

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
KINGSTREE TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 18, 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
PRESENT**

Richard L. Treme, Town Manager
Leonard R. Lowery, Municipal Clerk
Alvin Chambers, Community Development Director
Evan Reynolds, Municipal Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION – Councilman Williams

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA – Verified

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2023.

- *Councilman Williamson moved to amend the agenda by replacing KPD with Fire Department in item number 7.*
- *Councilwoman McCullough seconded the motion.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

- *Councilman Fitts moved to approve the amended meeting agenda for September 18, 2023.*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman Butterworth.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 21, 2023.

- *Councilwoman McCullough made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on August 21, 2023.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williams.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Randy Crooms thanked the Mayor, Town Manager, and Council members for everything they do for the Town of Kingstree. He stated that he is impressed with how Kingstree is growing, how it is being maintained, and the improvements in race relations on both sides of the tracks. Mayor Tisdale thanked Mr. Crooms for his comments.

Ms. Casandra Rush, with the C Williams Rush Museum of African American Arts and Culture, thanked Mr. Treme, the Mayor, the Clerk, Mr. Chambers, and other Town staff members that she interacts with for all that they do. She stated that she appreciated the update on the Main Street Project and Mill Street Landing. Ms. Rush indicated that her museum applied for a \$5,000 matching grant from the National Trust Preservation Fund to support an African American tour guide for Kingstree and Williamsburg County and was awarded \$3,000. She is requesting additional funds from the Town of Kingstree to assist with the efforts to secure an African American tour guide and contribute to developing a brochure for Kingstree and Williamsburg County.

MATCHING RESOLUTION CDBG PUMPER FIRE TRUCK PROJECT

- *Councilman Williamson made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to expend \$75,000 in matching funds for the CDBG grant to purchase a pumper fire truck.*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman McCullough.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

LETTERS OF CONDITIONS FOR USDA-RD GRANT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIOS (50,000)

- *Councilman Hammet moved to receive the letters of conditions for the USDA-RD Grant for Kingstree Fire Department radios in the amount of (50,000).*
- *Seconded by Councilman Willimson.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

LETTERS OF CONDITIONS FOR USDA-RD GRANT FOR KPD RADIOS (50,000)

- *Councilman Hammet moved to receive the letters of conditions for the USDA-RD Grant for Kingstree Police Department radios in the amount of (45,000).*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman Butterworth.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2023-06 – Annexation of Williamsburg County tax map properties 45-176-009, 18-036-179, 18036-217, and 18-036-178

- *Councilman Williamson moved to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-06.*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman McCullough.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2023-07 – An Ordinance (NUNC PRO TUNC) to authorize the Town of Kingstree to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer of real property currently identified as tax map numbers 11-025-171, 11-025-172, and 11-025-173 identified as tax map numbers from the Town to J. Dail Investments, LLC in exchange for \$22,000.00 dollars.

- *Councilman Hammet moved to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-07.*
- *Seconded by Councilwoman Butterworth.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

NOMINATION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF KINGSTREE (KHA)

- *Councilman Hammet moved to table the nomination for the Housing Authority of Kingstree until the next regular meeting of Council.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williams.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

MAIN STREET UPDATE

Main Street director Katie Wheeler announced that 32 Main Street directors from across the state will attend a Main Street training program hosted by the Town of Kingstree Main Street program. While the directors are here, they will briefly tour the Town. On Wednesday, a one-hour Grow with Google training will be offered to all small businesses in the Town. The Google training will be held in the depot. Lastly, final preparations are being made before Pig Pickin, and everything is going as planned for the festival.

TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Treme outlined and updated the Council on several ongoing projects that are currently being funded by a variety of federal and state agencies for the Town of Kingstree. These projects are as follows:

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities (Federal Funds)

\$50,000 for Fire Department radios, awarded 8/2023

\$45,000 for Police Department radios, awarded 8/2023

Letters of conditions for both grants are being considered by Council tonight.

South Carolina Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Undiscovered South Carolina (State Funds)

\$200,000 for Black River Landing Phase 1, awarded 4/2022

Black River Landing Phase 1 includes a bathroom facility and a new parking area. Construction on this project began in March 2023 and is almost complete.

Rural Infrastructure Authority (State Funds)

\$1,000,000 for Wastewater Pumping Stations 1 & 2 Improvements, awarded 5/2022

Construction is underway now. There were some delays getting the new pumps.

Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grants (Federal Funds)

\$694,730 for Main Street Streetscapes Improvements, awarded 11/2021

For redoing sidewalks and parking on Main Street from the railroad tracks to Academy Street and the intersection at Main Street and Jackson Street. The goal is to make our downtown more beautiful and accommodating for pedestrian traffic. This is the first phase of the project outlined in our road mapping plan.

