

**CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike McDermott at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Present at roll call were: Joe Boll, Cindy Corley, Steve Pickett, John Sonsalla, Ray Spellman and Steve Pickett. Absent: None. Also present were: Aaron Stauffacher, Amy Johnson, Brenda Mims of Marconet, Luke Mezera of TC Networks, Brian Lund and Phil Risseeuw.

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

Under unfinished business, discussion was held concerning proposals from Marconet and TC Networks regarding disconnecting the City's telephone and internet services from Lafayette County. A copy of the Marconet proposal including monthly fees for phone and internet services from Mediacom and Lumen were included in the agenda packet. Brenda Mims of Marconet and Luke Mezera of TC Networks attended the meeting to present information and answer questions.

The proposal from Marconet includes new equipment and professional services to move the City's phone lines from Lafayette County to the Darlington Municipal Building. The current phone numbers would be transferred, and phone and internet service would need to be provided to the City by someone other than Lafayette County. The Marconet proposal is \$17,824.21. Several questions were asked by those present. Luke Mezera stated he would have limited work to complete, after Marconet installed the new equipment into the computer room on the second floor of the Municipal Building. The proposed monthly fee from Mediacom is \$445.05; and the proposed monthly fee from Lumen is \$895.30. The phone and internet services provided by Luman were recommended by Brenda and Luke, as they are more reliable than the service provided by Mediacom. The Lumen services are commercial/business level and Mediacom service is more geared to residential services. The current monthly fee charged by Lafayette County averages \$220.00.

It was reported, now that Lafayette County no longer rents space on the second floor of the Municipal Building, the current IT Director of Lafayette County no longer wants to provide phone and internet service to the City of Darlington. Bob Ward, IT Director of Lafayette County has expressed this message several times to City employees, Brenda Mims and Luke Mezera. It was also reported there is a contract between Lafayette County and the City of Darlington regarding phone and internet services. The current phone system was updated approximately three years ago, and the City owns its own telephones.

After discussion and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Roelli to table this matter until the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council, to allow time for Council members to talk with Lafayette County representatives about this situation. Motion carried. Brenda Mims and Luke Mezera then left the meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning proposed extension of the Campground Expansion construction contract completion date to May 31, 2024; due to a delay in receiving DNR permits for water and sewer main installation. Mayor McDermott reported on information he received from Mark Digman of Delta 3 Engineering. Mark stated DNR representatives told him it may be up to four to six weeks before DNR permits are issued. That will delay ordering and receiving materials for the project; which will push the project past the current November 10, 2023 completion date. After discussion and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Spellman to approve the extension of the contract completion date for the Campground Expansion construction contract to May 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Darlington, in 2024. Alderperson Spellman distributed a handout at this meeting to those present regarding this issue. He stated there are three dates to consider: Darlington established – 1849; Darlington became a village in 1865; and Darlington became a city in 1877. Representatives of the Darlington Chamber/Main Street organization would like the City Council to recognize Darlington was established in 1849, and therefore the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be in 2024. After discussion and consideration, motion by Boll second by Corley to recognize that Darlington was established in 1849. Motion carried.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning the following recommendation from the Policies, Procedures and Ordinance Committee. This meeting was held just prior to this Council meeting.

- Approve proposed Ordinance 05-2023, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7.14(2)(a) of the Municipal Code of the City of Darlington. Mayor McDermott stated the Committee is recommending approval of Ordinance 05-2023, which would allow ATV/UTV access to State Trunk Highways within the city limits, that have a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less. After review and consideration, motion by Roelli second by Boll to accept the Committee's recommendation and adopt and approve Ordinance 05-2023, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 7.14(2)(a) of the Municipal Code of the City of Darlington as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning proposed Resolution 2023-11, A Resolution Authorizing Redemption of the General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2015A. A copy of the proposed resolution was included in the agenda packet. It was reported this resolution is required as one of the debt obligations being refunded is a bond issue, and 30 days' notice is required before the debt obligation can be paid off. The proposed resolution was prepared by representatives of Quarles & Brady, the City's Bond Counsel. After review and consideration, motion by Roelli second by Boll to approve Resolution 2023-11, A Resolution Authorizing Redemption of the General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2015A as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning the loan amount for approved projects and debt consolidation. A copy of a list of approved and anticipated projects was included in the agenda packet. The list totals \$1,671,464.32, and includes \$18,000.00 for the previously discussed phone system.

Several comments were made by those present, that even though funds are included in this borrowing for projects, the following three projects still need to come back to the Council for approval: dog park, truck purchase for the parks department, and phone system changes. After discussion and consideration, motion by Roelli second by Pickett to authoring the borrowing of \$1,671,464.32, rounded to \$1,671,000 for loan document purposes, for proposed and approved projects and debt consolidation from Apple River Bank as approved at the September 5, 2023 Council meeting. Motion carried.

The August 31, 2023 financial statements for the City, Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. were then presented for review and approval. Copies of these financial statements were included in the agenda packet. After review and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Sonsalla to approve the August 31, 2023 financial statements for the City, Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. as presented. Motion carried.

Under reports of committees, Mayor McDermott reported that Jeremy Williams gave his two weeks' notice, resigning his position with the City of Darlington. Therefore, a meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee is needed to begin the process of replacing Jeremy; and several other matters. A meeting was then scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Motion by Roelli second by Corley to go into closed session in accordance with Section 19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stats., to consider an offer to purchase related to the sale of three lots in the business park; and a development agreement related to the development of two of those lots in the business park. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Roelli second by Corley to reconvene to regular session in accordance with Section 19.85 (2) Wis. Stats., to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Corley second by Pickett to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

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Philip A. Risseeuw, Clerk-Treasurer