

# Kinston City Council



## MINUTES June 6, 2023

**Minutes**  
Kinston City Council  
City Hall · 207 East King Street  
Tuesday, June 6, 2023  
Regular Meeting at 5:30 pm

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**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Don Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Chaplain Carl Cox delivered the prayer which was followed by the recital of the pledge of allegiance by all attendees.

**Council Members' Roll Call**

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

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

**Late:** Councilmember Suggs arrived at 6:01 pm.

**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 up 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

1. **Rick Vernon, 415 Aaron Johnson Lane** stated he is Co-Chairman of The GATE and discussed the proposed lease agreement with the City. Mr. Vernon's request from The GATE was to keep the usage agreement as it currently is except for their agreement to take on the janitorial expenses.
2. **Dr. Malcolm Beech, 242 South Queen Street** discussed the history of Juneteenth. He gave the dates of historic events as in 1619 in Virginia slavery started, in 1861(Civil War), and in 1862 President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1<sup>st</sup> to free the slaves. This allowed African Americans to fight with the Union Forces. He shared that before 1863 the South was winning and after 1963 the North started to win more battles and eventually won the war. This is one of the most important aspects of African American history. Recognizing the 200,000 African American soldiers is important because the slaves freed themselves. Dr. Beech shared that June 19<sup>th</sup> celebrates the end of slavery. Dr. Beech announced that on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> the African American Museum is sponsoring a Juneteenth Father's Day Festival and invited everyone to come out to the African American Music Park. There will be fun, storytelling as 39 Colored Troops were from Kinston/Lenoir County and over 6,000 were from North Carolina.
3. **Hinda Moore, 507 E. Bright Street** discussed the accumulation of trash at almost all the stop signs and the poor conditions of the streets. She stated that it was her understanding that Bright

Street was to be paved once the Simon Bright Apartments were torn down. Her concern was that there were potholes in the street with cones in them that had not been repaired. She also shared that the roundabout was unsafe.

Mayor Hardy shared that paving was part of the annual budget, and asked Ms. Moore to please call 252-939-3282 when she comes across a hole that needs repair.

### **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.*

**Hardy requested the addition of a Special Event Permit for the Juneteenth Father's Day Festival at the African American Music Park on South Queen Street from 3 to 7 pm.**

**Councilmember Solomon made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken, and upon a unanimous vote [4-0], the agenda was adopted with the addition of the Special Event Permit for the Juneteenth Father's Day Festival.**

## **MINUTES**

**Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council meetings held on May 16, 2023 Debra Thompson**

**Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hardy, and upon a unanimous vote [4-0], the Minutes for May 16, 2023, were approved.**

## **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

### **1. Presentation of AED Donation from The GATE to the City of Kinston ----- Corey Povar**

Corey Povar, Parks and Recreation Director stated that the Parks and Rec Department has several facilities throughout the city and county and The GATE expressed an interest in making this donation.

Sue Ellen Maddox shared information about witnessing a cardiac arrest event last summer at one of the facilities and there were no AED devices on site. At this time, she asked if there were any AEDs available at any of the recreation facilities and was told there were not, except at Kinston Community Center. Ms. Maddox said she realized that The GATE had received a grant from the NC Department of Health and Human Services and in July of 2022 after receiving guidance from EMS and other local sources of AED users, The GATE Board of Directors unanimously agreed to fund the purchase of the defibrillators for the Parks and Recreation facilities. The units were ordered in January 2023 at a cost of just shy of \$25,000. This includes mounting cabinets, adult and pediatric electrode pads, and medical directions. The fully automatic AED units were presented to Corey Povar. On June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 am The GATE Board of Directors will host AED training at The GATE for all recreation department staff, The GATE staff, and the Board of Directors, along with any City and County officials who wish to attend. Breakfast will be provided.

Councilmember Aiken asked for the definition of AED and Mr. Povar stated it is an automated electronic defibrillator that assists when the heart stops.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy thanked Ms. Maddux and The GATE for making this contribution. He shared that he was present when the incident occurred at the game and it was a scary situation.

Photos were taken.

Councilmember Swinson stated that since Holloway Pool’s dedication, he has received calls about the poolhouse and bathroom conditions and asked Mr. Povar to explain that they have not been forgotten. Mr. Povar said the grant received was a CDBG grant allocated for the pool. Last year a roof was installed on the poolhouse (\$40,000), and the goal is that within the current budget to be presented today, the hopes are to include major bathroom renovations this fiscal year. The goal is to start when the pool season ends. Councilmember Solomon shared that Ms. Lisha Grady has stated she is prepared to paint the poolhouse free of charge. Mr. Swinson asked if it will be cleaned before anyone is let in and Mr. Povar responded of course.

Councilmember Aiken asked if the staff should be trained in CPR along with the lifeguards. Mr. Povar said they are working with Blake Burkett, the City Nurse to tour each of the facilities to make sure all full-time and part-time employees are CPR, First Aid, and AED certified. Tomorrow is an introduction for the full-time staff so that they will feel comfortable and they along with the part-time staff will be certified.

**NOTE: Councilmember Suggs joined the meeting at 6:01 pm.**

**2. Recognition of AKA Cotillion Queen -----Mayor Hardy  
(THIS ITEM WAS ADDED TO THE AGENDA)**

Miss Keiajah Lovick thanked the Council for recognizing her as the Cotillion Queen.

Photos were taken.

**2. Proclamation – Small Cities Month -----Mayor Don Hardy**

Mayor Hardy read the proclamation and proclaimed June 2023 as Small City Month in the City of Kinston.

**3. Proclamation – Global Garbage Man Day -----Mayor Don Hardy**

**Mayor Hardy noted that he would change the title of the Proclamation to Global Environmental Services Day.**

Mayor Hardy read the proclamation and proclaimed June 17, 2023, as Global Environmental Services Day in the City of Kinston.

Steve Miller, Public Services Director congratulated the staff from Environmental Services. He shared that the reason we got into Environmental Services was for public health. Mr. Miller

stated the department when fully staffed consists of 24 people. They have the greatest fellowship, and respect for each other and work as a team to accomplish the things we do.

