

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
KINGSTREE TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 15, 2023 - 6:30 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
FRANK H. MCGILL MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

ROLL CALL

**COUNCIL
PRESENT**

Darren Tisdale, Mayor

Luester McCullough, 1st District
Michelle Butterworth, 2nd District
Chris Williams, 3rd District

Derek Fitts, 4th District
C.M. (Bubba) Hammet, Jr., 5th District
Stan A. Williamson, 6th District

**OFFICIALS
ABSENT**

Evan Reynolds, Town Attorney

**OFFICIALS
PRESENT**

Richard L. Treme, Town Manager
Leonard R. Lowery, Municipal Clerk
Alvin D. Chambers, Community Development Director
Merianne Cowley, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION – Councilwoman McCullough

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA – Verified

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA FOR MAY 15, 2023.

- *Councilman Williamson moved to approve the meeting agenda for May 15, 2023.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williams.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 17, AND THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24, 2023

- *Councilwoman McCullough made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the regular meeting held on April 17, 2023, and the special meeting held on April 24, 2023.*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman Butterworth.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lillie McGill informed the Council that she was following up on the issues she shared during last month's Council meeting concerning matters on the east side of the tracks relating to potholes, lack of sidewalks, upgrades, and the beautification of East Main Street. She asked if the Council has developed any solutions to address these issues.

Reverend Keith Hunter of Mt. Zion Methodist Church stated that many of the streets on the east side of town are in terrible shape and need to be re-paved. He noted that Lexington Avenue, Lawrence Street, Madison Avenue, and Eastland Avenue need extensive work. Reverend Hunter stated that several streets on the other side of town had been re-paved several times while the roads he mentioned never got the attention they deserved. He said that when he walks on East Main Street, he walks around the utility pole in the middle of the sidewalk, causing him to walk in the road. He asked if the utility poles could be removed from the sidewalks.

Mr. Treme commented that the State Department of Transportation (DOT) owns the street and sidewalk. He also stated that he would contact the area engineer for DOT and inform him of the complaints and concerns. Much of the damage in the area of concern was done during the flood of 2015. Since then, a drainage study has been completed. The town has the funding to help eliminate some of the drainage issues that are likely causing many of the problems with the condition of the roads in that area.

Mr. Marsalis Gordon echoed much of what Ms. McGill and Reverend Hunter said concerning the condition of the streets on the east side.

Dr. Latonya Davis is the owner of Encore Music Suite on Main Street. In front of her business, the sidewalk is uneven. Three of her clients have fallen because of the condition of the sidewalk. She concluded her comments by stating there is an immediate need to fix the sidewalk.

OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH PROCLAMATION 2023-01

- *Councilman Hammet made a motion to proclaim May Older Americans' Month in Kingstree.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williamson.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2023-04 – 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget

- *Councilman Hammet made a motion approve Ordinance 2023-04.*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman McCullough.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2023-03 – Rezoning of 208 North Academy Street

- *Councilman Williams made a motion approve Ordinance 2023-04.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Fitts.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

NOMINATION FOR THE KINGSTREE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB)

- *Councilman Williamson a motion to nominate and appoint Rich Mims to the ARB.*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman McCullough.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

NOMINATION OF THE KINGSTREE PLANNING COMMISSION

- *Councilman Williamson made a motion to table the nomination until the next regular Council meeting.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Hammet.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

MAIN STREET UPDATE

Katie Wheeler reported that the mural that was to be placed on Hampton Street would not be placed there. A new location for the mural has to be identified. The plan is to have the mural completed by Pig Pickin`. A fashion show was held downtown this past weekend featuring downtown merchants. There was a big crowd and lots of participation from the community. The first Kingtree Live of the session will take place this Friday at the Depot. The Finesse Band will be performing during the event.

TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Treme announced that the bid opening for the Main Street street scape project will be June 6. The Town was awarded \$750,000. CTC also gave the Town \$143,000 for the project. Mill Street Landing Phase I is approximately 60% completed. Mr. Treme recommended taking advantage of an offer to lease the property at the entrance of the recreation complex for \$5 a year from the property owner. The least will be drawn, including a first right of refusal clause. Representative Roger Kirby is assisting the Town in securing a \$500,000 grant from the State to build a travel ballfield. The Town has been awarded 2.6 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan to develop a water system north of Hwy 527.

NON-AGENDA COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman McCullough

Councilwoman McCullough echoed much of what had been said concerning the streets and sidewalks on the east side of Town. She noted that roots from large trees have made many of the sidewalks in the area unsafe and that large trees on Madison Avenue make it very difficult to walk the sidewalks. She concluded her comments by stating that a plan to address these issues needs to be developed.

Councilman Williams

Councilman Williams also echoed the relevant concerns about the road and sidewalk conditions on the east side of Town. He said he hopes the Town can convince DOT to address these issues. He'll have to continue to push until we can get these issues taken care of. The taxpayers would like to see some results. He concluded his comments by stating that these issues will not just go away.

Councilman Hammet

Councilman Hammet stated that the Town would send a letter to DOT to support the concerns raised, but citizens also need to hear. Citizens can contact DOT by going to their website and completing a maintenance work request. Once the issue and the address of the issue are entered

onto the website, this will help to bring even more attention to the condition of roads and sidewalks on the east side of Town. We need citizens to let their voices be heard along with the Town.

Councilman Williamson

Councilman Williamson Councilman Williamson thanked Mr. Treme for the work done at Kellahan Park. The gazebo has been moved to the center of the park. A group of volunteers have painted the gazebo, and it looks brand new. As discussed in previous meetings, the gates at the park are not locked at dusk and open in the morning.

Councilwoman Butterworth

No comment.

Mayor Tisdale

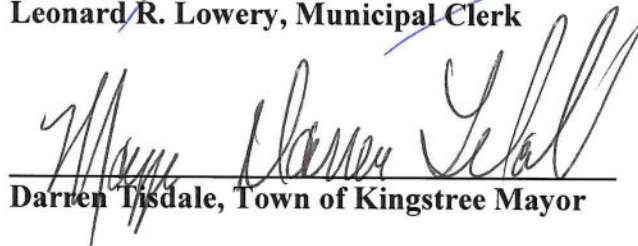
Mayor Tisdale thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for sharing their concerns. He stated that a letter from the Town will be sent to DOT this week, and he encouraged everyone to contact DOT as well.

AJOURNMENT

- *Councilman Hammet made the motion to adjourn.*
- *Councilman Williams seconded the motion to adjourn.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*



Leonard R. Lowery, Municipal Clerk



Darren Tisdale, Town of Kingstree Mayor