

207 West Second Street
Post Office Box 519
Kenly, North Carolina 27542



Telephone: (919) 284-2116
Fax: (919) 284-5229
Website: www.townofkenly.com

**August 12, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
Regular Town Council Meeting
Minutes**

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Herbert Hales II, Mayor
Mark Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Council Member
LaWanda Neal, Council Member
Beverly Knight, Council Member
Garrett Stancil, Council Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Tony Sears, Interim, Town Manager
Tymeeka Williams, Town Clerk
Mike Wilber- Town Attorney Partner

COUNCIL LATE:

Keith Davis, Council Member (arrived at 7:10 pm)

COUNCIL ABSENT:

LaWanda Neal, Council Member

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Call to Order – *Mayor Herbert Hales, II*
- Invocation – *Council Member Keith Davis*
- Pledge of Allegiance – *Mayor Herbert Hales, II*

Mayor Hales called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council Member Stancil offered the Invocation and Mayor Hales led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is an opportunity for citizens to speak on any issue concerning the Town of Kenly. Please note that each citizen is limited to a total of 3 minutes. Please direct all comments/concerns to the entire council rather than individual members. Further, it should be noted that the Town Council reserves the right to not act on items first presented at this meeting.*

**This time may be adjusted based on the number of citizens who wish to speak.*

3. ADJUSTMENT/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- a. Adjustments to the Agenda
- b. Adoption of the Agenda

ACTION: Adoption of Agenda
Motion: Council Member Smith
Second: Council Member Knight
Vote: 3-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

(Items on the consent agenda are considered routine in nature or have been thoroughly discussed at previous meetings. Any member of the Board may request to have an item removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.)

- a. Draft Minutes
 - July 8, 2024 – Regular Session

ACTION: Adoption of Consent Agenda as Presented

Motion: Council Member Smith
Second: Council Member Stancil
Vote: 3-0

5. INTRODUCTIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. Presentation of Conceptual Drawings for Proposed Park
Presenter: James Hoke/Jackie Balance American Legion Representative

ACTION: Informational Only

Mr. Hook presented conceptual plans to the town council for a project aimed at beautifying Kenly's downtown. The proposal includes shrubbery, trees, lighting, sidewalks, benches, a six-foot wall at the back, and representations of all six branches of the military. A water fountain was included in the design, but it could easily be replaced by another gazebo. The American Legion has approximately \$50,000 earmarked for this project and plans to raise additional funds through the sale of memorial bricks at \$100 each and other fundraising efforts.

Mayor Hales expressed interest in seeking additional funding for the construction and emphasized the importance of maximizing the use of available space. He also asked if the town was fully aware of the property boundaries. In response, Manager Sears stated that conducting a survey would be part of the project process. Mayor Hales also noted that the project would take time to complete, would require a clear budget, and encouraged the council to think about the project and brainstorm ideas. Councilmember Stancil raised concerns about maintaining open space for community events such as Christmas displays. Manager Sears reiterated that these plans are still conceptual and part of ongoing discussions.

Mr. Balance added that 548 veterans are buried in Kenly Cemetery, and the memorial bricks would be sold in their honor to support the project.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. RESOLUTION #2024-07 Wilson County Tax Reconciliation of the 2023-2024 FY Tax Settlement for the Town of Kenly.
Presenter: Tony Sears, Interim Town Manager

The Town of Kenly received the tax reconciliation for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year from Wilson County. The Town Council, after reviewing the collections as

submitted, acknowledged and approved the tax reconciliation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. This approval was formalized through a resolution adopted by the Town Council during the regular session on August 12, 2024. A request was made for the Town Clerk to send a copy of the resolution to Wilson County's Tax Administrator, Mr. Crawford B. Bolton, as confirmation of approval.

ACTION: Approval for Wilson Tax Reconciliation

Motion: Council Member Stancil

Second: Council Member Smith

Vote: 4-0

b. Water and Sewer Authority Governance Structure

Presenter: Lee Worsley, Executive Director Central Pines COG

At the **July 8, 2024** Johnston County Water and Sewer Authority (JoCo WASA) meeting, I presented an update on the **Water and Sewer Regionalization Study** to address the county's pressing infrastructure needs. This study group has been working for six months, and now is the time to take action as Johnston County is rapidly growing—36% over the last decade. With the expansion of **I-540** and **I-42**, we expect this growth to accelerate even further, making it critical for us to act on water and sewer infrastructure needs. Smaller jurisdictions, in particular, are struggling to expand and maintain their systems, and the **state and federal government** are pushing for regional solutions, offering grants to support these efforts.

Importance of Collaboration

We have several existing collaborations between towns like **Four Oaks, Selma, Smithfield, and Pine Level**, dating back to 1969, but more can be done. Some communities, such as **Micro and Kenly**, already have interlocal agreements in place, but with our growth, these need to be expanded. Collaborating on a regional level can help us share resources, reduce risks, and secure more robust funding opportunities.

