

PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

DECEMBER 7, 2015

A public hearing and regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 7th day of December 2015, at 6 p.m., at the Darlington County Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway, Darlington, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda, giving the date, time, and place of the meeting was mailed in advance to the local newspapers, persons requesting notification, and posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to the County Administrator's Office.

A Notice of Public Hearing for the Lease of T-Hangar No. 11 was published in the Hartsville Messenger and News and Press on November 4, 2015. A Notice of Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 15-30 was published in the Hartsville Messenger and News and Press on November 11, 2015.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice Chairman Robbin Brock, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. David Coker, Mr. Marvin Le Flowers, Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, Ms. Mozella Nicholson, and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Terence Arrington, County Attorney James C. Cox, Jr., Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Environmental Services Director Renee Howle, Assistant Environmental Services Director Paula Newton, Emergency Services Director Michelle Moore, Emergency Preparedness Director Mac McDonald, Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans, Airport Manager Barry Kennett, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, IT Manager Arthur Moore, Human Resources Manager Ginger Winburn, Planning Director Doug Reimold, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Chief Deputy Sheriff James Hudson, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Sheriff Wayne Byrd, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd Attorney Ben Zeigler, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proposed Lease Authorizing The Entry By Darlington County, Lessor, Into An Agreement For The Lease Of T-Hangar No. 11 Located At Darlington County Airport, Hanger Access Rd, Darlington, South Carolina. The Lease Will Commence On November 1, 2015 And End On October 31, 2020

Chairman Hudson declared the Public Hearing open at 6:04 p.m. to receive comments on the lease of T-Hangar 11 located at the Darlington County Airport.

There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

Ordinance No. 15-30, An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 15-21 (Darlington County FY15/16 Budget Ordinance) For A Supplemental Appropriation To Receive And Expend Unclaimed State Lottery Funds For Darlington County Library System And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance

Chairman Hudson declared the Public Hearing open to receive comments on Ordinance No. 15-30.

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 at 6:06 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.

Amendment To The Agenda For Executive Session

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to amend the agenda to go to Executive Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to add an additional executive session for County Council, County Attorney Cox, County Administrator Terence Arrington, and Finance Director Sherman Dibble to discuss pending litigation.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - Receipt Of Legal Advice Regarding Darlington County Landfill

Chairman Hudson announced that the first Executive Session would include County Council, Haynsworth Sinkler & Boyd Attorney Ben Zeigler, First Tryon Advisors Vice President Tyler Traudt, Environmental Services Director Renee Howle, Assistant Environmental Services Director Paula Newton, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, County Administrator Terence Arrington, and County Attorney Jim Cox.

Council and the individual listed above went into executive session at 6:10 p.m. to receive legal advice regarding Darlington County Landfill and reconvened at 6:42 p.m.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Coker for Council to receive as information the material received in Executive Session and authorize the Administrator to contract with Michael Baker International to prepare a plan for the county landfill.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kilgo clarified that with the motion, the county would move forward with the plan and then deal with the bond.

Attorney Cox asked whether Council would consider amending the motion to allow the bond attorneys to move forward with the bond with the stipulation that nothing is finalized until Council approves the plan. He suggested that with the time requirement for the bond process, Council should give the bond attorneys authorization to proceed with working up the figures and getting things in place, subject to Council's approval of the plan.

Bond Attorney Ben Zeigler added that because Council has to give three readings to an ordinance and then wait sixty days after the ordinance is adopted, he suggested that Council adopt the ordinance with a provision that Council has authorized the bond, but it would not be issued without a subsequent resolution of Council stating that Council is ready to move forward. Once Council has the three readings of the ordinance, the sixty-day waiting period would begin. Otherwise, Council would not have to wait five months to issue the bond. Mr. Zeigler stated that should Council decide not to move forward with the bond, there would be no cost.

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to amend the motion to move forward with the bond ordinance with the provision that although the bond is being authorized, the bond would not be issued until Council's subsequent approval of a resolution.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session – Discussion Of Pending Litigation

Chairman Hudson announced that Council, the county attorney, the county administrator, and Finance Director Sherman Dibble were going into executive session for discussion of pending litigation as previously approved.

