

**DARLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL & UTILITY BOARD  
MINUTES  
May 6, 2021**

**Call to Order**

President Kim Carpenter, opened the meeting with all council members present. President Carpenter was joined by Clerk Treasurer Michelle Cash, Attorney Ethan Myers, Electrical Brian Mullen and Jason Gates, Wastewater Mike McKinney and Troy McKinney, Town Marshall Dave Long, Code Enforcement Officer – Mike Smith

President Carpenter opened the meeting with the pledge followed by Mrs. Noelle Suiter with the prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Cohee made a motion to approve the April 1, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Suiter. Motion Approved (5-0)

**Money Matters**

Motion to approve the payroll and appropriation, by Mrs. Cohee, seconded by Mr. Riddell. Motion Approved (5-0)

Transfer of Public Safety Money for \$3,000.00 from Insurance to Professional services to pay for the RMS Annual Contract was made by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Cohee, Motion Approved (5-0)

**New Business**

Employee Review Meeting will be set for June 3 at 3:30. Marshall Long will get with the Clerk Treasurer and Council to set a time for the officers.

Ordinance 2021-1 for the American Rescue Plan Act was approved by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Cohee. Motion to Approved (5-0) the council will approve a plan for this money at a later date.

Motion to approve Fund 176 – American Rescue Plan was made by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Cohee. Motion Approved (5-0)

A motion to approve the tracking Factor for July, August, and September was made by Mrs. Cohee, seconded by Mr. Riddell. Motion Approved (5-0)

President Carpenter along with the Electric Department handed out copies of the electric section of the town ordinance and code book to the council members and town attorney to consider making some changes to the fee structure of the electrical department. These fees have not been changed since 1984 and the cost of materials and supplies have increased over the years. The council will consider these changes and make any recommendation and vote at the June, 2021 meeting.

**Old Business**

Mr. Ryan Ballinger followed up with the council on the number of participants at this time. Mr. Ballinger has 9 individuals interested in the soccer program. The council would like for Mr. Ballinger to follow up at the June meeting to see if he can get anymore participants. Attorney Meyers did prepare a waiver for the parents to sign if needed. Mr. Ballinger might have to make this a project for the 2022 year, before the council considers money to create a soccer field. Mr. Ballinger along with any staff will have to have background checks done.

The police car will remain under old business per Ms. Parker until more information is gathered. She has been looking into John Jones Salem Police Pursuit Vehicles.



Ordinance 2021-2 for IMPA Third Amendatory Agreement to the Power Sales Contract by and between IMPA and the Town of Darlington was approved by Mrs. Cohee, seconded by Mrs. Carpenter. Motion Approved (5-0)

Festival Update – Clerk Cash reported on the upcoming events of the festival, reminded the council of the next meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. The Festival committee is looking for donations.

Staff & Elected Official Report

Attorney Report – no report

Wastewater Report – Troy and Mike McKinney reported there were no discharges violations for the month of April 2021. IDEM inspection came back from the state with some minor violations that have already been taken care of. One concern was the step taken to collect tap on fees. After much discussion the wastewater department will prepare and invoice for the billing department to send and collect on before service will be turned on. The department would like for the council to consider raising the fee to \$750.00 for residential and \$1,000 for commercial.

Electric Report – Utility Linesmen Brian Mullen and Jason Gates reviewed some of the changes they would like to see in the ordinance book. Mr. Gates gave an update on the continued maintenance and progress of the electrical department. Mr. Gates reported on several upcoming projects that will be worked in the upcoming months.

MVH Report – Mr. Mullen reported the patching was done on main street. Mr. Mullen reported that Milestone will be doing some street repair with the bid coming in at \$33,210.00

Darlington Police Department Report - Town Marshal Dave Long handed out May monthly schedule, and April activity logs were scanned. Mr. Long asked where the board would like the speed board to be moved to next.

Park – Bob Cash –Mr. Cash was not present, sent a message on the small playground. Mr. Cash would like to know if it will be replaced or gone completely. President Carpenter will be reaching out to the DFI to see if they will donate some playground equipment for the small playground. The council would like for the playground by the walking track to be removed for safety reasons. The wood has rotted.

Code Enforcement Officers – Mr. Mike Smith. He had issued a few citations for abandoned vehicles to be removed, some residents had to have a letter sent to be fined daily. The letter gave them a 5-day grace and the residents cleared up the violation. Mr. Smith was given some locations to do a check on. Mr. Smith served 22 violations and 17 were taken care of.

Clerk Treasurer Cash presented the billing report for the month of April. Mrs. Cash reported on the chair lift inspection that need completed on the Community Center. Mrs. Cash would like to reach out to the DFI to help pay for the inspection.

Public Comment – Steve Helgers was concerned about a property that has been abandoned. He would like the town to look into the owners to have it cleaned up. Mr. Helgers was needing some electrical information on a property, that he might build on in the future. Mr. Helgers will meet with the electrical department to get that resolved.



Council Members Report  
Marilyn Cohee – Nothing

Noelle Suiter – Nothing

Nick Riddell – Nothing

Nicole Parker – Wanted to know when the recycle center was emptied. Clerk Cash informed her that would be every Tuesday.

Kim Carpenter – Mrs. Carpenter asked the board to approve Amanda Wilson for the Darlington Library Board. Mrs. Marilyn Cohee resigned. Motion to approve Amanda Wilson for the Darlington Library Board was made by Mr. Riddell, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion Approved (4-0) with Mrs. Cohee abstaining.

President Carpenter was asked if the sign “For a Good the Life” be painted by some volunteers at the intersection to the town. Council had no issues for the painting to be done.

President Carpenter was asked for the council to be aware of a resident who is trying to put up a shed to live in on North Franklin street. Mrs. Carpenter would like for Attorney Meyers to look at the town ordinances to clarify if a shed is considered a livable habitat.


President Carpenter informed the council that she has had several complaints from neighbors living outside of the Darlington jurisdiction as to why our police department is patrolling the area. Mrs. Carpenter reviewed the complaint with the council and asked for an executive session, and the council decided to address the issue with the police department at the employee review.

Town Board and Utility Board employee meetings will be on June 3, 2021 – 3:30 – Darlington Community Center.

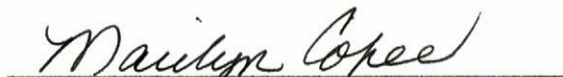
Town Board and Utility Meeting will be on June 3, 2021 – 5:00 p.m. –Darlington Community Center.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Parker seconded by Mrs. Carpenter. Motion Approved (5-0).

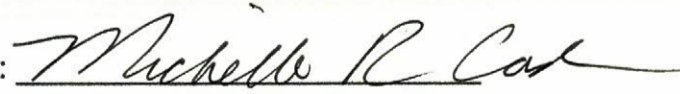
  
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Kim Carpenter, President

  
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Nicole Parker, Vice President

  
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Nick Riddell, Council Member

  
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Marilyn Cohee, Council Member

  
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Noelle Suiter, Council Member

Attest:   
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Michelle R. Cash, Clerk-Treasurer