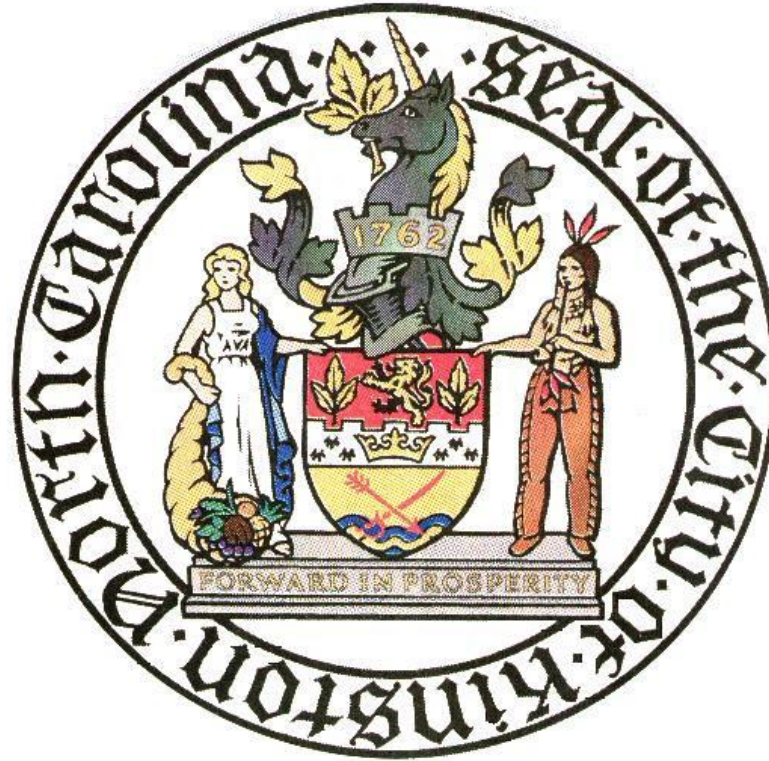


Kinston City Council



MINUTES October 17, 2023

Minutes

Kinston City Council
City Hall · 207 East King Street
Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Work Session at 5:30 pm · Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm

**This meeting was held in person and published electronically at
<https://www.facebook.com/KinstonCityHall>
Available for viewing on the local government channels 2 and 102**

Mayor Don Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Adoption of the Agenda

If a Councilmember wishes to revise the agenda, the motion to add or delete an item will be entertained before the Adoption of the Agenda.

Councilmember Solomon made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken, and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], the agenda was adopted.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Kinston Community Health Center Project Update and Consider Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute a Deed to the Former Shirt Factory----- Marcia Perritt

Marcia Perritt, Community Development Consultant presented an update on the Kinston Community Health Center. She shared that the Health Center would be built on the former shirt factory city-owned site at the corner of MLK Boulevard and King Street. Ms. Perritt explained that part of the donation agreement with the City of Kinston has several considerations that must be met to convey the deed to the health center. One of the considerations is formal annual and quarterly progress updates to the City Council that have been satisfied. Secondly, is that the health center should provide its plans and business plans which were done at a meeting last fall. Next, they would apply and submit the necessary permits required, and finally, the health center would secure the necessary financing commitments. She stated they are here to provide the final update, and to authorize the Mayor to move forward in executing the deed because for the health center to close on the financing the lenders require that they have the deed in hand. Ms. Perritt stated she made an error in the original donation agreement which was in the agreement stating that it was by September 2024 in getting the financing commitment. There is also a date that says by April 1, 2025, construction should be completed. Based on the projected construction timeline, construction is expected to be completed in May 2025. She said she would look to the city attorney on how to edit the agreement to reflect that change. She would say maybe change it to the fall of 2025, due to there can be delays (supply chain) and other things. She stated that the conceptual agreement was for a smaller facility, and now it is larger with more services to be offered and more jobs to be added.

