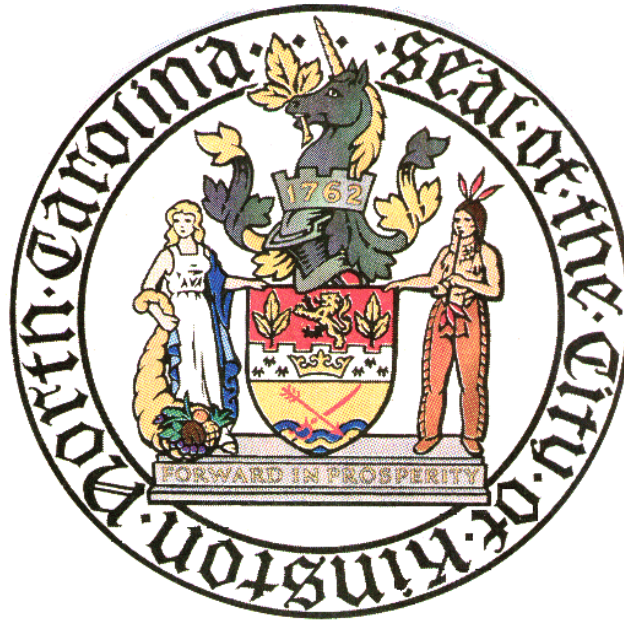


# Kinston City Council



## MINUTES

January 5, 2021

**Minutes**  
Kinston City Council  
City Hall · 207 East King Street  
Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 5:30 pm

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Don Hardy called the City Council meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Mayor Don Hardy led the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Councilmember Roll Call**

Those present: Councilmembers Robert Swinson, Sammy Aiken, Kristal Suggs, Antonio Hardy, Mayor Pro Tem Felicia Solomon and Mayor Don Hardy

Also present: Tony Sears, City Manager, and James Cauley, City Attorney

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Mayor Hardy requested the amendment of City Code Section 2-31 to be added to the action agenda.

Councilmember Aiken made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Solomon and upon a roll call vote (Councilmembers Swinson, Aiken, Hardy, Suggs and Mayor Pro Tem Solomon-Yes) [5-0] with the addition of the Ordinance amendment the agenda was approved.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**  
Citizens seeking assistance or asking questions will be contacted by a member of the Governing Body or by appropriate City Staff.  
There are no in-person comments permitted.  
Please visit [www.ci.kinston.nc.us/alertcenter.aspx](http://www.ci.kinston.nc.us/alertcenter.aspx) to complete and submit a Citizen Comment Form.

There were no citizens who wished to address the City Council.

**MINUTES**

**Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council meetings held Monday, December 7, 2020 and Monday, December 14, 2020-----Debra Thompson**

Councilmember Aiken made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson and upon a roll call vote (Councilmembers Swinson, Aiken, Hardy, Suggs and Mayor Pro Tem Solomon-Yes) [5-0] the minutes were approved.

ACTION AGENDA

**1. Consider approval of the purchase of a vehicle for the Fire and Rescue Department for the amount of \$32,616-----Damien Locklear**

Damien Locklear, Fire Chief, explained the need for a new apparatus. Chief Locklear discussed the possibility and cost of fixing Unit 609. He stated the projected repair would exceed \$8,000. Chief Locklear also noted that this vehicle's price at the time of purchase was \$28,660.09, and the current maintenance cost associated to date is \$11,833.51. He stated the unit is utilized for daily fire inspections and emergency response. During flooding, tropical storm, or hurricane events, Unit 609 serves as an additional Battalion or paired with a rescue boat team, depending on its severity. Chief Locklear explained Unit 681 had been reassigned to fill the void of Unit 609 to remain efficient with daily operations. He stated he is currently using his personal vehicle for responses intermittently during and after business hours as needed. Deacon Jones Ford quoted \$32,616 for the new vehicle.

Donna Goodson, Finance Director, explained how the City would cover the cost of the new vehicle. She advised the City has a rolling stock loan through SunTrust from last year for approximately \$3.5 million. The loan is only for purchasing vehicles, and all budgeted vehicles have been purchased. Mrs. Goodson stated there was \$60,000 of unspent money that would be used to buy the vehicle for the Fire and Rescue Department.

Mayor Hardy questioned if the City could purchase another vehicle for the Police Department. Tony Sears, City Manager, advised it was possible at the discretion of the Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon asked Mrs. Goodson if payments were currently being made on that loan. Mrs. Goodson advised that the payments are made annually based on the full amount of the loan.

The Council advised the Police Chief to provide financial information for a new police vehicle at the next meeting.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Solomon and upon a roll call vote (Councilmembers Swinson, Aiken, Hardy, Suggs and Mayor Pro Tem Solomon-Yes) [5-0] the request to purchase the vehicle was approved.

**2. Consider adoption of the amendment of section 2-1 of The Code of The City of Kinston-----James Cauley**

James Cauley, City Attorney, explained the existing Ordinance specifically states meetings will be held the first and third Monday of each month.

Since the Council now meets on Tuesday, the amendment is needed and includes a more general language without the week’s specific day. Mr. Cauley stated when the Council adopts their annual meeting dates, that would set forth the dates.

Councilmember Suggs made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Solomon and upon a roll call vote (Councilmembers Swinson, Aiken, Hardy, Suggs and Mayor Pro Tem Solomon-Yes) [5-0] the following Ordinance was adopted:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-31 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF KINSTON**

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINSTON AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** SECTION 2-31 OF THE CITY CODE is amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-31. - Regular meetings.**

The city council shall hold its regular meetings twice monthly at such day and time as it may designate. Such meetings shall be held in the council chambers in the city hall unless noticed otherwise.

