

SPECIAL MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

FEBRUARY 11, 2015

A special meeting (budget worksession) of the County Council of Darlington County was held February 11, 2015, at 9 a.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 meeting notice, 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.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Marvin Le Flowers.

ALSO PRESENT

Interim County Administrator Thomas W. Edwards, Jr., Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Finance Director Perry Strickland, Human Resource Director Ginger Winburn, Procurement Manager Sherman Dibble, Prison Farm Director Jonathan McFadden, Codes Enforcement Director Randy Evans, Emergency Services Director Charles Stewart, Fire Chief Kenny Stratton, Sheriff Wayne Byrd, Corrections Director Mitch Stanley, Chief Deputy Sheriff James Hudson, Economic Development Director Frank Willis, Planning Director Doug Reimold, Recreation Director Ken McRae, Environmental Services Director Renee Howle, Recycling Coordinator Paula Newton, County Administrator Terence Arrington and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Jim Faile of the Messenger and Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

Call To Order / Invocation / Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Kilgo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clarification Regarding Hospitality Tax

Mr. Kilgo reported that during Council's meeting of February 2, 2015, County Council approved an Ordinance (Ordinance No. 14-30) establishing a local hospitality tax. He reported that the body of the ordinance still had the old date of March 1, 2015.

However, at Council's meeting in January, the ordinance was amended to change the effective date to July 1, 2015. He pointed out that an article in the most recent Hartsville Messenger used the March date. Mr. Kilgo requested a point of clarification to be placed in the records.

Authorization to Move Forward With Offer For Project House

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve the staff moving forward with a proposed fee in lieu of tax and SSRC of 50% for 30 years offer to Project House to locate and build a research and development facility in Darlington County.

The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Worksession

FY2014-2015 Estimated Year-End Revenue & Expenditure Reports

Finance Director Perry Strickland presented the 2014/2015 summary of revenues and expenses for the General Fund, the Library Fund, the Fire District Fund, the Emergency Telephone Fund, and Environmental Services Fund. He pointed out the deficit in the General Fund and Environmental Services Fund, and a surplus in the Library, Fire District, and Emergency Funds.

Recap - November 2014 Report Recaps & FY15/16 Draft Budget Recap

Mr. Edwards presented a recap of the General Government FY14/15 budget as of December 1, 2014 and the FY15/16 projection. He encouraged Council to obtain the finance audit no later than November 1st.

Mr. Edwards also presented the 2014 audited revenues, the 2015 budget amended revenues, and the 2016 recommendations. Council briefly talked about the differences between revenue and cash flow and the fact that there was never any revenue to support the South Darlington Watershed Project. Mr. Edwards suggested that Department Heads manage their revenues and expenses with the Finance Department following through. He pointed out that in the proposed budget, overtime was reduced and everyone was asked to reduce their operation and maintenance costs by two percent. Capital Equipment Replacement Plans were also addressed. The information presented did not include detailed line items, justifications or recommendations, and the cost for insurance was estimated. The information presented was indented to be a conceptual plan to establish the budget.

Mr. Edwards talked about the proposed ordinance to increase delinquent tax fees, a proposed fee to municipalities for use of the Detention Center, Roads and Bridges Road expenditures, revenue, proposed budget and capital equipment replacement plan, and the proposal to increase the Road Maintenance Fee from \$30 per vehicle to \$44.25 per vehicle. Mr. Edwards' proposal contained no tax increase, except for the CPI. Mr. Edwards reviewed the Debt Service Schedule for the General Fund and proposal for it to be adopted in the budget. The Library and Fire District budgets were balanced. The Fire District budget did not include funds for capital equipment. He indicated that if Council wants to continue improvements with of the Fire District, Council would have to issue bonds.

Council and the staff talked about the advisory referendum for four mills for capital purchases. Mr. Kilgo suggested the development of an ordinance for a four-mill bond.

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mr. Douglas for the staff to begin the process regarding the 4-mill increase for the Fire District and for Fire Chief Stratton to update the Fire District's capital equipment list.

The motion carried with no opposition.

Mr. Edwards presented a recap of the Emergency Telephone Budget and Environmental Services Budget. Council and the staff talked about the deficit in Environmental Services. Mr. Edwards suggested that a consultant perform a detail analysis and compile a fee schedule to make Environmental Services an enterprise funds to run like a business. However, Council would probably have to increase the Solid Waste Fee from \$53 per household to about \$90 per household.

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to solicit Requests for Proposal to study the landfill

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arrington asked whether funds were budgeted to pay for the analysis of the landfill. Mr. Edwards indicated that funds for the study would have to be included in the proposed budget or the current budget amended to use funds from Fund Balance.

Council recessed at 11:05 a.m. and reconvened at 11:17 a.m.

Capital Equipment Replacement Fund

Mr. Edwards reviewed the Capital Replacement Plan for the General Fund and encouraged Council and the departments to update the plan annually. He also reviewed the Cash Flow Analysis Recap for equipment replacement for fiscal years 2016-2020 and Environmental Services Capital Equipment Plan. Previously, funds for equipment were taken from the Fund Balance in the General Fund and Environmental Services. He suggested placing \$1 million in Restricted General Government for capital replacement, listing every piece of equipment to be purchase, the equipment purchase price, and the debt service payments by department to support and justify what is placed in the budget.

Mr. Edwards stated that the staff would present a detail budget at a later date. He provided a handout containing FY2015 fund balance estimates for the General Fund, Fire District, and Environmental Services.

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Brock to endorse Mr. Edwards' plan, including the Capital Equipment Replacement Plan.

This was the consensus of Council.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Brock to adjourn the worksession. There being no further discussion, the worksession was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. JaNet Bishop, Clerk to Council

Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of March 2, 2015.