Terrell Lovick, Environmental Superintendent thanked the Council for their recognition and shared that he has been with the City for 24 years. He will share this with them tomorrow morning.

Photos were taken.

**4. Proclamation - - Juneteenth 2023-----Mayor Don Hardy**

Mayor Hardy read the proclamation and proclaimed June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth Day in the City of Kinston.

**ACTION AGENDA**

**1. Consider FY 23-24 Manager’s Recommended Budget and Hold Public Hearing -----  
Rhonda Barwick**

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager gave a summary of what the Council has accomplished in this Fiscal Year. The summary included filling interim positions and setting strategic goals. Mentioned was the development of the Task Force., the Chief implementing C.L.E.A.R., reactivation of DMC, held a gang symposium, and in the new budget, a Victim Service Specialist will be discussed. Code Enforcement has been streamlined and we have had multiple cleanups with Downton Kinston, Wells Fargo, Public Services, and others. The Planner is working to put teeth in the Weed Abatement with a hire there and also addressing demolition as in the past. We have had the Urgent Repair and the Essential Single Family programs to make our housing safe. In next year’s budget, there is a request for a Rehab Specialist to further those goals. Regarding building community relationships, the Council is sharing updates with the groups, inviting community organizations to the Council meetings for updates, have created a Legislative Wish List, and has held meetings with the leaders from the County Commissioners and County Manager’s Office to share the topics they have going on. Through that, we have been able to combine the Inspections Department and Animal Control will start on July 1st. Ms. Barwick said the Utility Department invested in utility infrastructure, evaluated the Oliver Glass lift station to increase capacity for the Industrial Park, continue the replacement of electric circuits, the Lawrence Heights water and sewer replacement project has begun, secured engineering funding for the Adkin Branch Flood Mitigation Project (a \$16.6 mil project). She shared that Kinston Police has created a Task Force working with multiple agencies including the Sheriff’s Office. The Fire Department has initiated a new in-house training program and completed the training facility. We have shared with the Community through Wake Up Lenoir, and the newsletters from the City and DK. All of that was done this year and hope to have a significant amount going back to Fund Balance this year. Ms. Barwick stated there was no tax or utility increase this year. This means to the public that not only are we getting things done, but we are living within our means.

Ms. Barwick gave an introduction to the FY 23-24 Budget by noting that it was for all funds (20) managed within the budget. The total is \$117,888,927. The General Fund is \$28,681,801 and includes Police, Fire, Recreation, and Planning. The recommended budget continues the funding of the salary adjustments approved by the Council in April 2022 to address recruitment and employee retention. To keep the ability to recruit employees competitive we must continue to address salary issues and provide cost of living increases on a more regular basis. The recommended budget contains a 2.5% cost of living adjustment for all full-time employees effective July 1, 2023. The budget includes additional positions in MIS (1), Planning (2), and Police (1). In Police, the position is a Victim Service Specialist to improve law enforcement's awareness of mental health needs in the community. The recent Interlocal Agreements with Lenoir County for Building Inspections and Animal Control are in the budget. Working toward the goal of improving housing stock, two Building Inspections positions are being reclassified to provide needed support in the Planning Department. As we pursue more housing deterioration programs and address deteriorating commercial property of which DK will assist in developing ordinances with the Planning Department. The Planning Department positions will be Planning Administrative Clerk and Housing Rehab Specialist. The proposed budget continues our Return on Investment to the General Fund for \$2.3 million from the Electric Fund. This requirement meets the Local Government transfer requirements and in addition, the Electric Fund will continue to set aside funds for rate stabilization and Electric Capital Reserve to fund their Capital Improvement Projects that are approved by the Council. The Water, Sewer, and Storm Water are set the same and are funded according to the time and the Capital Improvement Plan. Next year the City will incur a cost to provide group insurance and retirement benefits to the employees; both have increased but will be absorbed 100% for the active employees with an increase in the employer's share. Ms. Barwick said the proposed budget addresses the need for continued funding of the help self-insured fund.

Ms. Barwick shared key points of the budget as road resurfacing and it is funded at \$250,000 with \$200,000 for resurfacing and \$50,000 to finish the Hardee Road Project. The is \$45,000 to pave the new section of Westview Cemetery that we are selling out of. The Kinston Community Center's budget includes the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 15 payments of \$10,000 each to reimburse the Electric Fund for the Slide Rehabilitation Project and the Water Fund will make the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of 10 to reimburse the Electric Fund for its share of the Smart Grid Project. The budget continues the funding of a temporary part-time position in the City Clerk's office, The Queen Street annual maintenance contract will be extended (there is a project for that) and the funds are there to continue that for this fiscal year. In the next year, specific funds must be set aside for that. The budget allows for the financing of \$40,900 in the General Funds and includes some rolling stock and in particular the lease of 70 laptops for the Police Department. There is a detailed list of all Capital Outlay projects in the budget. There is \$50,000 for demolition and \$414,226 for the City's share of the new radio software (purchased by Lenoir County) for Kinston Police communication to have 911 access. It includes \$95,475 for safety equipment of 10 sets of turnout gear and replacing a vehicle extrication equipment for the Fire and Rescue

Department. Ms. Barwick reminded the audience that a printed copy of the recommended budget is on file in the City Clerk's office, the Neuse Regional Library, and also online at the City's website. The Public Hearing is scheduled and she asked to start with the department summaries. When we reach 7:00 pm we need to stop for the Public Hearing and pick up afterward where we left off.

Mayor Hardy asked if we have all customers on Smart Grid. Ms. Barwick stated all the water and electric meters are connected. She stated she thought the Mayor was referring to the online portal for customers to access their information and asked Mr. Miller to speak on that. Mr. Miller explained that the portal is ready, but they are confirming that the data shown on the customer side is accurate. The rate structures are entered and make sure that they are calculated right. There is an option to estimate a customer's bill based on the usage so far in a given month. He said they need to ensure that it is doing that in all the rate classes and hope to release that sometime this summer.

