

The Smithfield Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood presided in the temporary absence of Mayor Andy Moore, who arrived at the Council meeting at 7:39 pm.

Councilmen Present:  
Roger Wood, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Marlon Lee, District 1  
Sloan Stevens, District 2  
John Dunn, At-Large  
Travis Scott, District 3  
Dr. David Barbour, District 4

Councilmen Absent  
Councilman Steve Rabil

Administrative Staff Present  
Michael Scott, Town Manager  
Elaine Andrews, Town Clerk  
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director  
Jeremey Daughtry, Fire Chief  
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Director  
Andrew Harris, Finance Director  
Pete Hedrick, Chief of Police  
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director  
Shannan Parrish, HR Director  
Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Also Present  
Robert Spence, Jr., Town Attorney

Administrative Staff Absent

**CALL TO ORDER**  
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**INVOCATION**  
The invocation was given by Councilman David Barbour followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*David Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman John Dunn, to approve the agenda, amended as follows, unanimously approved.*

- *Add to Consent Agenda - Consideration to re-appoint Kaitlyn Tarley as Appearance Commission Chairperson*
- *Add to Consent Agenda - Consideration and request for approval to allow Bulldog Harley Davidson to hold a Rise and Ride event on March 1, 2025.*
- *Move Consent item 2, the Consideration and request for approval to adopt Ordinance No. 524-2025 to amend the closure of Market Street for the Ham and Yam Festival and other events to Business Item 3 for discussion*
- *Add to closed session NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(3)*

**Presentations:**

**1. Recognition of Smithfield Selma High School Students for Competing in the State Swim Championship**

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood brought forth the high school student athletes who were competing for state swim championships. He asked Gary Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director, as well as Coach Aaron Bently to join the group.

Parks and Recreation Director, Gary Johnson gave recognition to the following swimmers stating and acknowledging the following:

Smithfield-Selma High School Swimmers Frankie DiGiovanni, Anya Muminovic (SRAC Employee), Payton Millard and Natalie Irish competed in the NCHSAA 3A State Championships in Cary on Friday, February 7 competing extremely well.

Frankie is the new state champion in the 500 free style and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200 free style.  
Any finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 breast stroke  
Frankie, Anya, Payton and Natlie finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 400 free style relay  
Frankie, Anya, Payton and Natlie finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 200 yd free style relay  
Payton finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the 200 free  
Payton finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the 100 free  
Any finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the 200 individual medley  
SSS finish 4<sup>th</sup> in the overall team result.

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood shook the hands of the athletes, and further acknowledged them by encouraging the crowd to give them a round of applause.

Councilman Sloan Stevens stated his sister was the first member of the Triple S. High School swim team in 2003. She had to go to Campbell University to swim. He stated he also swam in competition for four years, and made regionals; he swam at Health Quest. He acknowledged the hard work of the swimmers who can today swim at the Town's Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Center. Stevens congratulated the swimmers.



**Citizens Comments: None**

*John Dunn made a motion, seconded by Councilman Travis Scott, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, moving Consent Item 2 to Business Item 3 for discussion, unanimously approved.*

**Consent Agenda Items:**

- 1. Consideration and request for approval to promote an officer from the rank of Police Officer II to Master Police Officer**
- ~~2. Consideration and request for approval to adopt Ordinance No. 524-2025 to amend the closure of Market Street for the Ham and Yam Festival and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade~~**
- 3. Consideration and request for approval to adopt Resolution No. 765 (04-2025) adopting a Nondiscrimination Policy**

**Smithfield, North Carolina**  
**Resolution No. 765 (04-2025)**

**Adopting a Nondiscrimination Policy: Pursuant to the ARP/CSLFRF Award**

**Recitals**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Smithfield has received an allocation of funds from the “Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund” or “Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund” (together “CSLFRF funds”), established pursuant to Sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act, as added by Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (the “ARP/CSLFRF award”).