Regionalization and Immediate Opportunities

The study group is considering forming a **self-contained regional authority**. This would combine all local systems under one legal entity, enabling us to leverage a larger customer base for infrastructure investment and take advantage of the **economy of scale**. However, this would reduce local autonomy, with decision-making controlled through negotiated voting rights among member entities. We also discussed other models, such as **inter-governmental cooperation**, which allows municipalities to maintain control while collaborating

on specific services. This is a potential **short-term solution** while we work toward a larger regional body.

Recommendations and Next Steps

Our **3-year goal** is the formation of a **county-wide water and sewer authority**, but in the meantime, I recommend we immediately begin working on **interlocal agreements (ILA)** with towns like Kenly, Micro, Princeton, Pine Level, and Johnston County. These agreements will help address urgent infrastructure needs while laying the foundation for long-term collaboration.

The next steps include reaffirming our commitment to exploring regional collaboration, establishing a **Policy Committee** and **Technical Advisory Committee**, and continuing our stakeholder engagement efforts. The ultimate goal is to create a unified water and sewer system that benefits all of **Johnston County** and positions us for future growth and economic development.

Mayor Hales mentioned that they are phasing out small towns that have their own sewer plants, that the state has made it unfeasible for small businesses, that we need to come together with our neighbors, and that we need to get on the front end of it.

Council Member Knight asked about the town's sewer capacity for Cottonfield. Manager Sears stated that the allotment is still being held and that the capacity is good while the state reviews its permit.

Manager Sears asked what Mr. Worsley needed from the town. He stated that the town needs to stay committed to the process. Mayor Hales stated that we were.

8. OLD BUSINESS NONE

9. TOWN MANAGER / STAFF REPORTS

- a. Town Manager: *Utility Bill Adjustment*
- *Dennis Hales, 410 E. Freemont St- Swimming Pool Adjustment*
 - *Quality Inn Kenly I-95 405 S. Church Street 22 – Swimming Pool Adjustment*

ACTION: Approval of Adjustment(s) as Requested

Motion: Council Member Davis

Second: Council Member Stancil

Vote: 4-0

- This memorandum is to inform the Council of our intention to sell several surplus vehicles. These vehicles are no longer needed for our operations and will be sold on the GovDeals.com.

Vehicles for Sale:

- 1. 1996 F350 Dump Truck**
- 2. 2006 F150 XL Pickup Truck**
- 3. 2008 Chevrolet Impala**

- As the holiday season approaches, it is essential to start planning for our annual Christmas events, including the Christmas parade, Grand Marshal selection, and the Tree Lighting Ceremony. This memo proposes the formation of a Christmas Event Committee to ensure these beloved traditions continue to thrive with community involvement and support. The council suggests Monica Davis of the MIK Committee and Dana Youst, Council Member Knight. Mr. Hoke stated he would get a representative from the Chamber.

b. Town Clerk: None

c. Town Attorney: None

a. Staff

I. Leigh Gotshall

- i. 916 people entered the library and the adult programs brought in 49 people. The family programs brought in 284 people. The library collected \$277.69 for the month of July. In July, the library faced challenges with technology, replacing two desktops and requiring Red Lizard IT Services to reinstall programs. Jan Pender, an NC Community Foundation Officer, visited to help create a flyer for the library endowment fund. The Partnership for Children meeting highlighted declining summer school participation, and the library has also seen lower attendance. Despite these challenges, successes include popular mixed-age workshops and the annual "PAWS for reading" book giveaway, which has grown in participation. Looking ahead, the library director plans to attend a Public Notary workshop in August to expand services for patrons.

II. Dana Youst

- i. Gave an update on the grant at the park, that the walking track had been paved. That volleyball and t-ball registrations were going well and that volleyball was double that of the year before.

III. James Ayers

- i. Mentions that they had focused on speeders and they had seen the number of those ticketed had significantly increased in the last month. MLK Committee had raised \$900 for Back to School Bash and they have been stuffing backpacks to giveaway.

IV. John Pitts

i. Stated that the Tropical Storm Debby didn't cause too much damage. There were the usual areas that flooded. There was sewer overflow that happened near Yukon St and that they did their best to control is and that is had been reported to the state.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Informal Discussion
- b. Council Member Comments

Council Member Knight wanted to know how long that commitment stayed in place once we have obligated sewer capacity for a new project. Manager Sears stated that once the permit was submitted to the state that the capacity was obligated for the length of the permit. She also asked about the towns contact with Micro. Manager Sears stated that the Town of Micro has used all of their available capacity per their agreement.

11. CLOSED SESSION

NONE

12. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Adjourn the Meeting

With there being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52p.m.

ACTION: Motion to Adjourn
Motion: Council Member Stancil
Second: Council Member Davis
Vote: 4-0

Duly adopted this the 9th day of September, 2024 while in regular session.

Herbert L Hales II
Mayor: Town of Kenly