

March 31, 2014

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

The Town of Society Hill hosted the dinner meeting of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, and Legislative Delegation on March 31, 2014, at 6 p.m., at Society Hill Town Hall in Society Hill, 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 Wesley Blackwell, Vice Chairwoman Mozella Nicholson, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. Robbin Brock, Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, and Mr. Bobby Hudson.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Marvin Le Flowers and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Dale Surrett, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Society Hill Mayor Tommy Bradshaw, Society Hill Mayor Pro Tem Denise Douglas, Society Hill Town Clerk Jean Reynolds, City of Darlington Mayor Tony Watkins, City of Darlington Administrator Howard Garland, City of Darlington Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Pridgen, City of Darlington Council Members John Segars, Dyan Cohen, Coleman Cannon, Gloria Hines, and James Cooper, III, Darlington County School District Superintendent Eddie Ingram, Darlington County Board Of Education Members Joyce Thomas, Warren Jeffords, Allen McCutchen, and Connell Delanie, Hartsville Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Andrews, Hartsville Council Members Adlena Graham, Bernice Wilson, Teresa Mack, and Billy Shirley, Senator Gerald Malloy, Representative Elizabeth Munnerlyn, and County Transportation Committee (CTC) Member Roosevelt Wallace.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

Welcome / Invocation

Society Hill Mayor Tommy Bradshaw welcomed everyone to the meeting. Darlington County Councilman Dannie Douglas followed with the invocation and blessing of the food.

Discussion From The Floor

Society Hill Mayor Bradshaw thanked everyone for attending the meeting in the birthplace of the Pee Dee. He reported that the 1832 house across the street from Society Hill Town Hall was being renovated by Palmetto Trust Historic Preservation Group. This house is the birthplace of Major James Lide Coker who founded Coker College and Sonoco Products Company. Mayor Bradshaw also reported that for the past several years, Society Hill had been living beyond its means and was now in debt. Officials were in the process of preparing its budget so that the Town may survive and prosper. Mayor Bradshaw introduced members of Society Hill Town Council, those present and absent. The Town will hold an election on tomorrow to fill the Council seat vacated by Mayor Bradshaw.

Darlington County School District Superintendent Eddie Ingram talked about the School District's robotics program, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Education, foreign language, IB Program, and standard base report cards to grade kids based on standards and not numbers. He also talked about a group that traveled to West Virginia to the Apple Corporation for staff development and the possibility of acquiring property at the corner of Main Street and Blue Street for a joint baseball facility project.

Hartsville Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Andrews introduced individuals from Hartsville. He announced the death of Coach T.B. Thomas, a former coach and teacher at Hartsville High School and former member of Hartsville City Council. Mr. Andrews talked about the Tales of the Town, RenoFest Bluegrass Festival that was held last week in Hartsville, the construction of a new Hampton Inn, and the renovation of the former Kimbrell's building into a hotel and restaurant. The building will be added to the historic register. He reported that Hartsville City Council was considering an economic incentive ordinance for developers to invest in properties on Fourth Street, Fifth Street, Sixth Street, and downtown areas. The old City Hall building was sold to Northern Industrial Machine Group to be renovated for their corporate offices to house 35 to 40 individuals. He also mentioned that there would be new developments at Coker College and grants for sidewalks, cameras, and lighting for Cotton Mill Hill/Oakdale Community. Mr. Andrews announced that Susan Moyd was the new Hartsville Main Street Program Director.

Darlington County Council Chairman Wesley Blackwell reported on a new project, Birdsong Peanuts, located on Highway 52 outside Darlington and that County Council will consider at its April meeting, a resolution to construct a new courthouse. He indicated that the largest industry in Darlington was the agri industry.

Darlington County Administrator Dale Surrett reported on Sonoco Products Company's new \$100 million investment, Nucor Steel's \$110 million investment, the nuclear plant hiring 130 additional jobs and 100 shadow positions to work with people impending retirement, the nuclear plant's use of robotics, Microsoft Windows not

supporting Windows XP, the cost to replace equipment or convert to Windows 7, the State installing a new switch for the Palmetto 800 system used by most law enforcement agencies, and work completed at the 911 center to update the radios. He also reported on the upcoming race and future investment at the track. Mr. Surrett mentioned that many of the agencies present at the meeting were featured in this weekend's *Progress* section of the Florence Morning News newspaper.

Darlington City Mayor Tony Watkins mentioned a large retailer coming to Darlington, the upcoming dedication of the Veterans Memorial in downtown Darlington, the possibility of a recreation/baseball complex, the upcoming Taste of Darlington, RaceFest on the Square, the Car Hauler Parade, the dedication of the mural on Liberty Lane drawn by Artist Blue Sky, Market on the Square, and Darlington High School Falcons Boys Basketball team winning the Lower State Championship. He commended Darlington's boxing team and the level of corporation among the county, school, cities, recreation department, and Senator Malloy.

Representative Elizabeth Munnerlyn reported that she represents a portion of Society Hill and Byrdtown areas. She commended the local governments' progress, cooperation, education, recreation, etc., and announced that although she would not seek re-election, she would continue to support the county's efforts. Ms. Munnerlyn talked about the level of Local Government Funds and thanked everyone for what they do.

Senator Gerald Malloy talked about the number of representatives in the county and the fact that some would have opposition during the next election. He talked about the counties he represents and the local bills he filed. He mentioned the need for a new courthouse and other infrastructure, recreation, education, the roundabout project in Hartsville, paving College Avenue, the county's Highway 340 Project, Lowder's Lake Project, the level of Local Government Funds and per pupil student funding, the status of various bills, his communication with other delegation members, unfunded mandates, and available State funds for wastewater. Senator Malloy encouraged everyone to help Society Hill and for Mayor Bradshaw to contact the County Administrator for assistance. He announced that Judge Baxley was retiring and that he had received County Council Chairman's wish list of things needed. Senator Malloy also talked about the need for a committee to look at capital improvements for the county. He presented concerns about the county's population decreasing, the need for jobs to help increase the population, and the need for cooperative meetings to work on various matters.

County Councilmember Wilhelmina Johnson announced that the County would celebrate Darlington High School Falcons Boy Basketball Team's achievement on April 7th.

There being no other comments, Mayor Bradshaw thanked everyone to attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. J. JaNet Bishop
Clerk to Council

Mr. Wesley Blackwell, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of May 5, 2014.