**WHEREAS**, CSLFRF funds are subject to the U.S. Department of Treasury (“Treasury”) regulations, including the Final Rule, the Award Terms and Conditions, and the Title VII implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the ARP/CSLFRF Award Terms and Conditions, and as a condition of receiving CSLFRF funds, the Town of Smithfield agrees to follow all federal statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination in its administration of CSLFRF under the terms and conditions of the ARP/CSLFRF award, including, without limitation, the following:

- i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin within programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
- ii. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability;
- iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance;
- iv. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and
- v. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.

**RESOLVED**, That the governing board of the Town of Smithfield hereby adopts and enacts the following nondiscrimination policy, which shall apply to the operations of any program, activity, or facility that is supported in whole, or in part, by expenditures CSLFRF pursuant to the ARP/CSLFRF award.

**Nondiscrimination Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Town of Smithfield to ensure that no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin (including limited English Proficiency), familial status, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program or activity administered by the Town of Smithfield, including programs or activities that are funded in whole or part, with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“CSLFRF”), which the Town of Smithfield received from the U.S. Department of Treasury (“Treasury”) pursuant to Sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act, as added by Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (herein the “ARP/CSLFRF award”).

**I. Governing Statutory & Regulatory Authorities**

As required by the CSLFRF Award Terms and Conditions, the Town of Smithfield shall ensure that each “activity,” “facility,” or “program”<sup>1</sup> that is funded in whole, or in part, with CSLFRF and administered under the ARP/CSLFRF award, will be facilitated, operated, or conducted in compliance with the following federal statutes and federal regulations prohibiting discrimination. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
- ii. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability;

<sup>1</sup> 22 C.F.R. § 22.3 defines “program” and “activity” as all operations of an entity, including local governments, that receive Federal financial assistance, and the departments, agencies, or special purpose districts of the local governments to which Federal financial assistance is distributed. “Federal financial assistance” includes, among other things, grants and loans of federal funds. “Facility” includes all or any part of structures, equipment, or other real or personal property or interests therein, and the provision of facilities includes the construction, expansion, renovation, remodeling, alteration, or acquisition of facilities.



- iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance;
- iv. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age within programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and
- v. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.

## **II. Discriminatory Practices Prohibited in the Administration of the ARP/CSLFRF Award**

To ensure compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title 31 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 22, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and other pertinent nondiscrimination authorities, the Town of Smithfield shall prohibit, at a minimum, the following practices in its administration of CSLFRF pursuant to the ARP/CSLFRF award:

1. Denying to a person any service, financial aid, or other program benefit without good cause;
2. Providing to a person any service, financial aid, or another benefit which is different in quantity or quality, or is provided in a different manner, from that provided to others under the program.
3. Subjecting a person to segregation or separate treatment in any matter related to the receipt of any service, financial aid, or other benefit under the program;
4. Restricting a person in the enjoyment of any advantages, privileges, or other benefits enjoyed by others receiving any service, financial aid, or other benefit under the program;
5. Treating a person differently from others in determining whether that person satisfies any admission, enrollment, quota, eligibility, membership, or other requirement or condition which persons must meet to be provided any service, financial aid, or other benefit provided under the program;
6. Implementing different standards, criteria, or other requirements for admission, enrollment, or participation in planning, advisory, contractual, or other integral activities to the program;
7. Adopting methods of administration which, directly or through contractual relationships, would defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of effective nondiscrimination;
8. Selecting a site or location of facilities with the purpose or effect of excluding persons from, denying them the benefits of, subjecting them to discrimination, or with the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of Title VI or related acts and regulations;
9. Discriminating against any person, either directly or through a contractual agreement, in any employment resulting from the program, a primary objective of which is to provide employment;
10. Committing acts of intimidation or retaliation, including threatening, coercing, or discriminating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by any pertinent nondiscrimination law, or because an individual made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