Council and the individuals listed went into executive session at 6:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to accept the County Attorney's recommendation to pay the litigation.

Mr. Kilgo asked what account the litigation would be paid from.

Attorney Cox replied that the County Administrator would work this out and get back with Council.

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
A. Marlboro/Darlington County Beaver Program Report, October, 2015	Receive As Information
B. Recreation Department Monthly Report, October 2015	Receive As Information
C. Memo From Treasurer Belinda Copeland Regarding The Status Of Tax Rollback	Receive As Information

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

Mr. Coker asked whether Council was comfortable with Mrs. Copeland's memorandum regarding the status of the tax rollback (*Consent Agenda Item C.*)

Mr. Kilgo suggested that Mrs. Copeland's memorandum be published in the local newspapers.

It was the consensus of Council to publish Mrs. Copeland's memorandum in the local newspapers.

Approval Of Minutes - Public Hearing & Regular Meeting, November 2, 2015

MOTION was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting of November 2, 2015.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 15-29, 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, 2015, And Ending June 30, 2016 -

THIRD READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mr. Coker to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 15-29.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 15-30, An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 15-21 (Darlington County FY15/16 Budget Ordinance) For A Supplemental Appropriation To Receive And Expend Unclaimed State Lottery Funds For Darlington County Library System And Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance - **SECOND READING**

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 15-30.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 15-31, An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 15-21 (Darlington County FY15/16 Budget Ordinance) For A Supplemental Appropriation To Receive And Expend \$16,000 Received From Darlington County School District To Assist With Auxiliary Costs For Eight School Resource Officers - **FIRST READING**

Ordinance No. 15-31 was read for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 15-32, To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of A Not Exceeding Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$3,500,000) General Obligation Bond Of Darlington County, South Carolina, To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto (Environmental Services) **FIRST READING**

Ordinance No. 15-32 was read for first reading. No action required.

Ordinance No. 15-33, An Ordinance To Amend The Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 18 (Emergency Services), Article II. (Ambulances), Division 2. (Darlington County Ambulance Service District) And Chapter 2 (Administration), Article IV. (Boards, Commissions And Committees), Section 2-204 (Enumeration) To Repeal Sections Regarding The Ambulance Commission And Declare Same To Be Null And Void And Of No Effect

Ordinance No. 15-33 was read for first reading. No action required.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 660, To Approve The Memorandum Of Understanding And Agreement Between The County And The South Carolina Association Of Counties Relating To The South Carolina Association Of Counties Being Authorized And Designated As The Claimant Agent For The County Pursuant To The Setoff Debt Collection Act Of 2003, As Amended, And To Authorize The County Treasurer Of Darlington County To Use The Procedures Provided In Chapter 56, Title 12 As The Initial Step In The Collection Of Delinquent Taxes

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brock to approve Resolution No. 660.

Mr. Brock asked about unpaid fees from the Solicitor.

Mr. Arrington stated that the Solicitor's Office was an elected office. He would have to talk with them to find out whether they would like to share information. This resolution would authorize the Tax Collector to proceed with working with the State to collect on unpaid property taxes. South Carolina Association of Counties would execute the debt setoff program to collect the delinquent taxes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 661, A Resolution Reestablishing The Darlington County Courthouse Construction Advisory Committee

MOTION was made by Ms. Nicholson and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve Resolution No. 661.

Mr. Kilgo questioned why Council was redoing the Resolution when it was approved about two years ago.

Chairman Hudson said the Resolution was being revised since several people had left or was not available anymore, including Judge Mike Baxley.

Mr. Kilgo said the previous Resolution provided for a member of the Darlington County Bar Association. He questioned why this member was removed.

Mr. Arrington reported that he made adjustments to the Resolution. However, Council could amend or make changes to the proposed Resolution on the floor. He prepared the Resolution as directed by Council. Mr. Arrington stated that Mr. Kilgo had requested that the Resolution be placed back on the agenda.

Mr. Kilgo clarified that he wanted the Resolution placed on the agenda for the appointments to be made and not for a new committee.