Suzanne Freeman, CEO of Kinston Community Health Center thanked Marcia and the City for this opportunity. She said this would be a huge change for the patients that they so deserve.

Anna Kinsey, Director of Community Patient Development and Patient Support Programs shared a PowerPoint presentation that showed the diagram for the entire site (1st and 2nd floors). She shared that the 21% that says Admin. Staff includes the flex space, the front desk supervisor, checkout, and access. They are now in a 29,000-square-foot building and when the building is done, they will be in a little over 57,000-square-foot building. The growth projection is 3 to 5% each year once they are in the building. She shared some of the future services that may be provided. Ms. Kinsey reiterated that they are ahead of schedule with the projections and shared that the land disturbance permit has been approved, they are in the subcontracting market for pricing, and the finalization of the project costs is expected to be in November. The planning and design team working with the center is making sure that they are ready for the move. The building permit package was submitted to the City and County the week of October 9th and the team anticipates the City to close on the land in mid-January. She shared the projected schedule and hopes to see the first patient on May 15th and that there will be a groundbreaking on Wednesday, December 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and everyone is invited. Ms. Kinsey shared the development managers, the architects, and the lenders. The lenders are Wells Fargo, the Community Health Center Capital Fund, the Self-Help Credit Union, and the Community Business Investment Fund. She stated that Dunn & Dalton are the architects, DaVinci Development is the development manager, and Wimco Construction is the general contractor.

Mayor Hardy asked Ms. Kinsey to repeat the groundbreaking time. He thanked Ms. Kinsey and Ms. Freeman for a job well done.

Councilmember Solomon asked if it appears that they will have sufficient parking and was told yes. She asked if the City seal could be included as a key partner and Ms. Kinsey said it could be. Councilmember Aiken asked if most of the financing was secured and was told by Ms. Perritt that all of the financing had been secured. Mayor Pro Tem asked if he was correct in remembering from a prior update that there would be a pharmacy and was told that there would be and have a drive-up window. Ms. Kinsey shared that the new pharmacy is doing well and their courier service is appreciated. Councilmember Aiken asked if there was anything the City needed to do with the redesign of Caswell Street for entering the facility. Ms. Perritt said the primary ingress/egress would be on MLK Boulevard. Mayor Hardy asked if the mental health piece would be addressed at the facility and Ms. Kinsey stated that everybody would be under the same roof.

James Cauley, City Attorney asked if it has not been provided to the Manager, could copies of the finance commitments letters. Also, on the construction completion date he suggested making the date July 1, 2025 subject to extension by the City Manager if necessary.

2. Consider Approval of the ASATI Contract to Purchase New Inflatable Air Structure and Heater/Blower/Generator ----- Corey Povar

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager announced that unfortunately, Corey has resigned with his last day being October 27th. She said he will be missed, but we fortunately have Scott Alston who has been with Recreation for many years and has agreed to step in and serve as our Interim Recreation Director.

Corey Povar, Parks and Recreation Director shared that a request for bids was made for an inflatable air structure for the Kinston Community Pool. The bids for a turnkey project were costly. They were more than the allocated \$400,000 from the American Rescue Plan to fund the project. After revisiting how to ensure the pool is kept in year-round operation for years, they looked at the specific issues with the present structure and contacted ASATI. They are a Sourcewell-approved agency (a procurement assistance agency) that is vetted and we can directly select a company that is approved by them. The issues came down to the material that covers the pool and the blower/heater/generator. They returned to ASATI for quotes of replacement parts as opposed to a replacement. Mr. Povar shared that this is the contract that is within the \$400,000 for the purchase of those two items. There is still room to pay for the installation of the blower/heater/generator. The major difference is that this cover (envelope) does not have the wire netting we presently have and this is a heavier material. This will make it easier to install and allow for the bubble to look cleaner and hold up for a long time.

