations Incident To Proposed Contractual Arrangements

Council recessed at 6:22 p.m. prior to going into executive session and reconvened at 6:35 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken in executive session.

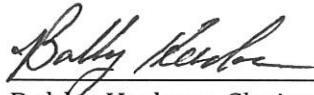
Adjournment

**MOTION** made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn the meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop  
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman  
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of November 7, 2022.