Mr. Arrington indicated that the Resolution could be amended so that the staff could proceed with the project.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to add to the Courthouse Construction Advisory Committee a member of the Darlington County Bar Association.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kilgo reported that when courthouses are built, they are built with the judges, the employees, and the public being protected and placement of prisoners. He stated that since the Sheriff was in charge of the prisoners, the Sheriff should be on the committee and involved with the design and discussion.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to add the Sheriff to the Courthouse Construction Advisory Committee.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hudson called for the vote on Resolution No. 661, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arrington explained that Council had a meeting several weeks ago with the consultants to talk about the design of the courthouse project. He said the plan was not to exclude, eliminate, or remove anyone from the project. His goal is to work with staff to push the project forward so that Council members get the information they need. Mr. Arrington said it was not his job to get in the middle of saying who will or will not be involved. He talked about concerns for the safety of the employees, active shooter issues, etc. and mentioned that the Sheriff is not in the courthouse on a daily basis as the courthouse employees. Mr. Arrington requested that it be placed in the records that his intent is to move this project forward as directed by County Council. He mentioned the need to have a good committee that wants to move the project forward.

Mr. Arrington mentioned that the funds were available and his efforts to move Council's initiatives forward. However, on the floor, it appears to him that not everyone was on one accord. He stated that once the agenda package goes out several days prior to

the Council meeting, the staff has the ability to make any changes as directed by Council. If changes need to be made, Council members could call the County Administrator's Office and discuss their concerns. Mr. Arrington said he did not want it to be interpreted as if the County Administrator was advancing items that Council does not support or know about. He said it does not make Council look good, as a unit, when Council is bickering on the floor when changes could have been incorporated prior to the meeting. Mr. Arrington clarified that he was here to serve Council. However, he did not want it to appear that the County Administrator was doing things that Council was not in support of.

Mr. Kilgo stated that he was not bickering with the County Administrator. He did what he thought was proper by way of procedure to present something to Council after the agenda was distributed. Mr. Kilgo said he appreciates everything that Mr. Arrington was doing to get the courthouse done. He was just a little older and a little more involved in the legal procedures in Darlington County. He said he was with Mr. Arrington one hundred percent.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Other Items

Appointments to County Boards & Commissions:

Councilman Bobby Hudson - Alcohol & Drug Citizen Advisory Committee. Chairman Hudson carried over his appointment.

Councilman Le Flowers - Airport Commission, Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals, Library Board, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Planning Commission. Mr. Flowers appointed Mr. Wes Woodard to the Planning Commission. He indicated that Mr. Woodard was building a new home on Billy Farrow Highway in his Council District.

It was the consensus of Council that Mr. Woodard be appointed to the Planning Commission to serve a term to expire June 30, 2018.

Mr. Flowers carried over his other appointments.

Councilman Dannie Douglas - Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals and Planning Commission. Mr. Douglas carried over his appointments.

Amendment To Annual Leave Accrual Policy

Mr. Arrington indicated that the Annual Leave Accrual Policy was being brought back before Council as request. During its last meeting, Council requested information from the School District and the State, which was included in the agenda package. He indicated that the State and the School District have similar layouts.

Mr. Arrington mentioned that some employees were under the impression that they would lose the time that they currently have. He clarified that the amendment would not take away anything from anyone. Under the amended policy, employees would have to earn their annual leave throughout the year and would still have the ability to carry over their accumulated annual leave.

Chairman Hudson asked whether a new employee would not receive any vacation (annual leave) until the next year.

Mr. Arrington explained that new employees would receive annual leave. For example, if an employee receives twelve days per year, under the amended policy, the employee would accrue one day per month.

Chairman Hudson confirmed that if an employee who receives three weeks of vacation retires, the employee would not receive the three weeks of vacation.

Mr. Arrington said this was correct. He used for example, if the employee receives ten days of annual leave and is retiring, with the amendment, the employee would have to work the entire year to build up the ten days. Therefore, if the employee retires in February, the employee would receive the time earned for January as opposed to the amount for the entire year.

Mr. Coker asked whether an employee retiring in January would receive the hours accrued the year before.