Councilmember Swinson asked what type of warranty is with this equipment. Ms. Goodson shared that the warranty is 20 years from the date of installation. Councilmember Aiken inquired about the length of time we have had the present cover and Mr. Povar said it was for 12 years. He then shared that the importance of the 20-year warranty is because we do have an agreement with Parrott Academy, who contributed to the initial installation of the structure and there are 18 years left of the agreement that allows the use of the pool for their swim team. He stated they have also had conversations with Lenoir County Schools who have expressed an interest in broaching the topic of a swim team with the public schools.

Mayor Hardy asked if it was turnkey for the \$383,000 and Mr. Povar said after negotiations there was room in the \$400,000 cap to pay for installation once it arrived. We currently have a maintenance contract with American Facility Solutions at Kinston Community Center. They felt comfortable that they could do the work within that scope.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy thanked Corey and his team for getting this before the Council. He addressed Scott Alston and shared that he felt he would do well.

Councilmember Solomon asked how this was going to be funded. Mr. Povar said the money was in a project and the \$383,000 gets the needed materials and there is enough money for the installation of the blower/heater/generator. Ms. Solomon thanked Mr. Povar for coming in and

doing such a wonderful job as the Director and felt that he could have a sigh of relief in knowing he was leaving things in good hands with Scott. Mr. Povar thanked everyone for bringing him in and taking a chance on him. He shared that it was a sigh of relief to know that he was leaving the ongoing projects in good hands and he has promised that he would be back when the ribbon was cut for Emma Webb. He shared that this was a hard decision for him and he owed a debt of gratitude to the City of Kinston for what they have done for him professionally and he appreciated it.

Mayor Hardy thanked Mr. Povar for everything he has done including being a photographer for him.

3. Consider Essential Single-Family Loan Contract Award ----- Elizabeth Blount

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager spoke in Elizabeth Blount’s absence. She stated during the September meeting the staff presented bid openings for three owner-occupied homes for the Essential Single-Family Loan. One home had lead paint and the bid proposals received exceeded the \$40,000 budget. Ms. Blount went to the loan pool folks and discussed finances to get the work done for that citizen. There are bid proposals from Evans Custom Builders for \$57,125 and funding has been secured for this.

4. Consider Approval of Laptop Replacements for KPD Personnel ----- Keith Goyette

Keith Goyette, Police Chief shared that this is something they have been working on since February with assistance from the MIS partners. There are 70 tablets in the Police department and as they break, they cannot be replaced due to not being made any longer. The proposal is to purchase 70 Getac laptops, 60 vehicle adapters and docks, and 50 antennas and Wi-Fi connectors. The original plan was \$235,793 for this over a five-year plan. Chief Goyette stated they did go over about \$12,000. They were able to keep that in budget for the first year at \$47,000 with a couple thousand dollars being added each year for the next four years.

Mayor Hardy thanked Chief Goyette for bringing this before them tonight. Councilmember Aiken asked for clarification on the plan. Chief Goyette said that rather than the City having to spend \$250,000 upfront, they are financing it over five years. After those five years, the equipment will be ours and we will trade them in for a newer product. He explained that it is the same as all city computers; they are replaced every five years. Mayor Pro Tem Hardy thanked them for considering not spending this amount at one time. Councilmember Solomon asked if after five years would the new products be cheaper. Chief Goyette said that they will be able to trade them in but be able to keep the things that come with them.

**5. Preparations for Downtown Christmas Events-----Leon Steele, DK Executive Director
(THIS ITEM WAS MOVED FROM THE CITY MANAGER’S REPORT)**

Leon Steele, Executive Director of DK Revitalization stated that he would be including a list of the things happening this weekend.

Thursday night – Social House will have \$7 martinis

Saturday – Breakfast on the Boat – 7 – 10 a.m. (or until the food runs out)

Saturday – Mother Earth – Half Marathon and a 5K

Saturday – Bradfest Concert – Pearson Park –2 p.m. (Multiple Bands) Tundra Town starts at 7 p.m.