**SECTION 2.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION 3.** If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

**SECTION 4.** This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**INFORMATION AND UPDATES**

**1. Fire and Rescue Intern-----Damien Locklear**

Damien Locklear, Fire Chief, stated Glenn Dawson represents the first intern for the City of Kinston Department of Fire & Rescue. He started on November 30, 2020. Mr. Dawson is 17 and attends Kinston High School. This internship program's focus will be to introduce Mr. Dawson to the fire service through training, certification classes, and emergency responses, along with exposure to each level of the organization. Chief Locklear added that this experience would be beneficial to Mr. Dawson and Kinston FD. He will advocate for the department as he shares his experience with his school peers and our residents. The internship in itself is a means of recruitment as Mr. Dawson shares his understanding of the available opportunities through local government right here in Kinston.

**2. Mural Project Update-----Marcia Perritt**

Marcia Perritt, Planner, gave an update on the NEA Our Town Program. Mrs. Perritt explained the program integrates arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities

by advancing local economic, physical, and social outcomes. The goals adopted by the Committee are to use creative place making efforts as a way to promote dialogue around social justice issues and community concerns and to bring together our diverse citizenry through community-based, grassroots collaboration. To reveal the vibrancy of Kinston through the cultural experiences that promote the history, arts, sports, and regional authenticity that make this city special. To revitalize downtown as a cultural and shopping experience for both residents and tourists. To provide economic opportunities for local and regional artists, establishing Kinston as a place for creative people to live, work, and sell their wares. To inspire, motivate, and instill pride in Kinstonians by creating an accessible outdoor gallery of beautiful and thought-provoking public art that reflects the unique character of our community. Sarah Arney, Community Development Planner, shared that the murals completed are located at 110 W. Blount Street- J's Place completed by artist Maxx Moses, 212 W North Street- Mad Hatter completed by Broderick Flanigan, 324 N Queen Street- Kinston Community Health Center completed by Jared Bader, 228 S Queen Street- Hairy's Barber completed by Timothy Robert Smith and 101 N Queen Street completed by Jamil Burton and Maximillian Mozingo. The murals still to come will be located at 411 S Queen Street and will be completed by Seraphim Smith and 524 S Queen Street to be completed by Choci Gray.

### **3. Downtown Historic District Expansion Update-----Marcia Perritt**

Marcia Perritt, Planner, went over the expansion project. Mrs. Perritt stated the Planning Department staff has been working with a historic preservation consultant to expand the Downtown Historic District. The expansion increase will include approximately 50 additional parcels. The final step is the review by the National Park Service on February 11, 2021. The public hearing will be held during the Historic District Commission Meeting on January 13, 2021, at 5:30 pm. She added this was a challenging process involving several years of strategy, research, and negotiation. This project is different from a local district as no restrictions or limitations, only opportunity for building owners if they choose to seize it. Mrs. Perritt explained why this matters for the City of Kinston's Community and Economic Development. The Expanded district means more downtown buildings will be eligible for historic tax credits. The program is intended to make fixing up older buildings (historical and cultural assets) economically viable as historic rehab is more costly than new construction. Buildings are eligible for tax credits if they are contributing to the district or if they are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She added that receipt of tax credits is not automatic. Owners must qualify (be income-producing), seek approval through a 3-part application process, and abide by historical standards. Approval by NC State Historic Preservation Office (NC SHPO) for state tax credits and the National Park Service for federal tax credits. Mrs. Perritt stated the next steps are the public hearing and that comments could be submitted online if the citizen did not want to join the Zoom meeting. Then the National Park Service review in February. She added that more information on the state tax credit program could be found by searching NC SHPO or visiting <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-state-historic-preservation-office>.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

**1. Consider authorizing the recruitment of vacant positions within the Public Services Department-----Rhonda Barwick**

Rhonda Barwick, Public Services Director, stated the following positions are needed to respond to customer request and keep our systems in compliance: Maintenance Worker III in the Streets Department, Crew Supervisor II in the Water Department, Electric Line Crew Leader, and Maintenance Worker I/II and Maintenance Worker III in the Storm water Department.

Councilmember Aiken made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson and upon a roll call vote (Councilmembers Swinson, Aiken, Hardy, Suggs and Mayor Pro Tem Solomon-Yes) [5-0] the Council authorized the recruitment of the vacant positions.

**2. Consider authorizing the recruitment of vacant positions within the Parks and Recreation Department-----Corey Povar**

Corey Povar, Parks and Recreation Director, asked for authorization to hire a Maintenance Worker I (Parks) and a Crew Supervisor II (County).

Councilmember Suggs made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Hardy and upon a roll call vote (Councilmembers Swinson, Aiken, Hardy, Suggs and Mayor Pro Tem Solomon-Yes) [5-0] the Council authorized the recruitment of the vacant positions.

**CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

The City Attorney had no report.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

The Council expressed their sympathy over the many recent deaths of former employees and community members. The Council reminded the public to stay safe and practice the 3 W’s.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Councilmember Aiken made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Hardy and upon a roll call vote (Councilmembers Swinson, Aiken, Hardy, Suggs and Mayor Pro Tem Solomon-Yes) [5-0] the Council entered into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6); Personnel at 7:18 pm.

After no further discussion, Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Hardy and upon a roll call vote (Councilmembers Swinson, Aiken, Hardy, Suggs and Mayor Pro Tem Solomon-Yes) [5-0] the City Council returned to open session at 7:45 pm.

RECESS
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Mayor Hardy at 7:46 pm recessed the meeting until Monday, January 11, 2021 at 2 pm.