### **Keith Goyette, Chief of Police**

Chief Goyette shared increases and decreases to their budget. He shared details about the uniform line item, educational supplies, and law enforcement supplies. Chief Goyette discussed that they are hoping to buy two K-9 dogs at \$15,000 each and there is an increase in K-9 Healthcare. There was an increase in training and employee development and shared that the cellphone line has decreased. He has requested 12 bodyworn cameras, four AED packages four cameras for patrol shifts to assist with traffic accidents, and firearm replacements. The radio upgrade so the SWAT Team can communicate with Lenoir County Sheriff's office. He is also requesting 3 SWAT helmets and vests, 6 SWAT rifles, 3 covert surveillance cameras, and a crime scene software package. We have been on a lease option of \$47,000 per year and he is requesting a purchase of \$235,000. Chief Goyette is requesting two full-service police K-9 dogs at \$15,000 each. The cost is for the dog, training, food, room, board, and officer training in Rocky Mount. A request for a new RMS System will allow communication with the Sheriff's office, the 911 center, and the jail, and the annual subscription is \$54,000.

Councilmember Swinson asked how many AEDs they have now. Chief Goyette stated they currently have one in the agency and explained that they will have one per shift with three in the department and one on the road. Mr. Swinson asked what was done with the outdated rifles and laptops. Chief Goyette stated they were either to sell to the company that we are purchasing the laptops from (\$20 each) or we will give them to the City to get funding for the General Fund. When rifles are purchased, a Colt or Glock dealer is contacted and there will be a transfer (credit) toward the purchase. He stated these are out-of-state companies. Mr. Swinson asked if the laptops were cleaned and sold on Gov Deals would we get better than \$20 each? Chief Goyette stated that was what they were going to do but would rely on MIS to determine whether to sell them or part them out.

Councilmember Solomon asked about traffic cams and if the funding comes from DOT for Vernon Avenue. Chief Goyette asked if she was referring to license plate readers or license plate traffic violations cameras (stop sign). Chief Goyette said they do not have that software and at present were not interested in looking at that due to it being operated by a third party.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy asked if the staggered purchasing was adequate and Chief Goyette said he believed it was and shared that they are always looking for grants and are writing one now.

Councilmember Suggs asked about the utility expenses increased significantly. The electric expense went from \$3,000 this current fiscal year to \$8,000 and the stormwater from \$100 to \$900. There was also a service and maintenance contract that went up 100% too, from \$146,000 to \$292,000. Chief Goyette said he assumes that may be an error.

### **Damien Locklear, Chief of Fire and Rescue**

Chief Locklear shared his objectives as community involvement, operational improvement (training), risk reduction, officer development, and community programs, (Remembering When, and Smoke Alarms). Chief Locklear thanked the team for the current project that he is super proud of, the Training Facility. He invited everyone to come out on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 or 9:30 am for the ribbon cutting at the Training Facility. There will be demonstrations from staff, and hopefully, a reporter will be fitted in some gear to get some first-hand video and highlight this project. He shared a photo that showed a home where a lady had to be pulled from the home. The Training Facility prepares the individuals for what was seen in the photo. A Battalion Chief was recently recognized for pulling a woman out of that house. Chief Locklear shared that the sign on the tower reads “Teaching our Learners of Today to be our Leaders of Tomorrow”. He reiterated some of the items Ms. Barwick shared in her presentation. He thanked the Council for allowing them to get to 75-80 % of staff having two sets of turnout gear so that one can be decontaminated properly when returning from a call. He touched on the Fleet Schedule that was brought before the Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy asked if the Training Facility was completed. Chief Locklear said it was to the point that operations can handle all the firefighter skills. There is always room for growth, but the critical things will be pointed out at the ribbon cutting.

Councilmember Aiken asked about the cancerous foam that has been talked about by the lawyers on TV. Chief Locklear said we do not use the foam that they talk about.

Ms. Barwick told Mr. Povar that time may be called due to the Public Hearing being at 7 pm.

### **Corey Povar, Parks and Recreation Director**



Mr. Povar shared that his budget was just over \$6.3 mil for Parks and Recreation in Kinston/Lenoir County. It is important to consider the number of facilities (25) that we are talking about. Mr. Povar stated there are roughly 1,000,000,000 tons of HVAC in Parks and Recreation. He also noted that they are the only shared department with the County. The goal is to provide leisure services to the community. Mr. Povar stated a goal of 23-24 was finishing the Fairfield tennis courts and are currently locked in for the State level adult tennis tournament in September and a bid will be submitted to have that for two more years. The budget does not include an individual line for renovations to the Holloway Poolhouse but the renovations will be done within the allotted amount. They will install new bleachers at Holloway (inside), and increase facility maintenance efforts. The goal for the completion date of Emma Webb Park is October 2024. Groundbreaking will begin in the next couple of weeks and hopes for the pool demolition, grading, and ditch restoration to be done by Labor Day. Mr. Povar discussed the Wood Ducks and that they are looking forward to working with Diamond Baseball Holdings who have expressed interest in wanting to see baseball remain in Kinston in one form or another. Other goals are to increase revenue from sports tournaments and campground usage, continue to grow programs, increase marketing strategies, and build and renovate Holloway field dugouts.

Councilmember Solomon and Mr. Povar discussed the marketing strategies and if the membership at Kinston Community Center was included. Mr. Povar shared that they use bi-fold flyers that are given to all the schools, sign marketing, social media, and the website. He stated the membership was included. Mayor Pro Tem Hardy added that the TDA advertises as well. Ms. Solomon asked if there has been an increase in membership and Mr. Povar said they were at a point where KCC was able to put money aside for future improvements. Mr. Povar's presentation was paused for the Public Hearing.

**Mayor Hardy opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm. With no one to speak in favor of or in opposition to the proposed 2023-2024 Budget, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:05 pm**

Corey Povar resumed his presentation by sharing details of each organization. He discussed combining the sponsored activities organization (gymnastics, track & field, dance) with Programs. The Capital items in the budget are painting at Fairfield and Holloway, window tinting in the Fairfield gym, and painting at Mock Gym. Included also are the bleachers inside Holloway and completing the Fairfield tennis courts. The Parks Department budget has increased due to an increase in prices, and the Fleet finance is to replace one truck, a wing mower, a dish scrubber for each facility, a fertilizer spreader, and a zero-turn mower. In terms of facility improvements, the last shelter roof replacement is the Bill Fay Rotary roof and the concession stand at Barnet. All the park locations will have green metal roofs. This is proposed when rebuilding the octagon shelter at Holloway. Councilmember Solomon asked if the City would be compensated directly by the individual that destroyed the gazebo. Mr. Povar stated that the City has received \$85,000 for damages and HR is working through insurance on more to make sure we have enough to replace it. Chief Goyette stated that would be the District Court

Judge's decision and he was sure the Prosecution would make that request. Mr. Povar discussed the County allocation we will receive for this year of \$831,194. There is a rolling account with the County for capital improvement that rolls over year after year, currently \$54,630.

