

## **CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS AUGUST 1, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Breunig at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Present at roll call were: Erin Gallagher, Dave Gough, John Sonsalla, Don Osterday and Steve Pickett. Excused absence: Cindy Corley. Also present were: Bill McDaniel, Jeremy Williams, Jason King, Brent Erickson, Brian Lund and Phil Risseuw.

Motion by Pickett second by Gallagher that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Gough second by Sonsalla to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under comments from citizens present, Jeremy Williams asked what was needed to install a stop sign on Madison Street at North Street. Attorney McDaniel stated a resolution is needed to change the City's traffic map. Discussion was then held concerning the idea of diapers for horses traveling through the city. It was reported some communities do have such an ordinance, however it's hard to enforce. It was then suggested to contact representatives of the Amish community, and work together with them to resolve this situation. And Mayor Breunig reported he received a thank you note from Dick Virtue, thanking the Council for their action at the previous Council meeting.

Under unfinished business, Alderperson Osterday stated since we have not had any luck finding a renter for the second floor of the municipal building; should we take a second look at converting the upstairs into apartments? The conversion of old school buildings has been successful in other area communities. Should we ask an architect/engineer to take another look at the second floor and give us their opinion? He also asked about the proposed purchase of additional land for the business park. Mayor Breunig then suggested these matters be referred to the Property and Insurance Committee for discussion. A meeting of the Property and Insurance Committee was then scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning a request from Jeremy Williams to appeal the WDOT decision to remove the southern Huntington Court access where it intersects with State Hwy. 23. A copy of the letter informing the City of the WDOT decision was included in the agenda packet. Jeremy recommends approval of his request, based on the following:

- Eliminating this highway access will leave only one access point to this residential area for emergency vehicles.
- This access is currently used more often by area residents during the winter months, as this access receives more sunlight, and has less snow and ice buildup.
- There is undeveloped land in this area that may be developed in the future with more residential properties.
- Brent Erickson, a property owner in this area, then stated his support of the items brought up by Jeremy Williams, and related some personal experiences.

After discussion and consideration, motion by Gough second by Pickett to authorize Jeremy Williams to appeal the WDOT decision to remove the southern Huntington Court access where it intersects with State Hwy. 23, on behalf of the City of Darlington. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning a request from Darlington Lions Club to place Lions Club signs along several entrances to the City of Darlington. Brent Erickson and Alderperson Pickett attended the meeting to present this request and answer questions. A copy of an explanation letter was included in the agenda packet, and Alderperson Pickett brought one of the proposed signs to the meeting for Council viewing. The proposal is to place Lions Club signs near the four Darlington signs on Highways 23 and 81. There would be no cost to the City of the installation of these four signs. Discussion items included the following:

- Not all of the Darlington signs are within the City limits.
- All of the Darlington signs are within the state highway right of way; and are under the jurisdiction of the WDOT.
- Lafayette County Highway Commissioner Tom Jean needs to be contacted regarding this request.
- Alderperson Gough reported on his experiences trying to place American Legion signs in these same areas. Representatives of the WDOT told him to remove the American Legion signs or face fines.

After discussion and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Sonsalla to grant permission to the Lions Club to put up signs in the City limits, dependent upon receiving WDOT approval; and other groups need to obtain Council permission too, prior to installing similar signs. Motion carried.

A recap and discussion of the recent flood event then took place. Discussion items included the following:

- Mayor Breunig stated he felt everything went well.
- The backflow preventers on Main Street on both sides of the bridge have not been installed yet. If they had been installed, the water may not have risen high enough to close the bridge. It was reported the installation of the backflow preventers is included in the WDOT Highway 23 reconstruction project.
- The flood crest for this event was 15.35 feet.
- Chief King distributed a copy of his departments updated flood response plan. He also reported on the department's handling of this recent flood event.
- The decision on installation of flood shields was then discussed. Chief King stated the Police Department representatives makes recommendations to the business owners in the floodplain based on river elevations and Weather Service predictions. However the final decision to install the flood shields remains with the property owner.
- Jeremy Williams reported the City's wastewater treatment plant handled several million gallons of water during the flood event. The equalization tank was used, and all wastewater was treated prior to discharge into the river.

Brent Erickson then left the meeting.

Motion by Pickett second by Osterday to approve the payment of the following July, 2017 vouchers: City vouchers #38491 thru #38585 in the amount of \$92,436.85; Direct deposit payroll vouchers #7380 thru #7488 in the amount of \$64,453.77; Water Dept. vouchers #5680 thru #5696 in the amount of \$25,262.09; Sewer Dept. vouchers #6466 thru #6480 in the amount of \$20,918.23; and Library vouchers #5375 thru #5382 in the amount of \$11,189.85. Motion carried.

Under reports of committees, Alderperson Sonsalla reported on the Library Board meeting held July 24, 2017. And Mayor Breunig encouraged those present to attend several upcoming community events. Mayor Breunig and Jeremy Williams then reported a pre-construction meeting for the City's 2017 street reconstruction projects will be held on Monday, August 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Jeremy stated he understands the street reconstruction work will begin by the middle of next week.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Gallagher second by Pickett to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

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Philip A. Risseuw. Clerk-Treasurer