

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
KINGSTREE TOWN COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 20, 2023 - 6:30 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
FRANK H. MCGILL MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

ROLL CALL

**COUNCIL
PRESENT**

Darren Tisdale, Mayor

Chris Williams, 3rd District
Derek Fitts, 4th District

M. (Bubba) Hammet, Jr., 5th District
Stan A. Williamson, 6th District

**COUNCIL
ABSENT**

Luester McCullough, 1st District
Michelle Butterworth, 2nd District

**OFFICIALS
PRESENT**

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

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION – Councilman Williams

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA – Verified

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2023.

- *Councilman Williamson moved to approve the regular meeting agenda for November 20, 2023.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Fitts.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2023.

- *Councilman Fitts made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the regular meeting held on October 16, 2023.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williams.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lilly McGill thanked the Council for recently annexing her property into the Town. She thanked Mayor Tisdale for attending the unveiling of the historical marker at the Epps-McGill Farmhouse. While identifying funding sources to restore the Epps-McGill Farmhouse, Ms. McGill stated that she was reminded of the mayor's support of the project during the historic marker unveiling. In closing, Ms. McGill requested that Mayor Tisdale write a letter of support for preserving the farmhouse. The letter will accompany future grant applications to secure funding to restore the farmhouse.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT

Samantha A. Salisbury, CPA presented the findings of the annual financial audit for the Town of Kingstree. Ms. Salisbury concluded her presentation with an unqualified opinion of the 2023 Town of Kingstree audit.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2023-08 - TINY HOUSE TEXT AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION

- *Councilman Hammet made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-08.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williams.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

RECREATION PROPERTY DISCUSSION

Attorney Helen McFadden represented the Williamsburg County Historical Society. She explained the proposed lease of the property owned by the Historical Society. The society offers a 1-year lease at \$100 per year. The receipt of the check (payment) will serve as the renewal of the lease. The Town still has an opportunity to purchase the property if they choose to. Attorney Reynold suggested that the Council allow Attorney McFadden to report back to her board with some requested adjustments that the Council would like included in the lease. Once the revised lease is reviewed, the Council may vote on a resolution in favor of the revised lease.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE KINGSTREE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB)

- *Councilman Williamson recommended that Dexter Graham, Josh Kellahan, and Ida Martin be re-appointed to the ARB.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williams.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA)

- *Councilman Williamson recommended that Randy Croom, and Henry Hemingway, III be re-appointed to the BZA.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williams.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

- *Councilman Williamson recommended that J. Marion Evans, Mary Jean Holt, Melannie Mims, Lisha B. Pasley, and Nydra Wilson be re-appointed to the Beautification Commission.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williams.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2023-09 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT-To transfer funds to add a part-time employee in the Recreation Department

- *Councilman Hammet made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-09.*
- *Seconded by Councilman Williamson.*
- *The motion carried unanimously.*

MAIN STREET UPDATE

Katie Wheeler, Main Street Director, announced that the Town kicked off the holiday season this weekend with the Annual Kingstree Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony. Both events were well attended and enjoyed by those in attendance. She thanked the Street Department, other Town employees, Mr. Thornhill, and Main Street volunteers for decorating the Town for the season. The streetscape project is underway, and citizens are excited that the work has finally begun.

TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Treme announced that an out-of-control vehicle destroyed the welcome sign on Hwy 52 South. A replacement sign was ordered by staff the following day. The Town is moving forward with a water and sewer project on the 527 Hwy. The total cost of the project is 2.64 million dollars. Also, we continue to have issues with the 14-inch water line in the Hwy 52 North industrial park area. In the past eight years, there have been three significant issues with the lines going down and adversely affecting the water users in the industrial park. The EDA is aware of the situation. We want a 300,000-gal tank in the area as a water reserve and a well to support the tank. Within the next few days, the Town will submit a grant application to the EDA to fund the project. We have received a \$500,000 grant from the State of South Carolina to develop a travel ball field at the recreation center. More money needs to be raised to complete the project. A travel ball field will help the Town economically by bringing in visitors from across the state. We have been granted approximately \$500,000 through Rural Infrastructure for our wastewater treatment plant. This funding will allow the Town to change from using chlorine at the plant to using parasitic acids. Lastly, construction on the long-awaited streetscape project began today. Mr. Treme thanked his staff for all that they do.

NON-AGENDA COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Williams

Councilman Williams thanked everyone who was involved in coordinating the Christmas Parade. He thought they did a beautiful job. There were a lot of happy faces in attendance.

Councilman Fitts

The councilman Fitts echoed the comments by Councilman Williams concerning the outstanding job that was done on the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting.

Councilman Williamson

Councilman Williamson noted that the parade and tree lighting went well, but he was especially pleased with re-routing the parade route. Councilman Williamson told the Town Manager that track 45173071, owned and located directly behind Palmetto Synthetics, will be made available to the Town to construct a high tank and well. Mr. Poston, from Palmetto, extended this offer.

Councilman Hammet

Councilman Hammet thanked Katie Wheeler and everyone involved in getting the parade and tree lighting together. The South Carolina State Historical Society held its fall tour in Williamsburg County two weeks ago. The tour was a huge success. Artifacts were even donated

to the museum. The Historical Society also presented the Monuments of Stone Tour on Sunday. The weather could have been more favorable; therefore, attendance could have been better. However, there are plans to conduct the tour again in the spring.

Mayor Tisdale


Mayor Tisdale thanked Katie and everyone who was involved in preparing for the holiday festivities this weekend. He also thanked the County for allowing the Town to have the tree lighting at the Courthouse.

AJOURNMENT

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



Leonard R. Lowery, Municipal Clerk


Darren Tisdale, Town of Kingstree Mayor