Mr. Povar said at the Stadium there are two employees and most of the capital requests are ADA improvements which are to rebuild the access ramp, wheelchair-accessible picnic tables, and companion chairs along the right field side of the stadium. There is also \$6,500 to replace the backstop netting and some fence damage at the stadium in the budget. He shared that \$675,00 was allocated from the American Rescue Plan Fund last year to replace the scoreboard. To protect that money, it is to be moved to a separate project budget so the work can be done in the future. At present, they are waiting to meet with the new owners to discuss improvements. Councilmember Swinson asked if had received the list of improvements to be made from MLB. Mr. Povar said we have not and because of the team leaving, and the direction we are headed in, we will likely not have to incur the major expense of renovations to satisfy Major League Baseball. Mr. Swinson asked if we had reached out to Fayetteville and Wilson to see what the requirements were for them to build their stadiums for our knowledge. Mr. Povar shared that the number floating has been \$3-5 million, but after conversations, the number is more along the line of \$30-40 million. He is very excited about things that can go on in that space. Mayor Pro Tem Hardy stated that after talking to others from Fayetteville, and information received regarding Asheville the number is around \$40 million. He stated there is a positive outlook for the stadium.

Mr. Povar shared information about the Kinston Community Center and noted that it was an Enterprise Fund and is not supported by tax dollars as well as the Water Park. Councilmember Aiken inquired about the capacity possibly being increased. Mr. Povar shared that the capacity is around 1,400 and shared that with safety the recommendations are for a reason. Having a third party manage the Water Park takes some of the liability away from the City. He shared that the employees there are Swim Club Management employees. He discussed the Contracted Temporary Labor line of \$35,000 and said it was for swimming instructors and swim team instructors. That total budget is just under \$820,000 for the Kinston Community Center and the Operating Budget for the Lions Water Park is \$595,500. We are in the final two years of Swim Club Management's contract and this upcoming year they will rebid and explore different options with the Council. Mr. Povar shared that we have the longest lazy river in North Carolina.

**Mayor Hardy recessed the meeting at 7:24 pm for 10 minutes.**

**Mayor Hardy called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.**

**Elizabeth Blount, Planning Director**

Ms. Blount shared that the department went from Planning and Inspections to Planning and Development in January due to the Interlocal Agreement with the County. She said she is asking to reclassify the two positions left in inspections although the two individuals went to the County from Permit Tech. to the Planning Admin. Clerk, and from the Building Inspector to the Rehab Specialist. Ms. Blount gave an overview of the duties the two positions will cover. The Abatement Officer will be renamed to Code Enforcement Officer to include zoning enforcement as well. She share a proposed fee schedule that has not been updated since 1992 and pointed out that not all items will be increased. This will assist with covering the cost of the Administrative Assistant and processing the various requests. Councilmember Swinson asked if Ms. Blount said since 1912. She responded that it was the Planning Department fees and not the Inspection fees.

Councilmember Aiken asked about the levels needed for inspections. Ms. Blount said the City does not have to have a Level 3 Inspector, but the Code Enforcement Officer is in the process of getting his Level 1 before the end of the month.

Councilmember Swinson asked about the recent audit. Ms. Blount said the CDBG Grant from three years ago was contracted with a company to be the Project Manager. This was the third year and it was to be closed. A tip was given to the Department of Commerce about an issue with a contractor at Holloway which caused an audit on the grant. The Project Manager did not supply us with all the needed information and we are continuing to seek the information to send to the Department of Commerce. Mr. Swinson if we can go back to recoup funds for the City being that the Project Manager did not oversee the grant thoroughly? James Cauley that we were not in a posture yet to talk about recouping funds. We are in a grant agency audit and there may not be any issues that involve recoupment of funds. Ms. Barwick said we have not been asked to return any funds and the CDBG staff have been great to work with. They are letting us know what they need and Ms. Blount is reaching out to the original consulting group. If that should come, they will seek legal counsel. Mayor Hardy said he felt it was a matter of formality. Ms. Blount said she would keep the Council abreast. Mr. Cauley stated audits are routine.

Councilmember Aiken asked about the reimplementation of Kinston-101. Ms. Blount said in August we will get our NC League Program Fellows and that person will look at the program and revamp it.

Councilmember Swinson asked Ms. Blount to explain the difficulty in getting interns. Ms. Blount said she applied for an internship through ECU's Planning Department and was granted an internship but was unable to fulfill the requirement of the internship. By the time we reached out for another, school was out and no one was available. But we do have two candidates and have asked to make an offer to a young lady from Princeville, NC

Ms. Barwick shared that Mr. Miller would discuss General Fund organizations at this time and would discuss the Enterprise Funds later in the order of presentations.

**Steve Miller, Public Services Director**

Mr. Miller started with the Streets section and said that this section consisted of nine employees with two of those being the Superintendent and the Crew Supervisor III who oversee both the Streets section and Storm Water. Other positions are vacant, and the new candidates do not have experience. There is a training program but it takes some skills to operate some of the equipment such as the pothole truck. He explained that the cones are in the holes that were discussed earlier because they check and fix other problems that caused the hole before the streets are paved on top of the issue. He asked those that see areas without a cone, to please call 939-3282 and it will be addressed. The employees care for 116 miles of streets, along with sidewalk repairs, maintenance for trees in the street right-of-ways, mowing, and snow and ice removal. Mr. Miller discussed street resurfacing and shared the journey with Hardee Road. He is asking to replace a dump truck that is 15 years old. One will be transferred to the treatment plant and not go totally out of service. Also, he would like two Surface Pros for the employees in the field. These will allow the crews to access the GIS map which carries all the system information for all the utilities. And this will be the first step toward mobile dispatching. The total budget request is less than what is in the adopted budget.