Saturday – Tundra Town and partners – 4-9 p.m. – Food, drinks, music, games. movie

Mr. Steele announced that on October 28th the Barrister Irish Pub on Queen Street opens with food trucks in the lot next door.

Mr. Steele shared that registrations are coming in for the Christmas Parade and Tinsel Trail.

November 18th - Tinsel Trail lighting

December 2nd – Christmas Parade – 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Steele reminded everyone that the registration for the parade closes on November 17th. He announced that any schools in the area are encouraged to participate in the parade and they can do so at no cost. Everyone interested can register online to be in the parade by going to www.downtownkinston.com or stopping by the office at 327 N. Queen Street. The registrations for the parade and Tinsel Trail are available in both English and Spanish.

**6. Requested List of Recent Achievements-----Rhonda Barwick
(THIS ITEM WAS MOVED FROM THE CITY MANAGER’S REPORT)**

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager reported that an update on all the projects we have going on was requested by Mayor Pro Tem Hardy at the last meeting. Ms. Barwick stated that during the budget they talked about the achievements and a lot of that had to do with ARP funding, community assistance grants (\$2.8 million), and at that time \$5.2 million in ARP funding. Over \$1 million went into recreation events. She said she was presenting tonight the top five achievements for the last 12 months the Department Heads submitted. She shared the list as follows:

Planning Department: four new construction projects (Tidal Wave Spa, Mainstreet Urgent Family Care, Royal Farms, and Gordon Street cell tower); several renovations (Planet Fitness, Bethel Academy, LCC soccer field, Chick-fil-A, Roses); seven new projects waiting for plan submittals; secured \$294,000 in grant funds to rehab 13 homes; and restarting the Kinston-101 course.

Recreation Department: construction on Emma Webb project (\$ 1 million project with \$500,00 City match); installed mini-playgrounds (Bill Fay Park - \$180,000 new playground, Fairfield Park new playground, Holloway Park picnic shelter is being rebuilt, Holloway Pool renovated - \$350,000 project,); seeking budget estimates and financing for future renovation for the bathrooms that serve that pool; installed fencing; and the Hall of Fame event was restarted.

Public Services Department: Briary Run Phase V Sewer improvement (\$3 million); Briary Run Lift Station Flood Mitigation (\$1.1 million); NC Global Transpark Water Line Replacement (\$700,000); and improved City-owned downtown parking lots (\$290,000). The City Council each year has put \$250,000 into road resurfacing; in 2022 identified \$345,000 in road resurfacing improvements. The Electric System is completing the long-range plans through asset inventory and grants for water, sewer, and stormwater. They go through our system to determine and from that, we update our CIP to know where future money is spent. Ms. Barwick shared that Mayor Hardy has been very active in the Adkin Branch Flood Mitigation project (\$16.6 million) with engineering funds secured and is looking to fill that gap on the construction funds. She discussed the Lawrence Heights Water and Sewer Replacement project (\$4.6 million) which will give those in that subdivision new water and sewer service, and in the end, it will resurface the streets. Ms. Barwick said they are struggling with the contractor on some issues but are committed to the project. The Oliver Glass Lift Station improvements that are needed for the Industrial Park. We have the engineering (\$400,000) for that. She added that from ARP funds the Council set aside \$2.4 million to do the sewer on Vernon Avenue so that DOT can come behind us along with the other utilities that are involved and resurface it.

Fire & Rescue Department: The Fire Training Facility has officially opened. This was started in 2018 and money was set aside each year to get it done. This past year the Council put us over the top (\$245,000 total cost). The rescue boat was purchased and put in service with all shifts conducting water rescue training. A 46/96-hour schedule was implemented this year that shows signs of reducing the turnover rate. There have been 1,000 smoke alarms installed throughout the city and half of those were at no charge to the citizens through the help of the Red Cross and other partners.