## **III. Reporting & Enforcement**

1. The Town of Smithfield shall cooperate in any enforcement or compliance review activities by the Department of the Treasury. Enforcement may include investigation, arbitration, mediation, litigation, and monitoring of any settlement agreements that may result from these actions. The Town of Smithfield shall comply with information requests, on-site compliance reviews, and reporting requirements.
2. The Town of Smithfield shall maintain a complaint log and inform the Treasury of any complaints of discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin (including limited English proficiency covered by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and implementing regulations and provide, upon request, a list of all such reviews or proceedings based on the complaint, whether pending or completed, including the outcome. The Town of Smithfield shall inform the Treasury if it has received no complaints under Title VI.
3. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by a discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Treasury. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the Treasury's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence.
4. Any person who believes that because of that person's race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, familial status, sex, age, religion, or disability that he/she/they have been discriminated against or unfairly treated by the Town of Smithfield in violation of this policy should contact the following office within 180 days from the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence:

The person charged with receiving, processing, and managing complaints in regards to discrimination, or discriminatory practices, for the Town of Smithfield is:

Michael L. Scott  
Town Manager  
350 East Market Street  
Smithfield, NC 27577



Duly adopted this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025

M. Andy Moore, Mayor

Elaine S. Andrews, Town Clerk

4. Consideration and request for approval to adopt Capital Project Ordinance No. CP-1-2025 to establish a budget for the Lead Service Line Project

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD  
LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY PROJECT  
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN  
PROJECT # SRF-D-LSL-0016

GRANT PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield, North Carolina, that pursuant to section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Grant Project Budget Ordinance is hereby approved and adopted:

**Section 1:** The Project authorized is the Town of Smithfield Lead Service Line Inventory Project to be to be financed by Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Lead Service Line funds (project number SRF-D-LSL-0016) awarded to the Town of Smithfield by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI).

**Section 2:** The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the project within the terms of the board resolution, grant/loan documents, the rules and regulations of the Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI,) and the budget contained herein.

**Section 3:** The following amounts are appropriated for the project revenues:

DWSRF Grant (Principal Forgiveness)	\$ 299,328
DWSRF Loan Proceeds (0% Interest)	\$ 199,552
Local Funds (2% DWI Loan Closing Fee)	\$ 9,978
<b>TOTAL PROJECT REVENUES</b>	<b><u>\$ 508,858</u></b>

**Section 4.** The following amounts are appropriated for the project expenses:

Engineering and Administration Services	\$ 498,880
Transfer from Water and Sewer Fund	\$ 9,978
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>\$ 508,858</u></b>

**Section 5:** The finance officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Lead Service Line Inventory Project Fund, Project #SRF-D-LSL-0016, sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the funding agency, the funding agreements, and state and federal regulations.

**Section 6:** Funds may be advanced from the for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the State grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner. Compliance with all federal and state procurement regulations is required.

**Section 7:** The finance officer is directed to report, on a quarterly basis, on the financial status of each project element in section 4 and on the total grant revenues received or claimed.

**Section 8:** The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this capital project in every budget submission made to this board.

**Section 9:** Copies of this Grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk, the Budget Officer, and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

**Section 10:** This Grant Project Ordinance supersedes any previously dated and adopted project



ordinance.

Adopted this the 18th day of February, 2025 at Town of Smithfield, North Carolina.

\_\_\_\_\_  
M. Andy Moore, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elaine Andrews, Town Clerk

**5. Consideration and request for approval to award a bid in the amount of \$160,000 to the Wooten Company for improvements to the sanitary sewer outfall in West Smithfield**

**Business Items:**

**1. Consideration and request for approval to allow the DSDC to use \$30,000 in special project funds for the Library Redevelopment Project**

DSDC Director Heidi Gilmond addressed the Council stating this project was initiated approximately 18 months ago. It has evolved to encompass not only enhancements to the library's side but also extending the design to the front, creating a pocket park at a central downtown Smithfield location. The focus is on both aesthetic and safety improvements. Currently, the area faces challenges such as uneven sidewalks, a sunken section, and overgrown landscaping that obstructs sight lines. These issues have led to safety concerns, including instances of homeless individuals using the space in ways that can make others uncomfortable. The project aims to address these problems and create a more welcoming and secure environment for the community. Gilmond further stated the library redevelopment project aims to improve the building's focal point, create a distinct entrance space, enhance the corner's appeal, and improve security. The estimated cost is \$175,000-\$200,000. Funding is being sought from the county, town, and grants.

