

August 31, 2015

JOINT MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY'S MUNICIPAL COUNCILS,
COUNTY COUNCIL, BOARD OF EDUCATION, &
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

The Town of Lamar hosted the joint dinner meeting of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, and Legislative Delegation on August 31, 2015, at 6 p.m., at Bernard's Restaurant, 125 W. Main Street, Lamar, 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 posted on the bulletin board in the County Administrator's Office and mailed in advance to Darlington County's Municipal Mayors/Managers/Clerks, Darlington County School District Superintendent, Darlington County Board of Education Chairman, Darlington County Legislative Delegation, Darlington County Council members, and the local newspapers.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, and Ms. Mozella Nicholson.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Chairman Robbin Brock, Mr. David Coker, Mr. Marvin Le Flowers, and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Terence Arrington, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Darlington County Board Of Education Members Connell Delanie, Billy Baldwin, Charles Govan, Jr., Maureen Thomas, Jamie Morphis, Warren Jeffords, and Wanda Hassler, Darlington County Superintendent of Education Eddie Ingram, City of Darlington Mayor Tony Watkins, City of Darlington Administrator Howard Garland, City of Darlington Council Members Gloria Hines, Dyan Cohen, James Cooper, III, John Segars, and Coleman Cannon, Sr., City of Darlington Clerk Gloria Pridgen, Hartsville Council Members Adlena Graham, Teresa Mack, and Johnny Andrews, Society Hill Council Members Deborah Harrell and Denise Douglas, Lamar Mayor Randy Reynolds, Lamar Town Clerk Sherrill Dorriety, Lamar Council Members Willie Howell, Mike Lloyd, Jackie Thomas, and Guy Clements, Senator Kevin Johnson, and CTC Member Roosevelt Wallace.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

Welcome / Invocation

Mayor Reynolds welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lamar Councilman Jackie Thomas presented the invocation.

Items From The Floor

After dinner, County Council Chairman Bobby Hudson recognized and introduced County Administrator Terence Arrington. He also mentioned the county's efforts regarding economic development projects.

City of Darlington Mayor Watkins talked about the progress of the new Wal-Mart Store and the possibility of several other new stores in the next few years. He also mentioned that this would be the last meeting he will attend since he would be leaving office at the end of the year. Mayor Watkins talked about knowing the right time to leave office and having a good set of rules to conduct meetings. He commended the county for giving Patience Street to the City of Darlington, which opened the door to economic development.

City of Darlington Councilwoman Gloria Hines thanked Mayor Watkins for his service and efforts.

Hartsville Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Andrews reported on the ribbon cutting for the new owners of Burry Book Store, the opening of two new hotels, and the relocation of Indigo Spa. He saluted Mayor Watkins and Darlington City Councilwoman Dyan Cohen who will be leaving office this year.

Society Hill Mayor Pro Tem Deborah Harrell mentioned the improvement of the Town's debt, their lighting project, and Depot Project. She thanked the county and the Town of Lamar for their assistance.

Board of Education Chairman Connell DeLaine thanked everyone for helping the students get to and from school safely. He talked about the importance of the appearance of the schools, safety, education, and taking care of personnel. Mr. DeLaine requested everyone's continual support.

Superintendent of Education Eddie Ingram commended the Board of Education's efforts to implement the concept for digital transformation to educate students for the future and for every student to graduate with at least one year's worth of college or technical credits. He also mentioned the school district's capital plan, including plans for Lamar to have only one elementary school. Dr. Ingram talked about the summer food program, the possibility of a lunch program for next summer, and the removal of the white house from in front of St. John's facility.

Mr. DeLaine reported on the dangers of abandoned building near schools.

Lamar Mayor Reynolds introduced Senator Kevin Johnson who represents Senate District 36.

Senator Johnson thanked the staff for the invitation. He represents Senate District 36, which is comprised of Clarendon County, one half of Sumter County, portions of Florence County (around Olanta and Timmonsville), and two precincts in Darlington County (Oats and Lake Swamp). Senator Johnson mentioned his service on Clarendon County School Board in Manning, Manning City Council, Mayor for the City of Manning, House of Representative, and his first term in the Senate. He talked about items that were passed as a result of a tragedy or tragic incident, such as the body camera bill and the removal of the confederate flag from the State House grounds. He also mentioned the need for funds to repair highways, roads and bridges, funds for public education, local government funds, an ethics bill, the school equity lawsuit, and a bill to regulate abandoned houses/property. Senator Johnson welcomed citizens to call him.

City of Darlington Administrator Howard Garland highlighted events surrounding the Southern 500 race to include several parades. He asked everyone to support Darlington Raceway, the race events, and the 170,000 people expected to visit Darlington County this weekend.

Hartsville City Councilwoman Adlena Graham requested the development of a directory of local government officials/agencies/offices. It was announced that the Legal Women Voters and the Coordinating Council may have such directory.

There being no further comments, Mayor Reynolds announced that the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. JaNet Bishop
Clerk to Council

Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of September 21, 2015.