Police Department: purchased 24 new vehicles, and hired a new Police Chief who has established a new Violent Crime Action Team to combat gangs and violent crimes. That unit was recently named Gang Unit of the Year for the State of North Carolina. They have seized 100 more guns this year than last year.

Human Resources: has trained Parks and Recreation staff on new AEDs donated by The Gate. They have also trained 66 Police and Public Services employees in CPR or re-certified in CPR and are including City Hall employees. They assisted the City Manager's

office and Finance in implementing the 2.5% COLA the Council approved in this year’s budget.

M.I.S. Department: installed fiber to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and installed the Voice Over IP to improve internet access. All OES servers (10) have been upgraded to the 2023 version—security software to detect, investigate, and respond to any potential threats to our system.

Finance Department: received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Excellence in financial recording for Fiscal Year 2021 (award received the second year later); received an unmodified opinion on the Fiscal Year 22 audit which is the highest opinion level you can receive on an audit and has implemented the acceptance of credit/debit cards for payments due to the City to all departments.

Downtown Kinston: working to reinvent the MSD Façade Grant and an incentive grant for a program on Queen Street (mostly South Queen) to use the interest from the Buddy Ritch Endowment Fund.

Mayor Hardy recessed the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

RECESS UNTIL 7:00 REGULAR MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Don Hardy at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Don Hardy delivered the prayer which was followed by the recital of the pledge of allegiance by the attendees.

Councilmembers’ Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Sammy Aiken, Felicia Solomon, Robert Swinson, and Mayor Pro Tem Hardy.

Present Also: Rhonda Barwick, City Manager and James Cauley, City Attorney.

Absent: Chris J. Suggs

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizens must sign in before the start of the meeting if they wish to address the City Council.
Citizens should state their name and address before beginning their comments and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes.
Citizens seeking assistance or asking questions will be contacted by a member of the Governing Body or by appropriate City Staff.

There were no citizen comments.

Adoption of the Agenda

If a Councilmember wishes to revise the agenda, the motion to add or delete an item will be entertained before the adoption of the agenda.

Mayor Hardy requested to move the Fire—Life Safety Education Event presentation to Item #4 under Presentation/Recognition.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], with the addition of Item#4 under Presentation/Recognition the agenda was adopted.

MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting held on September 5, September 19, and October 3, 2023 ----- Debra Thompson

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hardy, and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], the minutes for September 5, September 19, and October 3, 2023, were approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute a Deed to the Former Shirt Factory ----- Marcia Perritt
*(Revision of completion date wording to “July 1, 2025, to allow for a reasonable extension by the City Manager if needed”)**
- 2. Consider Approval of the ASATI Contract to Purchase New Inflatable Air Structure and Heater/Blower/Generator ----- Corey Povar**
- 3. Consider Essential Single-Family Loan Contract Award ----- Elizabeth Blount**
- 4. Consider Approval of Laptop Replacements for KPD Personnel ----- Keith Goyette**

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Solomon, and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], with the revision of the completion date in Item #1 to “July 1, 2025, to allow for a reasonable extension by the City Manager if needed”, the Consent Agenda was approved.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- 1. Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness ----- Mayor Don Hardy**

Mayor Hardy read the proclamation and proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

2. Law Enforcement Officers’ Professional Certificate-----Keith Goyette

Keith Goyette, Police Chief stated that the Criminal Justice Education Training Standards Commission meets twice a year and during the meeting reviews applications of officers who have applied. Two awards are given—Intermediate and Advanced. He said that it is based on years of experience, training hours, and education. Chief Goyette shared that he is pleased with the officers and noted they try to foster leadership in the organization. He presented the certificates to and recognized the following officers:

- Officer Robert Mewborn – Intermediate – 2016 (City employee since 2004)
- Det. Josh Williams – Intermediate and Advanced – 2016
- Sgt. Oliver Stewart – Advanced – 2017
- Sgt. John Hewitt - Advanced - - 1996
- Capt. Andrew Willis – Advanced – 2018

Chief Goyette thanked and congratulated the recipients for putting in the hard work, the effort, and their dedication to the leadership culture of the organization.