Mr. Arrington confirmed that employees would carry over hours earned/accumulated from the previous before. He explained that if an employee has 100 hours, the employee would carry over the 100 hours to the next year to use as the employee wishes. However, a new employee will receive five days for the year and would have to work throughout the year to earn those five days. A new employee would earn about 3.125 hours per month to have a total of five days at the end of the year as opposed to receiving a bucket of time at the beginning of the year.

Chairman Hudson mentioned that if certain employees leave in January, they would not receive the three weeks annual leave because Council would be changing the rules in the middle of the stream.

Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans announced from the audience that employees who have worked three years only get one week a year. If they use their week last year, they would not have vacation the following year because they would be starting over like a new employee.

Mr. Arrington confirmed that if an employee uses all his/her time, the employee would not have any time to carry over. He also mentioned that an employee who quits near the beginning of the year could receive two years' worth of vacation pay, as well. With the amendment, employees would earn their time as they go.

Mr. Evans felt that many of the employees' vacation would be ruin next year because employees would not have any time to carry over after using their time this year.

Mr. Arrington reminded Council that if employees receive three weeks of vacation in January and walk away from the organization on January 3rd, the employee, under the current policy, would be paid for the three weeks of vacation time when they have not worked the full year.

Mr. Flowers asked whether employees' time would begin to accrue on their anniversary date.

Mr. Arrington stated that employees would begin accruing annual leave on January 1st.

Human Resources Manager Ginger Winburn explained that if a new employee begins work in February, the employee would accrue a week of annual leave the following

February. Therefore, new employees who have worked eleven months would be given their eleven months of earned annual leave so that on February 1st, they would have received their accrued time.

Mr. Flowers confirmed that under the amendment, every employee would have a different anniversary date as opposed to everyone receiving annual leave on January 1st.

Mr. Arrington said the new process would become effective on January 1st.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo to approve the amendment to the Annual Leave Accrual Policy.

Mrs. Johnson was concerned that employees should be able to carry over their annual leave to the next year.

Mr. Arrington and Ms. Winburn confirmed that employees would carry over up to 30 days of annual/vacation leave.

Chairman Hudson presented his concern regarding the morale of employees. He said Council should not take anything from the employees. Therefore, he could not support the amendment.

The motion **failed** for a lack of a second.

Request To Replace Flooring (Carpet) In EMS Building To Include Council Chambers & Magistrate Office

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the request to replace the flooring in the EMS Building, including Council Chambers and the Magistrate Office.

Chairman Hudson explained that the cost would be shared with the Magistrate, EMS, etc.

Mr. Kilgo asked whether bids were solicited for the work. Mr. Arrington stated that the county did not solicit bids. H&S Flooring in Darlington would do the work at a cost of \$18,516. Finance Director Sherman Dibble confirmed the names of other flooring vendors that the county used previously.

Mr. Arrington reported that the plan was to do the work in phases beginning in the Council Chambers area. The cost for each phase ranged from \$3,853 to \$5,453. He added that he thought it would be fair to present Council with the entire amount to see all of the numbers as opposed to each phase which cost was under the threshold of the County Administrator. Each department would contribute funds from their budget for the work.

The motion carried unanimously.

*As stated in the agenda package, the cost for each phase would be as follows:
\$4,764 for courtroom/hall/office; \$5,453 for Michelle's Office/Billing/Program Manager/two connecting halls; \$4,446 for EMS crew quarters; and \$3,853 for Magistrate lobby/Judge's Office/Jury/Admin./outer lobby.*

Proposed Creation Of New Positions Relating To Combining And Reorganizing The Codes Enforcement And Planning Departments To Become The Development Services Department

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brock to approve the proposed creation of new positions relating to combining and reorganizing the Codes Enforcement Department and Planning Department to become the Development Services Department.

The agenda package contained information for the creation of a Director of Development Services position to manage the Development Services Department (Planning and Codes Enforcement), an Assistant Codes Enforcement Director/Administration position and an Assistant Codes Enforcement Director/Building Official position.