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood asked the Board if there were any questions for Gilmond at this time.

Councilman David Barbour asked if the Library Board of Directors have reviewed the proposal. Gilmond stated she was not aware if the Board has, but Mr. Pippen has been a part of the process along the way. Councilman Barbour stated his wife was on the Library Board, and had not been made aware of the project, to which, giving them an opportunity to review plans should have been done. Barbour stated the Library Board meets once per month, and he did not understand why they could not be presented with the information to solicit their feedback before they spend money. He was concerned with funds being invested for something the library did not want. Gilmond stated that would be next steps. She wanted to get funding in place first to get the project started. She noted would be happy to make a presentation to the Library Board before the actual project got underway. Councilman Barbour reiterated that he thinks it would be important for the stakeholders to have a say in the approval for the project.

Councilman Travis Scott asked if the existing statue and clock would remain there undisturbed. Gilmond answered correct, the idea is to preserve as much of the hardscaping and landscaping as they can save. The clock and anything historic will be preserved and cleaned up to showcase it. Councilman Scott asked Gilmond to confirm that this money was currently in her budget, and there were no other projects for it. Gilmond acknowledged this was correct.

Councilman John Dunn asked Gilmond if she has had any conversations with the county yet, because a large amount of funding is proposed to come from them. Gilmond stated yes, and that their input was positive. They were talking about how to fit it into the next fiscal year budget.

Councilman David Barbour asked if there was any consideration given considering the street modification plans pending to redesign Market Street. Gilmond stated this project is in very early stages with the design committee just giving conceptual ideas, but she feels this will all work in tandem with flexibility applied for consideration of what happens with Market Street. Gilmond stated, we need these funds to progress to the next phase: obtaining approvals, requesting RFPs, and finalizing designs for submission. Our goal is to secure funding in the next fiscal budget to move forward with the project, aiming for completion by early fall. However, we can't initiate anything without initial funding. She also wanted funds to pay the landscape designer for the work he has done, and to move forward with the permitting process.

Councilman Travis Scott asked if the Appearance Commission would also be working with her on this project. Manager Mike Scott stated that they have attended meetings together, and are in lock step. Gilmond agreed.

Councilman Sloan Stevens asked if the new design would still leave room for the annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. Gilmond stated there were ideas for possibly making that part of their Christmas village on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, or possibly keeping it at the location, stating the option is movable.

There was some discussion among the Board regarding the inclusion of the Library Board. Town Manager Mike Scott noted the Library Board would meet in two weeks.



*Councilman David Barbour made a motion to table the request for two weeks until the Library Board could meet and review the proposal.*

Upon further discussion among the Board, and acknowledging Councilman Barbour's concerns Travis Scott asked Councilman Barbour to consider a motion that with the Board's blessing the funds be released.

*Councilman David Barbour rescinded his previous motion.*

*Councilman Travis Scott made a motion, seconded by Councilman David Barbour to approve the request, pending the two-week notification to the Library Board and with their approval release of funds may be granted by the Town Manager. Unanimous.*

## **2. Consideration and request for approval to award a bid in the amount of \$456,210 to Southern Tide Homes for the design and construction of the restroom facility at 107 South Front Street**

Parks and Recreation Director Gary Johnston addressed the Council stating the town has secured a \$300,000 skiff grant from the state for constructing restrooms at the newly renovated amphitheater. Initially planned for the amphitheater property, the project's scope expanded after purchasing a lot at 107 South Front Street. After considering pre-fabricated and design-build options, the town decided to pursue the design-build approach for the restroom facility. Johnson further stated the town advertised two requests for qualifications, receiving only one interested builder-architect team: Southern Tide Homes partnering with Turpentine Designs from Fuquay.