Mayor Hardy congratulated the recipients and thanked them for the work they put in for the City. Photos were taken of the recipients with Mayor Hardy, Chief Goyette., and the Council members.

3. Police Chief Institute (PCI) Certificate-----Keith Goyette

Chief Goyette asked Major Turner and Capt. Willis to come forward and shared that Capt. Caleb Ard and Capt. Josh Poole are absent tonight. He stated last year he took a course at the Justice Academy called the Police Chief’s Institute. There were four participants in a recent class with three scheduled to attend in January. It is a Police Chief’s school and he wants everyone in the organization to think like the Police Chief; so, if he is not here, everyone will be on the same page and have the same values. The class consists of teaching different aspects of being a Chief; and includes speaking with the media, the Council, ethics, training, and leadership. He expressed his excitement about the four gentlemen receiving their certificates.

Mayor Hardy thanked them for their dedicated service to the Police Department and the community. He also thanked Chief Goyette for putting individuals through the course. Photos were taken of the recipients with Mayor Hardy, Chief Goyette, and the Council member.

**4. Fire - Life Safety Educations Event -----Damien Locklear, Fire Chief
(THIS ITEM WAS MOVED FROM THE MANAGER’S REPORT)**

Damien Locklear, Fire Chief stated that everybody relates that October is recognized as prevention month, and one specific week is recognized. This past week was one of the most important weeks for them throughout the year. That is the opportunity to reach out to the younger generation (Pre-K through 1st Grade). He shared that they are big on putting a number to things they do in the emergency services world (PD, Fire, EMS), and what we cannot put a number to is the minds that are influenced early. The hope is that each child that they impress themselves on, as far as safety is to change the mindset or behavior that may eventually lead to injury or death. Chief Locklear introduced Capt. Nimmo who has replaced Capt. Barss in this role.

Capt. Stevens Nimmo introduced himself and said he was in charge of Prevention and Public Education. He gave an overview of fire prevention and shared what was done this past week. He explained that the objectives tonight are to learn why October is Fire Prevention Month, an overview of what was done for Fire Prevention Week and the activities, what was taught during Fire Prevention Week and to share some fire prevention safety tips. There were 14 different schools that visited during Fire Prevention Week (October 8-14, 2023) that were Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade students. There was a total of 1,214 students, and 174 parents and teachers. The teachers received a bag of fire prevention posters (English and Spanish), coloring books, and a fire helmet. The students are invited to come and participate in learning Fire Safety through ten various learning stations set up with fun learning themes of Fire Prevention. Others who participate are Lenoir County EMS and NC Forestry Service. Capt. Nimmo stated they attend schools within the city limits during Fire Prevention Month to perform different educational skits. Capt. Nimmo shared several fire safety tips to follow. He noted that Kinston Fire and Rescue remains committed to providing fire safety and education throughout the year.

Mayor Hardy thanked Capt. Nimmo for coming down and shared that he enjoyed being a part of the activities. He asked everyone to stop by the schools and listen to the firefighters educate on fire prevention and safety. Mayor Hardy stated that hopefully, with their hard work, we will achieve a Class I rating as it helps with reducing the cost of insurance.

Photos were taken with Chief Locklear, Capt. Nimmo, other firefighters in attendance, Mayor Hardy, and the Council members.

ACTION AGENDA

**1. Consider Special Event Permit for East Kinston Visioning & Neighborhood Block Party
Keith Goyette**

Keith Goyette, Police Chief presented the Special Event Permit for East Kinston Visioning & Neighborhood block party hosted by Kinston Teens on October 18th from 5-7 p.m. The event consists of kids and family fun activities including food, games, music, and discussions of the needs and desires of the East Kinston community. Councilmember Aiken asked about security and Chief Goyette stated there would not be any.