Mrs. Johnson questioned whether the county would be doing away with the Planning Director and Codes Enforcement Director and have one department. She stated that in reviewing the duties, the county needed two to three more positions. Mrs. Johnson said she would not support this.

Mr. Arrington referred to the organization chart for the Development Services Department. He clarified that Planning Director Doug Reimold and Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans were scheduled to retire in January. Therefore, the plan was to create two divisions (the Planning Division and the Codes Enforcement Division) with one lead person of both divisions.

Mrs. Johnson questioned how this would save money for the county. Mr. Arrington explained that money would be saved in the salary line items because the county would not have to pay two different people. He also talked about right sizing the organization and creating an opportunity to combine both departments since they already work closely together. Mr. Arrington said the county was not eliminating the Planning Director or the Codes Enforcement Director because they were retiring. He also mentioned that Florence, Berkeley, and other counties were doing similar things.

Mr. Flowers asked whether this would create a better continuity and information flow. Mr. Arrington referred to the organization chart and explained that the Assistant Code Enforcement Director/Building Official position and the Assistant Code Enforcement Director/Administration position would create some movement within the department with the key individuals being responsible for a lot of the work within the department. He briefly talked about the roles of the various positions in the Development Services Department, which should create a succession plan. Currently, there was no succession plan in the various departments.

The motion carried with Mrs. Johnson opposing.

Smoke Free Policy

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brock to approve the Smoke Free Policy.

Mr. Coker questioned why the county was considering a Smoke Free Policy when it was State law that you cannot smoke in public buildings. He said Council should not have to do this.

Mr. Arrington stated that there had been smoking in the courthouse prior to his employment and confirmed that this was State law.

Mr. Coker questioned how the policy would be enforced. Mr. Arrington commented that he should not have to enforce this since it was State Law.

Chairman Hudson said the policy should be posted to let it be known that the county buildings are smoke free environment/campus.

Mr. Coker said Council should be voting on how to apply the State law.

Mr. Brock wanted to know what was considered the campus. Mr. Arrington said all county facilities. He also stated that most places have a designated smoking area, which may be away from the campus/building. It was Mr. Coker's understating that the State law provides the distance from the building/campus.

The motion carried unanimously.

NESA Grant Agreement To Fund Entranceway Signage For The I-20/340 Industrial Park

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brock to approve NESA (North Eastern Strategic Alliance) Grant Agreement to fund the entranceway signage for the I-20/340 Industrial Park.

The motion carried unanimously.

As stated in the agenda package, the design, construction, and landscaping for the I-20/340 Industrial park entrance signage is expected to cost \$50,000 with NESA offering a grant to pay fifty percent of the cost. The County will write a check to NESA for \$25,000. NESA will in turn write the County a check for \$50,000 for the county to pay for the sign.

Mutual Aid Agreement With Lexington County Sheriff's Office

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Lexington County Sheriff's Office.

The motion carried unanimously.

Map Of Reduced Stormwater MS4 District Boundaries, Which Establishes The Jurisdiction For The County Stormwater Management And Enforcement Of NPDES Regulations

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the map of reduced Stormwater MS4 District Boundaries which establishes the jurisdiction for the county Stormwater Management and Enforcement of NPDES regulations.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Update – Discussion Regarding the Amendment To The Animal Shelter Contract

County Attorney Cox said he was asked his legal opinion on amending the Animal Shelter Contract so that the county would provide automatic payments to the Animal Shelter. According to the Ordinance (Section 2-290 of the Darlington County Code of Ordinances), he recommended that Council not amend the contract. The ordinance states, "Funds will be disbursed in equal quarterly payments upon receipt of quarterly

financial reports and an invoice from the entity.” Therefore, the Humane Society must report what they are spending money for and submit an invoice for the payment. Attorney Cox also stated that the ordinance allows for accelerated payments, approved by Council, for emergency situations. Therefore, he felt that the Humane Society was adequately covered without amending the contract.

Mr. Coker said this matter came up because the Humane Society had to ask for the money to be allocated. He felt that if there were a date for the money to be allocated, the Humane Society would not have to ask for it.