\$962,195 for Upper Kingstree Branch Improvements, awarded 6/2021

Engineering work is done. The attorney is now working to get easements to the identified properties to be able to access the branch to do the work.

South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (Federal Funds awarded by RIA)

\$2,064,787 for Water Improvements, awarded 4/2023

The project will extend water lines into some areas outside of the town limits, but within the franchise area granted to us by the county.

\$492,375 for Wastewater Treatment Plant Disinfection System, awarded 4/2023

The project will convert our plant from using chlorine for disinfection, to using peracetic acid for disinfection. This change will help our plant process the waste it receives more thoroughly.

We are currently working on the paperwork to be able to begin both projects.

Housing & Urban Development Community Development Fund (Federal Funds)

\$4.6 million for the Black River Trail Network Project, earmarked 8/2022

\$3 million for the Town for Black River Landing Phase 2 to include pavilion, amphitheater, boardwalk, and playground.

\$800,000 for Williamsburg County for improvements to Ervin Landing

\$800,000 for Georgetown County for improvements to Rocky Point Community Forest

NON-AGENDA COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Butterworth

Councilwoman Butterworth commended the Town Manager for his presentation outlining the current grant funding the Town receives for the important projects he mentioned. She commented on remembering when and how the Main Street Project began, and she remains hopeful that the Town will continue to reap the benefits of making such an important decision to participate in the Main Street Program. Councilwoman Butterworth concluded her comments by thanking Mr. Treme and his staff for doing such an outstanding job finding, applying for, and administering these grants.

Councilman Williams

Councilman Williams echoed many of the comments that Councilwoman Butterworth made concerning the great job that the Town staff is doing. The hard work the staff is doing behind the scenes means a lot to the Town. He also thanked the Town Manager for sitting in on a wonderful meeting with some residents of the Town today. Councilman Williams concluded his comments by thanking DOT for bringing their vacuum truck back to Kingstree to assist in opening up several obstructed drain lines. He hopes that DOT will return soon to assist in cleaning some additional lines throughout the Town.

Councilwoman McCullough

Councilwoman McCullough thanked Mr. Treme for his report. She added that even though we have several ongoing projects throughout the Town, residents are still complaining about the conditions of the roads and sidewalks. If DOT would stop patching the streets and resurface them, this would have a more positive outcome. She also noted that a few years ago, on Madison Avenue, a portion of the sidewalk had a large hole in it that was caused by erosion. At that time, the hole had a safety guard around it, but it was later repaired. The hole has returned, and the sidewalk has another large hole. There isn't a safety guard around the hole this time, making the area very unsafe for the residents in the area. Mr. Treme said he would follow up with DOT to address the issue. Lastly, Councilwoman McCullough asked how long it will be before

implementing another countywide one-cent sales tax. She stated this could be an additional revenue stream to address many pressing issues.

Councilman Fitts

Councilman Fitts indicated that he agrees with everything that has already been said. He stated that he appreciates how hard Mr. Treme and his staff work on all the projects he mentioned in his report. He noted that we have had a few successes with road repairs, but we still have many more issues with our roads that we will look at moving forward.

Councilman Hammet

Councilman Hammet commented that having 32 Main Street Program coordinators across the state come to Kingstree to hold a meeting is a big deal. He encouraged everyone to welcome these individuals and help control Town's litter. We want to make a good impression. Also, on October 29th, the South Carolina Historical Society is having its fall tour. The Williamsburg County Museum will be open, as well as Thorntree House. We are again expecting a lot of visitors to our area for these tours.

In conclusion, the grants being awarded to the Town come from money that each of us has spent on state and federal taxes that often leave the county. Because of the work of the staff, these funds are being returned to Kingstree. He thanked the USDA for what they do for the Town. Councilman Hammet also stated that the number of business licenses in the Town increased during COVID. In his conclusion, he said that he is looking forward to the completion of Mill Street Landing. This project will attract people to this area, and in doing so, people will spend money while they are here and contribute to our local economy.

Councilman Williamson

Councilman Williamson commented that over the past several months, he and other citizens have commented on the high rate of speed that people have been driving in his district. He commented that law enforcement has increased their presence in the area, and their presence is having a positive effect on reducing speeding in the area. He thanked law enforcement for their efforts.

Mayor Tisdale


Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked Mr. Treme, the Town staff, and Council for believing in what the Town is attempting to do. He thanked the citizens of Kingstree for believing in what the Town is doing.

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