Councilmember Aiken made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson, and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], the East Kinston Visioning & Neighborhood Block Party was approved.

2. Consider Special Event Permit for Fall Festival at Kinston First PH Church -----Keith Goyette

Keith Goyette, Police Chief presented the Special Event Permit for the annual celebration that will be held on October 28th between 4 and 9 pm. There will be a trunk-or-treat, family activities, inflatables, and food.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson, and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], the Fall Festival at Kinston First PH Church was approved.

3. Consider Special Event Permit for the 31st Annual Ride for the Kennedy Children’s Home Keith Goyette

Keith Goyette, Police Chief presented the Special Event Permit for the annual motorcycle ride for Kennedy Children’s Home. They will leave a church in New Bern, and travel through Kinston to get to Kennedy Home Road. No roads will be blocked, but intersections will be blocked with police vehicles. They will be giving away toys to the children.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hardy, and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], the 31st Annual Ride for the Kennedy Children’s Home was approved.

REAPPOINTMENTS

Reappointments to the Tourism Development Authority -----Mayor Don Hardy

- 1. Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Hardy, City Council
- 2. Joe Hargitt, Owner – King’s Restaurant
- 3. Stephen Hill, Hotelier

Mayor Hardy shared the three applicants for reappointment.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Solomon, and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], the reappointments to the Tourism Development Authority for Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Hardy, Joe Hargitt, and Stephen Hill were approved.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

1. Fire – Life Safety Education Events -----Damien Locklear, Fire Chief

(THIS ITEM WAS MOVED TO PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS)

**2. Preparations for Downtown Christmas Events-----Leon Steele, DK Executive Director
(THIS ITEM WAS PRESENTED OUT OF ORDER IN THE WORK SESSION AS #5)**

**3. Requested List of Recent Achievements
(THIS ITEM WAS PRESENTED OUT OF ORDER IN THE WORK SESSION AS #6)**

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

There was no City Attorney’s report.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy recognized Ms. Cantu and invited her to the podium.

Ms. Cantu shared that on this past Saturday morning, the Viet Nam Veterans in Lenoir County along with the North Carolina State Council presented an aging veteran seminar. The seminar helps our veterans prepare for the end of life. Someone spoke on elder care and what they need, an attorney spoke on the legal needs to have in place, and someone spoke on Agent Orange. Ms. Cantu extended an invitation to the Council to join them for the Veteran’s weekend celebration. They will start on November 3rd at 7 p.m. at the American Legion with a band from Greene County for a veteran concert and there will be no charge. They will end on November 11th at 7 p.m. at Kinston High Performing Arts Center with the annual tribute show that is also free to the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy announced that on November 4th at 10:30 a.m. at the Veteran’s Memorial by the Neuse, they will lay a brick for Larry Burney, who was a community member. He reminded everyone that early voting will start on Thursday morning. The locations are at the library and at the Teacher’s Memorial Gym. He thanked the City Manager for her report and noted that it is important that the public knows that the Council is working as a team to make sure that the community is taken care of in all areas.

Mayor Hardy announced that there will be some Halloween Trunk or Treats. He encouraged everyone to stop by Southeast Elementary School on October 26th from 5-7 p.m., and Neuseway Nature Center on October 20th from 6-8 p.m. Mayor Hardy asked everyone to come out and have fun but be safe.

Corey Povar shared that there will be a Parktober Fest on the 20th from 6-8 p.m., which includes a Trunk or Treat. There will be a city truck set up by Ms. Elizabeth Blount and several other contributors throughout the community. The Charlie Brown movie will also be shown at the Nature Center.

Mayor Hardy thanked the Department Heads for what they do and encouraged the community to come to the Council Meetings. He reminded everyone that everyone can call 939-3282 with their concerns regarding things they see that need repairing. Mr. Aiken reminded everyone that the number is on the trash can.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Solomon made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken, and upon a unanimous vote of [4-0], the Kinston City Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by.

Debra Thompson, City Clerk