After negotiations, they submitted an estimated cost of \$456,210 for the restroom facility, including \$75,000 for design and \$381,000 for construction. A comparable pre-fabricated model was also considered. Balfour Beatty, who renovated the amphitheater, provided a conceptual estimate of \$545,000 for a similar-sized facility. Comparisons with other municipalities show the town's estimate is competitive. A nearby municipality budgeted \$375,000 for construction of a four-stall facility, excluding design fees, while the town's construction cost is \$381,000. Larger cities' costs were deemed not comparable due to their size.

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood asked for clarification for the number of stalls proposed, and whether it is sufficient for large scale events such as the Ham and Yam Festival. Johnson stated four stalls on each side, which is sufficient even for large events. Johnson further stated they had a \$300,000 grant from the state that had to be used by October 2025.

There was some discussion about the grant, its purpose and the deadline to use the funds.

Councilman Travis Scott stated in the interest of transparency; he felt the cost of construction was absurd for a 528 square foot building that is not air conditioned. Johnson stated he did not disagree. He has looked at all options, including a prefabricated building, which he felt might come in at a little less.

Councilman Scott reminded the Board of the Police Department project, which was a design-build where they bill the Town invoices as it's laid out. He stated this was the type of project they wanted to avoid.

Parks and Recreation Director, Gary Johnston explained that there are some things in the bid that could be taken out, i.e. a tap for water and sewer lines already exist on the property from a prior structure. Johnson stated this was a \$10,000 savings. He further noted they could re-engineer the design to further cut costs by going with shingles versus a metal roof, if the council so chooses to do so. However, it was his recommendation to build it the way you want it, as it will be a permanent fixture.

Councilman Barbour asked if the building would be the same color scheme as the amphitheater. Johnson stated yes, the same colors and design scheme. He also stated if Johnson agreed that the actual cost to the Town would be roughly \$150,000 with the grant. Johnson stated yes.

Councilman Travis Scott asked if this passed tonight, where is the money was coming from. Town Manager Mike Scott stated this whole project has been funded with grant money, with the purchase of the property coming from the American Rescue Plan Funds. He suggested the Board continue with using American Rescue Plan Funds. Manager Scott added, over a million dollars has been moved into the general fund is revenue replacement. I would recommend you use that for that \$156,000 so it's that would make it the entire project grant driven.

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood asked the Board if there were any further questions for staff. There were none.

*Councilman David Barbour made a motion, seconded Sloan Stevens to approve entering into the contract with Southern Tide Homes and approve additional funds for design construction facility at 107 South Front Street, across the Neuse River amphitheater, within the budget that's been provided for that project. Motion carried in a 4 to 2 vote with Councilmen Travis Scott and Councilman Marlon Lee voting no.*

*Mayor Andy Moore arrived at the Council Meeting at 7:39 pm to preside over the remainder of the meeting.*

## **3. Consideration and request for approval to adopt Ordinance No. 524-2025 to amend the closure of Market Street for the Ham and Yam Festival and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade**



Councilman Travis Scott stated he wanted to have clarity and to review this ordinance. Councilman Scott added that this is the first he has ever heard of the Board being asked to close Market Street for the Ham and Yam from Front to Seventh Street for a 14-hour period, and he has some concerns about it. He wanted clarity on the time frame for the closure and the intentions behind the street closure.

Town Manager Mike Scott stated that the intention is to have Market Street closed throughout the Ham and Yam Festival. We have about 130 cars for a car show that we want to put on that street, whereby people to walk through viewing those cars. We also have a tractor show that we also want to have there, and possibly a boat show as well. Upon review of by the Ham and Yam Committee, we felt that it would be a better atmosphere if people were able to come and go cross Market Street without worrying about traffic, and be able to have utilize Market Street as a place to for people to enjoy the services and the entertainment offered during the event. The Town Manager further stated, we've talked to the police chief about it and he believes that we can manage the closure of the street for that length of time. Not unlike Benson does for Mule Days, we may have to go out and get some officers to volunteer from other jurisdictions to help us out, but we can manage it one way or the other. Once we get it going, it's all during the daytime, nothing at night, nothing in the darkness. We felt it would just lead into a much better atmosphere for the festival that we're trying to improve this year.