Councilmember Aiken talked about him previously saying Bright Street could possibly be added to the road list after the demolition around Bright Street was completed. He asked Mr. Miller to explain the way that the streets were chosen for resurfacing. Mr. Miller shared that staff conducts a survey every five years of all city streets, they are rated based on what the conditions are, and the ratings are put together to determine which streets rate the worse. They are presently doing the evaluations; the last was done in 2017 and the new rating should be out by July or early August to use in the new fiscal year to set the next list of streets. Mr. Aiken clarified that several streets (J.P.Harrison Blvd., Queen St.) have been paved and they belong to the NC DOT. He shared that other things are addressed and asked when the State decides to pave Vernon Ave. how much underground work we have to do. Mr. Miller said the stormwater belongs to DOT and does not know what they are going to do about that. We have sewer work planned from the appropriated \$2 million from the ARPA Fund to go toward that project. It has been out for bids that are due today and unfortunately, there were only two bids and they could not be opened. This will be readvertised to be due in two weeks. Once we have the award, the work will take about nine months. This will be furnished next spring and then DOT will begin resurfacing.

Councilmember Solomon started a discussion about janitorial services. She stated that the services being provided were not aligned with what is being charged. Ms. Solomon asked Mr. Miller to return to Council with a more in-depth conversation about janitorial services (contract

amount, bid process, facilities covered). Mr. Miller shared that The GATE services are within a larger contract with other facilities. This goes out for bids every 3-5 years.

Mr. Miller discussed engineering and noted that part of what they do is the pavement studies, but due to vacancies, he is training individuals on how to do the study from Streets and Engineering. They are advertising for a part-time Inspector and are not finding applicants with the qualifications to provide that service part-time. He has requested to change the part-time to a full-time position in the budget. Inspections look after all the construction projects for utilities, streets, driveway permits, and other things in the right of way. He shared that the City Engineer position has been vacant since 2019, but are not getting applicants that have done city engineering work. The former City Engineer is working part-time for now. We have a new Civil Engineer on staff that is working on getting his license. Additionally, Engineering does a lot of project management, grant administration, and GIS mapping for all the utility systems. The projects currently being worked on are Adkin Branch, Vernon Ave. Lawrence Heights, Oliver Glass Lift Station totaling \$26 million, as well as small projects that staff does. A good portion of that is grant funding. Mr. Miller stated that are working on not having to use consultants. They are used in design work for engineering projects. They are typically three to four times our cost if we had our staff complete the work. He discussed the license fee line for \$38,000 and noted that it was for software licenses and other materials.

Mr. Miller discussed that this is for Building and Grounds and Cemetery staff. There are three staff members responsible for the cemeteries, and when not busy they help with other duties of the groups. The Building and Grounds division has two employees (presently 1 vacancy) and a part-time position. He is requesting to change the part-time position to full-time. In the budget is a request for paving the new section of Westview that we are presently selling lots (1,631). Mr. Miller stated that he would like to start looking at future cemetery needs; are we going to continue to just look at in-ground burials or something different (mausoleums)? There are areas toward the railroad tracks where we can start to do some other things. Southview Cemetery has a large area behind the current cemetery that might be an option for above-ground burials.

Councilmember Solomon thanked Mr. Miller for requesting to have more conversations on this matter. Mayor Hardy shared that he welcomes whatever we can do and thanked Mr. Miller also.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy asked Mr. Miller to thank the staff that cuts the grass in the vacant city-owned lots. Councilmember Aiken asked what the collection rate was for grass that has been cut and the customer is billed but do not pay. Mr. Miller clarified that he was speaking about the city-owned property and that private property cutting is handled by Ms. Blount.

**Debra Thompson, City Clerk**

I gave an overview of the Clerk's Department of the 22-26 agenda packets and minutes completed annually and the process to get them compiled, disseminated, and placed on our website for public access. The annual averages of the ordinances, resolutions, and proclamations were shared. The cemetery sales process was explained and noted that it entailed extensive research and working with the customers and cemetery staff. I related that I had spoken with Mr. Miller earlier in the year about a request to place a columbarium in Westview and that there has been an increase in cremations. I have requested the addition of a full-time position to replace the current part-time position. The Council was asked to consider the inclusion of the full-time position to provide devoted coverage for the cemetery duties of the office for research and data entry. The duties of the clerk were discussed and I am currently working with Municode to update the City's ordinances.

I shared that the City Council budget has not changed, other than each council member now having an allotted amount for their annual Meeting & Travel, and Training and Development lines.

Councilmember Swinson asked for the name of the cemetery software and if we paid for mapping. The software is CimsCloud and mapping was done to use the desktop version that we had. The company ceased support for the desktop version and moved to the cloud. I shared that Westview and Southview were mapped and we are in the process of getting Maplewood and Cedar Grove mapped. Mr. Swinson asked if the system allows us to keep records, and do we have a transfer fee for those persons that wish to sell their spaces? I answered that the software saves the data, and it is backed up nightly. We do not have a transfer fee and Mr. Swinson said that we need to discuss putting one in place. We discussed the average number of burials per year for Westview and Southview cemeteries. Councilmember Solomon asked if this was mirrored in both cemeteries and I answered that it has been more for Westview. Ms. Solomon stated she would love to see a position that focuses on the cemeteries. Mayor Hardy recommended a full-time position be added to the Clerk's office. Mr. Swinson stated he had checked other areas and they do not have an additional person for the cemeteries. He stated that the clerk works at the pleasure of the Council and she is not any one person's personal assistant and the Clerk knew that going into the position Councilmember Suggs shared that the cities of Greenville, Goldsboro, Clayton, New Bern, and the Town of Lenoir have multiple people working on the cemeteries. He said if the need for help is identified in other departments, we need to do the same for the Clerk's office. Mr. Swinson said that there is a superintendent and he can assist with the work. I shared that emails are sent, but he is not in the office and has to do other duties as assigned. Therefore, when the emails are sent, the Building and Grounds Superintendent has to get the information to the Cemeteries Superintendent. Mayor Pro Tem Hardy asked if the part-time person is doing a good job and I explained that she is and gave an example of what she does. Ms. Solomon shared that support has been given to every other department, and we can do the same for this position. She stated this is not about the clerk, this

is about what the City needs. Mr. Suggs said that the problem has been identified, and now we have to do something about it. He recommended a full-time position in the Clerk's office. Mayor Hardy reiterated the need for a full-time position and asked for a consensus. Mr. Suggs asked to direct the City Manager to identify where the funds would come from to add the requested full-time position.