Attorney Cox said the money should be released on a quarterly basis. For the Humane Society to receive the money, they have to file a quarterly financial statement with a request for the quarterly money. He also stated that for emergency situations, they could appear before Council and request the funds.

Mr. Kilgo asked whether this would apply to the Solicitor’s Office and Public Defender’s Office.

It was Attorney Cox’s opinion that this should also apply to the Solicitor and Public Defender’s Offices, although he had not reviewed their contract.

Mr. Kilgo felt that since the Solicitor and Public Defender were outside agencies, the county should not be turning money over to them without receipt of their quarterly report. He requested that Attorney Cox review the contract for the Solicitor and Public Defender during the Christmas break.

Mr. Coker questioned whether the Humane Society had been submitting their quarterly financial reports on time. Finance Director Sherman Dibble indicated that there had been an issue at one time.

Administrative Update – Financial Reports

Mr. Arrington reported that he would provide Council with a six-month budget report and a report on the Hospitality Tax in January. He also mentioned that the budget process would begin in January.

Administrative Update – Status of Recent Flooding Event

Emergency Preparedness Director Mac McDonald provided an update on the victims of the recent flood event and FEMA assistance.

Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Mr. Kilgo reported that on this afternoon, he met with Darlington County Progress and the Partnership and toured Nucor. It was discussed that the county’s Comprehensive Plan was about five to six years old. Therefore, he requested that the staff prepare a new Comprehensive Plan in 2016, which may require the assistance of the Council of Governments. He stated that to bring in new developments, the county must have an up-to-date Comprehensive Plan that shows accurate figures.

Mr. Flowers asked about transitioning from an annual budget to a two-year budget. He felt that this would provide more stability and Council would not be in constant budget cycle. Mr. Arrington talked about how this could be done.

Mrs. Johnson talked about the need for Council to develop goals, priorities, and a Plan of Action for the County Administrator. She complained about a ditch on Watts Road and the need for a stop sign behind Taco Bell at the intersection of Jewelswood Drive. Mrs. Johnson asked the status of her request for information as to what was being said on the State level about the CTC being assigned to a special group.

Mr. Arrington told Council that Senator Malloy has indicated that he would be glad to sit down and talk about this with Council. The CTC Committee was under the Senator's jurisdiction. He stated that he would gladly coordinate a meeting with Council and the Senator. He also talked about how the CTC has helped the county.

Mrs. Johnson mentioned that each county sent a resolution to the South Carolina Association of Counties disagreeing with the CTC. She requested a copy of the resolution.

Mr. Arrington commended Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson for the work he has done with limited resources.

Mrs. Johnson mentioned that something was in the newspaper about the Historical Commission doing a book. She asked that research be done on Darlington County to make the book as factual as possible. Mrs. Johnson announced that on January 1, 2016, the CRC (Darlington County Cultural Realism Complex) would celebrate 46 years in Darlington County.

Mr. Brock commended the staff.

Mr. Douglas reported that the CTC was discussed during the South Carolina Association of Counties Coalition Conference. He also stated that there was nothing that Council could do about the CTC since it was appointed by the Senator. Mr. Douglas stated that he would like the County to have money available for when things come up and not have to ask where the funds would come from.

Ms. Nicholson wanted to know who was responsible for Council's protection during Council meetings and whether there exists a policy for protection in a public forum. She congratulated City Council members elected last month, especially the new Mayor of Darlington.

Mr. Coker also commented about the need for a uniform officer during council meetings. He commended the Sheriff Department on traffic control on 14th Street during the Assistance Program.

Mr. Douglas asked the staff to find out the location of all farmland owned by the county and the name of the individuals renting the farmland. He stated that people were farming county land and the county was not receiving any rent from the farmland.

Mr. Arrington indicated that the leases for county farmland were in the Clerk's Office and the staff would review them.

Chairman Hudson announced that Lamar Silver Foxes had won the State Championship. He commended the staff. On behalf of Council, Chairman Hudson presented a Christmas card to the Clerk to Council.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo to adjourn the meeting. There being no further comments/discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. JaNet Bishop
Clerk to Council

Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of January 5, 2016.