

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
KINGSTREE TOWN COUNCIL  
JUNE 19, 2023 - 6:30 PM  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
FRANK H. MCGILL MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

**ROLL CALL**

**COUNCIL  
PRESENT**

Darren Tisdale, Mayor  
Michelle Butterworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Chris Williams, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

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

**OFFICIALS  
ABSENT**

Luester McCullough, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
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** – Councilman Williamson

**NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA** – Verified

**APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA FOR JUNE 19, 2023.**

- *Councilman Williamson moved to approve the meeting agenda for June 19, 2023.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Hammet.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MAY 15, 2023**

- *Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on May 15, 2023.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Fitts.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Lillie McGill asked if DOT has responded to the Town's request to repair the sidewalks and remove light poles from the middle of the sidewalks. Mr. Treme indicated that DOT and Duke Energy have both been notified of the concerns. Ms. McGill asked if a meeting needs to be set up with the two companies because these issues have lingered for years without any change. Mr. Treme stated that he is willing to invite the organizations in so that the problems may be discussed again. In conclusion, Ms. McGill requested an update on her request for the area she lives in to be annexed into the Town limits. Mr. Alvin Chamber explained the options for becoming annexed into the Town.

Mr. Corey Harmon thanked Mr. Treme for his prompt response to repairing the sidewalk in front of Encore Music Suite. He noted that he has a few customers who are disabled and have problems navigating the sidewalk at times. He stated that he has observed on many occasions a disabled gentleman who rides a motorized vehicle having to navigate the pole in the middle of the sidewalk by having to ride in the middle of the highway. This is a huge hazard, so he asked the Council to assess the situation. Potholes throughout the Town are also an issue that needs attention.

Ms. Stephanie Wilson stated that she is interested in the Town attracting more companies with jobs for residents and having more structured activities for the youth to help keep them out of trouble. She also would like the Town to address the problem of abandoned buildings throughout downtown.

Dr. Latonya Davis stated that she is satisfied with the repairs to the sidewalk in front of Encore Music Suite. She asked if the recently publicized HWY 52 re-habilitation project would include the Town of Kingstree. Mr. Treme stated that he is not aware of the details of the plan but that he is willing to inquire and find out more information. Dr. Davis also asked if the Town or County has plans to re-open the swimming pool and if there are any plans to make additional activities available for the youth in Town. Mayor Tisdale explained that the swimming pool belongs to the County and that he is unaware of any plans to re-open it.

Mr. Burrows stated that his family has resided on Charles Avenue for over 70 years and that the street is in the worst shape he's seen. Approximately six years ago, an issue with a sewer line at his mother's home required a utility cut in the middle of the street. Once the problem was resolved, the utility cut in the street was repaired. Since that time, a sinkhole has developed. The mayor stated that DOT would be contacted concerning the road condition of Charles Avenue first thing in the morning.

Ms. Pearlease Waring indicated an issue with speeding on Kelly Street and Second Avenue. On March 24th, someone was speeding on Second Avenue and drove onto her property, destroying her entranceway. On May 30th, a vehicle ran into her lawn light, destroyed it, and kept going. She wanted to know if speed bumps could be placed on the streets to deter speeding.

## **BLACK RIVER CLEANUP**

Dr. Louis Drucker reported that on May 20, 2023, the Kingstree Lions Club participated in their signature environmental service project, Black River Cleanup. This year marks the eighth year of the annual project. Two full pickup loads of trash were removed from the river. Thirty-seven paddlers and three John boats were used to remove debris, with twenty personnel on hand to assist. Participants traveled from eastern South Carolina to participate in the successful event.

## **SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2023-04 – Fiscal Year Budget 2023-2024**

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

## **NOMINATION FOR THE KINGSTREE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB) AND NOMINATION OF THE KINGSTREE PLANNING COMMISSION**

- *Councilman Hammet made a motion to table nominations for both the (ARB) and the Planning Commission until the next Regular Council Meeting.*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman Butterworth.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

## **MAIN STREET UPDATE**

Katie Wheeler reported that two additional façade grants had been approved. She stated there is also an increased interest in benches, picnic tables, and planter donations by organizations and individuals from the community. The new mural will be installed downtown in August. Lastly, Kingstree Live was a successful event this past Friday night. There was a lot of participation from the community, and it was an enjoyable event for all who attended.

## **TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Treme thanked Merianne Cowley for her work on the budget. The streetscape is running under budget at this time. Mr. Treme shared an updated Black River Landing project layout in detail. The public restroom facility at the landing is near completion. The new landing will welcome visitors to stop and spend time in Kingstree. Mr. Treme noted that this project would be worth the time and effort and will be beautiful once completed.

## **NON-AGENDA COUNCIL COMMENTS**

### **Councilwoman McCullough**

No comment.

### **Councilwoman Butterworth**

No comment.

### **Councilman Williams**

Councilman Williams thanked Ms. Cowley for her work on the budget. He also thanked members of the audience for attending the meeting and especially thanked those who made public comments during the meeting. In conclusion, Councilman Williams requested that Council consider designating Juneteenth as a recognized holiday for the Town of Kingstree. He noted that neighboring municipalities and Williamsburg County have designated the day as an official holiday.

**Councilman Hammet**

Councilman Hammet thanked Ms. Cowley for her efforts in pulling the budget together. He thanked Ms. Wheeler for her work with the Main Street Program and another great Kingstree Live event. People from all around the Kingstree area attended the event. He reminded everyone that this Friday, from 1:00 PM until, there will be a Juneteenth Celebration on Hampton Avenue. At 5:30 PM, a ribbon will be cut for the African American Archives of Williamsburg. Saturday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, there will be food trucks and entertainment for all ages, and the keynote speaker for the event will be Judge Clifton Newman.

**Councilman Williamson**

No comment.

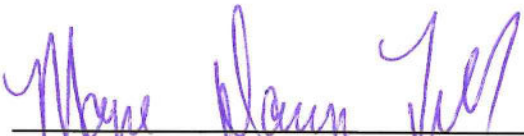
**Mayor Tisdale**

Mayor Tisdale thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He especially thanked those who voiced concerns and asked questions during public comments. He encouraged others to do the same in the future. Mayor Tisdale stated that the Council needs to hear from citizens. He thanked Ms. Cowley for her awesome work on the budget. He also thanked Ms. Wheeler for her work on a great Kingstree Live.

**AJOURNMENT**

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

  
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**Leonard R. Lowery, Municipal Clerk**

  
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**Darren Tisdale, Town of Kingstree Mayor**