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager asked for clarification that a full-time position be added and the temporary part-time position be discontinued. Mayor Hardy stated that was correct. Donna Goodson asked if that was that they would look at reallocating other expenditures or other revenue options and was told that was correct. Mayor Pro Tem Hardy shared that he has made some recommendations as to where some of the funding can come from.

### **Donna Goodson, Finance Director**

Ms. Goodson discussed the collection, purchasing, and accounting organizations. She shared the mission statement. The collections organization maintains accurate records of billing and collections according to the laws and policies that provide data management. This includes utilizing all resources to ensure maximum collection rates for all fees, charges for services, and delinquent utility payments, including billing for lawn care for those properties that are not owned by the City. In Purchasing they provide assistance and guidance to all City departments for purchasing goods and services while ensuring we comply. They supervise and audit the procurement and fuel card programs, and operate the City's central store which contains the inventory goods and supplies needed for the day-to-day operations of the City. The accounting department oversees and maintains all financial activity to ensure compliance with GAP, GASB, federal and state laws, local ordinances, City policies, and procedures. All transactions are posted to the general ledger, providing all cash management, payroll processing, disbursement processing, fixed asset management, and debt management. They are now utilizing an account called Non-capitalized Equipment to streamline some procedures. They assist departments with grant management, budget preparation and presentation, budget transfers, and monitoring of budgets. Ms. Goodson stated there are four full-time employees and one full-time employee that is shared with accounting in collections and has processed over 78,000 cash transactions this year with over 99% deposit accuracy. With the debt set-off program, they have collected \$877,000. In purchasing three full-time employees maintain \$2.1 million in inventory, and monitor \$1.2 million in P-card purchases per year. Over 3,000 requisitions and purchase orders are processed and also process a little less than 300 manual purchase requests. Accounts Payable has two full-time employees who process \$17.4 million in payments per year and wrote 3,800 disbursement checks and maintain 1,900 vendors. There is one employee that maintains payroll. There was \$16.6 million in gross payroll last year and they processed 12,600 checks and direct deposits, and 587 W-2s. In the accounting processes, there are four full-time employees and one employee shared with collections. They manage and help put together a \$114 million budget, process over 2,400 journal entries, 166 bank reconciliations, manage 20 firms, 54 organizations 62 capital and social projects, and one

award-winning audit with no finding. The cost to provide these services for the Finance Department's total budget is \$479,000; \$266,000 is for salaries and benefits, and \$21300 for operating expenses ( property tax collection fees), Purchasing's total budget is \$229,000 with \$203,000 being salaries and benefits. There are \$26,000 with the largest line item being insurance premiums (\$8,700). Accounting has a \$743,000 budget with \$595,000 in salaries and benefits, and \$138,000 in operating budget with the largest being the annual audit expenses.

#### **Lea Mills, Human Resources Director**

Ms. Mills shared that Human Resources is made up of Risk Management and Employee Health. She stated they are fully staffed as of August 2022. The 2023/2024 budget has had an increase in the insurance line items. The new workers' compensation team has saved money, so that has balanced the budget. Ms. Mills thanked the Council for the Employee Health Nurse who has been a godsend. She is doing the work that had previously been charged per person and was very costly.

#### **Michael Thomas, M.I.S. Director**

Mr. Thomas referenced the conversation regarding the old tablets addressed by Chief Goyette and stated that anything computer related is brought back to M.I.S. to get rid of or reuse the hard drives, and/or reuse some of the equipment. For that is so old and outdated, it is put on Gov Deals to try to get rid of it. With the Police Department, the hard drives are pulled out and destroyed. He stated the 2021 Microsoft Office was installed, the internet speed increased to 1GB, and the management software that allows remote installation was completed. The new Universal Power Supply was installed last week (approved in November). Customer Suite which is an upgrade for the utility software and other software is scheduled, but could not be completed without the UPS. The Police Records Management go-live date is scheduled for 9/23 with two of his staff sitting in on the training. There is \$200,000 worth of equipment in boxes that will be installed hopefully, by 7/23. The city website refresh is forthcoming and is a part of the fees paid annually for the website. He discussed cybersecurity and shared that they will be pushing out MFA (Motion Factor Authentication) to all the devices within the City. The equipment was ordered in January and it came in May. He said that they requested a new position for next year. He shared the number of staff and budgeted amounts for Goldsboro (13/\$2.4 million), and New Bern (10/\$2.2 million), and we have four employees with \$1.3 million. He stated that the current email system's annual cost is about \$14,000 including integration and Gmail is about \$57,000 (\$12 per user) with the integration part (\$6 per user per month) which is another \$28,000 and for the exchange it is about \$60,000.

Councilmember Suggs shared a statement of support for the cybersecurity position. He stated he wanted the City to be up-to-date as well as safe.