Councilman Scott acknowledges the explanation but expresses several concerns about the proposed street closure. He worries about safety and disruption for citizens and traffic flow through town, particularly for public safety vehicles accessing their stations. He suggests implementing an instant action plan with staged units on either side, similar to what's done for parades. Scott also raises the serious concern of potential vehicle attacks on crowds, referencing incidents in other cities. He strongly recommends using barriers, barricades, or large vehicles to prevent a direct path into the festival area, emphasizing this as a major safety concern. He asked had it been considered to reorganize without closing Market Street.

Councilman Sloan Stevens addressed Councilman Scott's concerns, noting that the festival meant a great deal to him. Stevens stated The Ham and Yam Festival is expanding significantly this year. With increased vendor participation, the addition of a car show and an antique farm tractor show closing Market Street has become necessary to accommodate the growth. The festival plans to extend down Second Street to the Episcopal Church and utilize Third Street up to the Baptist church parking lot. Additional parking will be available in lots around the courthouse. Last year's attendance was around 10,000, and organizers are optimistically aiming for 15,000 visitors this year. The street closure will provide more space for attractions and improve the overall festival experience. Stevens added the festival organizers are preparing for a larger crowd by requesting the closure of Market Street through the Smithfield Downtown Corporation promotions committee. This closure aims to improve safety for pedestrians crossing the street during the event and create a more cohesive festival atmosphere. If successful, it could lead to future expansions, potentially extending the festival up Third Street to the next block. The closure is seen as a trial run, with the option to revert if it doesn't work well. Overall, the intent is to enhance the festival experience, accommodate growth, and attract more visitors to downtown Smithfield.

Town Manager Mike Scott added that current plans are to have three different stages.

Councilman Travis Scott asked if the plan was to go all the way to Seventh Street. Town Manager Scott stated they may not, but wanted to be able to do that depending on how many cars and tractors show up. Councilman Travis Scott expressed concern about the location of fire engines, noting that most are stationed on Fourth Street, with only one in West Smithfield. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive emergency response plan, similar to those implemented in other towns. Councilman Scott stressed the importance of keeping Fourth Street open, as closing it could significantly inconvenience emergency responses in case of accidents. While acknowledging he's not the fire chief, Councilman Scott suggested that maintaining access on Fourth Street would be beneficial from his perspective. He recommended consulting with the fire chief for a professional opinion on the matter.

Councilman David Barbour asked how traffic would be routed for parking. Town Manager Mike Scott stated there would be an abundance of signage up to help guide parking throughout the festival. They would also provide maps made available before the event. They would also get the word out.

It was the consensus of most Board members to move forward with a one-year trial. It was noted that the headliner in the event would be a huge draw and that the event could be a great opportunity and boost for downtown.

Councilman Travis Scott stated that other businesses in the Downtown area were not aware of the plans to close streets, stating the communication regarding that notification could have been better.

Councilman David Barbour asked if the Ordinance could be amended for only 2025 annual events to give it a trial run for safety concerns and impact.

Mayor Andy Moore expressed concern about extending the ordinance area to Seventh Street, noting it would cover a large area with significant traffic to manage. He suggested limiting the scope to Fourth Street and the area behind it, believing this would still adequately serve the purpose. While open to trying the larger area of street closure. He emphasized the need for flexibility in implementation. Moore highlighted potential issues with parking, especially during events like the Ham and Yam Festival. He pointed out that the municipal parking lot is often at capacity during such times. The mayor worried that requiring people to travel further down, cross over, and return might cause inconvenience. He acknowledged that those closer to the area would still have easy access to parking but stressed the importance of considering the overall impact on traffic flow and parking accessibility for all attendees.

The Mayor further stated he did not have an issue with authorizing the closure of streets, but maybe it would



help to keep it in the amphitheater area.

Town Manager Mike Scott stated the goal was to not use any more streets than they have to.

Councilman Sloan Stevens agreed, if need be, for safety the closures may extend to other streets.