**Steve Miller, Public Services Director**

Mr. Miller discussed the facility and property management funds and noted that there are separate funds for City Hall, the Public Services Complex, and miscellaneous properties. They are building maintenance funds only that pay utility bills, make repairs, and make capital improvements when needed. Regarding City Hall, they are working on mainly a combination of ADA and security issues for the front part of the building. The miscellaneous property includes The GATE and depending on the changes to the lease agreement things will be done as they have been previously and/or according to the changes made. The new capital for miscellaneous property (downtown parking lots, mowing areas, landscape for Queen Street, Glen Raven property, and entranceways into the city) is included in this budget. The Public Service Complex has some adjustments on utilities with a net decrease, and equipment repair costs are up. Mr. Miller shared that there is a capital request to replace one of the ice makers. Councilmember Suggs asked about the Queen Street landscaping and said we need to maintain the same level of beautification that was there when the project was complete. He asked if we can identify funds for that. Ms. Barwick said they met with a representative of Charles Hughes on yesterday and covered the maintenance piece of the contract. They will put in some additional flowers and have spoken with Downtown Kinston and Teresa regarding trying to match what we do. Mr. Miller said they have entered an annual contract to do general maintenance of the existing bed. There will be further discussions with the contractor to make sure they are fulfilling everything they are supposed to do, and that includes trimming the vegetation as well as mulch once per year. Mr. Suggs shared that on the 300 block of Queen Street Realo had a company come in to put some mulch down in front of their building. The Chamber of Commerce put pine straw in their flower beds. He stated we do want to keep a clean and consistent look down the street. We are paying for a maintenance contract and need to make sure that we are getting top-quality service.

Mayor Hardy asked if there was a way to enhance the appearance of the entryways and asked if that was our responsibility. Mr. Miller said we work with the contractor for the mowing. Our staff is responsible for trimming limbs back and things of that nature. Councilmember Solomon asked to see at the next meeting, the terms of the contract with Charles Hughes for maintenance.

Councilmember Aiken asked about the discussed design when coming off Highway 70 into Kinston. Mr. Miller stated that he did not believe DOT has that funded anymore.

Mr. Miller shared that in the Public Services Fund, one of the organizations was Administration with no position changes. The Assistant Director, the City Engineer, and the Electric Systems Manager are vacant. They are trying to create a career development for this group and hope to have something in place soon. In the budget for this group in the capital line, they are looking to purchase a portable message board that will be primarily used for construction zones. The Business Office consists of Customer Service (at City Hall and Public Services Complex), Dispatch, and Communications. There is no change in staff and with the BANNER Utility

upgrade, they will look at what features comes with that that they can use to increase the efficiency of the operations such as mobile dispatch which is electronic. There has been an increase in credit card use that started during COVID. There is an increase in the cost of sending out bills and they have discussed looking at paperless billing. Meter Services is the third group that reads both electric and water meters. The field devices (meters, antennas, data collectors in the field, and meter troubleshooting) are maintained by the Smart Grid system and positions were reduced from eight to six. The superintendent of this group expects to retire this coming year (toward the end of the fiscal year and we will be looking to fill this position. The budget for meter services does not pay for the meters but for equipment associated with doing the work (metal detectors, rain gear).

Councilmember Aiken started a discussion regarding the electric pole replacement with 5g coming into the area. Mr. Miller stated there are a lot of attachments on the poles but they do not affect the poles themselves. They also discussed that the height of the poles is determined by what is attached to them.

Mr. Miller highlighted the projects being done in the utility funds. In the *Water Fund*, he explained that lead service lines were a big deal and by October 2024 we have to have an inventory of all of our services to determine if we have lead in them or not. There is a grant application turned in to assist with that. The PFAS proposed rules by the EPA are there and are expected to be made final in December or January. He also spoke about the Smart Grid and stated we have two data collectors outside the city that they will work on with Tri-County and Duke and find property owners to get the poles erected. He spoke about the *Sewer Fund* and said there were no big projects in the budget request. There is money set aside in the Capital Reserve that can be used to do the funding applications. They are looking to do work on Heritage Street, Vernon Avenue. The Oliver Glass Lift Station will increase the capacity for the industrial park and areas along old Highway 70 to meet future needs and get more jobs to Kinston. At the treatment plant, they are looking to redo the irrigation fields by converting some of them into a grass facility. He said they are working to get standardized specifications on the website for developers to see when they are looking to come into Kinston. Councilmember Aiken asked if we have made any money off turning the sewage into fertilizer. Mr. Miller stated we have not made money, but we have saved some money. The drier has been very inconsistent in keeping it running. Ms. Barwick explained that it was not just a matter of making money, it saves money. We were in a position of not being able to find a vendor to steadily pick up the solids. The *Electric Fund* has an agreement with Duke to run some of their load across part of our system to do work near the POD behind the power plant. There will be one thing now and another next year and we will make some money off that. Projects are planned around the Hull Road substation to do some transformer work, transmission and distribution lines, and convert the wooden poles to steel poles. They included in the budget a cost-of-service rate study for residential and medium general services to see if the amount customers are paying is proportional to their usage because the demand and energy charges vary by rate class and it changes over time. Mr. Miller also discussed electric vehicles with home

chargers and how that changes energy use across the system. Ms. Barwick clarified that the cost of service rate is done every five to ten years because even though the retail rates may not change, the wholesale rates might have changed. Mr. Miller stated they are also looking at a residential energy efficiency program to help low-income folks make energy improvements. Mayor Pro Tem Hardy stated that a lot of these people are renters and asked if there was anything we could do to get the landlords to upgrade their property's efficiency. Mr. Cauley said that programs have been tried over the years, but he did not think they would be successful at this time. Mr. Miller mentioned the residential management program and that it was the last step to the Smart Grid system. They were buying load switches to place in participating homes. The switches will have partial A/C control as well as two-way communication so they can verify that switches are working and shedding loads when we have load events. This allows them to reduce the loads and reduce the wholesale power cost by reducing the demand. He shared that the substation crew is vacant. The Superintendent and his assistant are trained and have started a program to train their existing staff to start handling those duties. Some of the existing staff will probably transition over and they have one new hire that has been assigned to that area. Mr. Miller shared that NCEMPA has been negotiating with Duke Energy about load management and he has meetings that will give more information by the end of the week. There will be no rate increase for electric rates. Duke has filed to increase their interest rates and has shared temporary rates. Their rates have increased by 4.8% for residential customers which makes us officially 5% lower as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Barwick noted that we have not had a rate increase over 13 years. Ms. Solomon asked if customers could decide to switch from Duke to the City. Ms. Barwick said the Territorial Act of 1965 states that once a company is a customer of an electric utility you are always a customer because they have made investments by extending their lines. In the *Environmental Service Fund*, Mr. Miller shared the hard work that they do and the extra duties (events, cleanup). That saves money by not having to be outsourced. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month, they do other things such as areas that need cleaning up. Going forward they will be encouraging everyone to participate in recycling and separating all other debris (construction, landscape, etc.) for transport to the landfill to reduce our cost. They will be looking at the recycling contract and seek other options for us. The *Stormwater Fund* rates are \$4.50 per customer for residential and commercial and it generates about \$1 million per year. They have about \$800,000 in operating expenses per year and do not leave a lot of extra margins. He said they have received a \$400,000 grant to condition assessments of the stormwater system (TV work inside pipes, smoke testing, visual inspections) to identify the biggest needs and new capital projects to move forward. Mr. Miller discussed the Adkin Branch Project Funding. He said Street Sweeping has two machines with 1.5 employees to operate them. They would like to add another part-time position to be able to run the second machine full-time and increase the amount of coverage we get across the community. They will also continue using the one-man leaf machine to clean the gutters.

Ms. Barwick summarized the asks from the Council to be looked at. They were the Police budget - the 74400 account (Service and Maintenance), and the Electric Utility Account; Buildings and Grounds Janitorial Contract; reworking the numbers for the clerk to have a part-

time position become a full-time position; and the contracts for the entranceways and right-of-ways.

**No vote was taken on the budget ordinance.**

**2. Consider an Ordinance Creating the Historic Grainger Stadium Commission to Serve as an Advisory Board for the Kinston City Council----- Rhonda Barwick**

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager shared a draft ordinance that shares details of the makeup of the commission. She asked the Council if they agreed with the draft to let them know and get any nominees to the Clerk by June 30<sup>th</sup>. She said we will do background checks on those that are nominated. They will be returned to the Council for a vote. Councilmember Swinson suggested making the group number an odd number (7). Councilmember Suggs asked to have the application process completed online as with the other boards and commissions. Mayor Pro Tem Hardy suggested that a member of the TDA be appointed to the commission. Ms. Barwick stated that the Council will determine the terms. Mr. Suggs also suggested that the members have the initial terms staggered so that they do not expire at the same time. He discussed determining what happens when there is a vacancy, and that there be a Chairperson, Vice-Chair, and a Secretary appointed. Councilmember Aiken shared that there should not be people on the board that have a conflict of interest. James Cauley asked for clarification on the number of members and explained that it was written for five with a non-voting ex-officio seat. Mr. Swinson stated that it would be seven members with one of the seven being the appointment from the TDA. Mayor Hardy recapped the suggestions and requests as having a seven-member board with one of the seven being from the TD, staggered terms, and vacancies. A discussion followed on the length of the terms as 3/2.

**Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Suggs, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], subject to the change to seven members with one being a TDA member, the details involving vacancies, the 3/2 staggered year terms, and the appointment of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary the ordinance creating the Historic Grainger Stadium Commission to serve as an advisory board for the Kinston City Council was adopted.**

**3. Consider Awarding Contract and RFP Cost for June 30, 2023, Audit ---- Donna Goodson**

Donna Goodson, Finance Director stated that the last time the audit was put out for bids was early 2016. In 2018 we received notice that Martin Starnes that they no longer wished to perform the annual audit. The contract was approved for Rive & Associates, LLC to audit our accounts for three years. We have additional contracts with them for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 awarded to RH CPAs, PLLC (formerly Rives & Associates, LLP. Requests were sent to 21 qualified audit firms from the list generated by the Local Government Commission and received two responses. Ms. Goodson recommended continuing with RH CPAs for next year and a contract for the two years following that. Councilmember Suggs discussed with Ms. Goodson the number of hours and the difference between the RFPs submitted.

**Councilmember Aiken made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hardy, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], the contract and RFP cost for the June 30, 2023 audit was approved.**

**4. Consider the 2023 Juneteenth Community Celebration -----Keith Goyette**

Keith Goyette, Police Chief presented the special event permit for the Juneteenth celebration. It will be held on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at the African American Music Trail Park sponsored by the Kinston Regional Library. This will be a concert and festival. Springhill Street will be closed during that time.

**6. Consider the Juneteenth Father’s Day Festival -----Keith Goyette  
(THIS ITEM WAS ADDED)**

Keith Goyette, Polic Chief present the special event permit for the Juneteenth Father’s Day Festival to be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm to 7 pm with no road closures. The event is sponsored by

**Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Suggs, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], the special event permits for Juneteenth celebrations on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (items #4 and #6) were approved.**

**5. Consider Fireworks Discharge Permit – 4<sup>th</sup> of July (Kinston Parks and Recreation)  
Damien Locklear**

Damien Locklear, Fire Chief presented a fireworks discharge permit from the Parks and Recreation Department for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. The time is approximately 9:30 pm and will be about a 15-18 minute display. It will be set up at the Nature Center as in the past.

**Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], the special event permit for the firework discharge permit for July 4<sup>th</sup> was approved.**

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

**There was no City Manager’s Report.**

**CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

**There was no City Attorney’s Report.**

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

Councilmember Solomon shared concerns from Baxter Lane and Charlotte Avenue as in many neighborhoods about speeding. Councilmember Swinson stated the same concerns for Carey Road and Brookhaven Drive. Councilmember Suggs shared that he has received complaints about speeding as well. However, the speed limit unless otherwise posted is 35 mph. To anyone who lives in a residential area, 35 is quite fast. He has encouraged neighbors to collect signatures of the residents in the neighborhood, bring it to the Council, and say that they are petitioning the City Council to lower their speed limit.

Mr. Suggs also discussed that for at least a decade neither the City nor County had anyone working directly for them regarding economic development. He feels that in the future, we can look at someone being added with those skill sets to work in our Planning Department. Councilmember Swinson shared that there will be a conversation held with a group on that note, and hopefully, he will have something to share at the next meeting.

Mayor Hardy asked that the record reflect that we are at the five-hour marker for what he believes is the longest meeting this year.

James Cauley, City Attorney shared on a personal note that on May 28, 2023, at 2:26 am he became a grandfather. *Elena Jayne Schulken* weighed 7 lbs. and 3 oz. and she and her mother are doing well. Everyone congratulated Mr. Cauley on his first.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], the Kinston City Council meeting was adjourned at 10:21 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Thompson, City Clerk