Mayor Andy Moore suggested removing two street closure items from the Ordinance until their time period is a little closer to further this discussion. The two events removed from the Ordinance were:

- *The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting*
- *The Annual Christmas Parade*

Councilman Sloan Stevens further recommended amending the motion to specify closure of streets from Front Street to Fourth Streets, keeping the event contained with an H pattern from Front Street to Third Street for public safety.

*Councilman David Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman John Dunn to approve the ordinance with the modifications that the annual Ham and Yam Festival be changed to 2025; that the closures be on Market Street and US 70 be from Front Street to Fourth Street, and not extend to Seventh Street; and to remove the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and the Annual Christmas Parade from the Ordinance. Unanimously approved.*

**TOWN OF SMITHFIELD  
NORTH CAROLINA**

**ORDINANCE No. 524-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
TREE LIGHTING, THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE, THE ANNUAL MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE, AND THE ANNUAL HAM & YAM FESTIVAL**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield acknowledges a long tradition of providing an annual Christmas Parade and annual Tree Lighting Ceremony for the pleasure of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield acknowledges the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade as an established annual event that honors the legacy of Dr. King and brings the community together in celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield acknowledges the Ham & Yam Festival as a longstanding event that celebrates local heritage and provides a cultural and economic benefit to the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield acknowledges its citizens realize a financial benefit from holding these annual events; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield acknowledges each event requires approximately two hours to install signing and traffic control to be provided by the Smithfield Police Department, and also requires approximately two hours for removing signs, traffic control and litter.

**WHEREAS**, any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed, and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect as an ordinance of the Town of Smithfield from the date of its adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield pursuant to the authority granted by G.S. 20-169 that they do hereby declare a temporary road closure during the days and times set forth below on the following described portion of a State Highway System route:

**Annual Ham and Yam Festival**

<b>Date:</b>	The first Saturday in May
<b>Time:</b>	7:00 am until 7:00 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Market Street (US 70) from Front Street to 4 <sup>th</sup> Street

**Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade**

<b>Date:</b>	The Saturday following the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
<b>Time:</b>	10:00 am until 3:00 pm
<b>Route Description:</b>	Market Street (US70) from South 6 <sup>th</sup> Street to South 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street



## **Public Hearings: None**

## **Councilmember's Comments**

Councilman David Barbour stated he felt it is time that the Town address homelessness in our Town, as it is an issue. He stated we need a good plan to be proactive rather than reactive to the problem because as the Town continues to grow, unfortunately the problem may grow.

Barbour also thanked the Police Chief for his staff's quick response to an issue for a constituent, recognizing that now the police department is fully staffed.

Councilman Travis Scott commented regarding road maintenance in Town, specifically Outlet Center Drive. He stated the Town is responsible for the maintenance of that road and more needs to be done to correct the pot holes on it with materials we have on hand.

He thanked Town Manager Scott for sending out a message extending the opportunity for Town Hall style meetings for their districts to allow citizens to get involved.

Mayor Andy Moore also addressed paving in Town, noting that there was Powell Bill money designated for Town roads and paving thereof, but that is simply not enough. The mayor also pointed out that substantial raises were given to employees at a huge impact to the budget, so the fall out for neglected street maintenance is understood. He also agreed that road repairs are not only necessary at Outlet Center Drive, but throughout Town, and more effort needs to be put into repairs.

## **Town Manager's Report:**

Town Manager Mike Scott also addressed the impending weather event scheduled to come in the following day, noting he would keep everyone informed of delays or closings.

## **Closed Session NCGS 143-318 (a)(6) and (a)(3)**

Councilman Travis Scott made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood to go into closed session at 8:16 pm. Unanimously approved.

## **Reconvene in Open Session**

Councilman John Dunn made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood to reconvene into open session at approximately 9:35 pm. Unanimously approved.

## **Adjourn**

Councilman Travis Scott made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Roger Wood to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:36 pm. Unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

  
Elaine Andrews, Town Clerk



  
M. Andy Moore, Mayor