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## Mounting frustration over Heath Springs' road conditions

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Both College and Hart streets near downtown Heath Springs have several potholes, like this one. SCDOT said that personnel will be on site to evaluate and patch the roads in the coming weeks.

Haley Jones

Heath Springs resident Thurmond Truesdale expressed concern over the town's road conditions, specifically on College Street, at the Dec. 20, 2022 Town Council meeting.

Heath Springs Mayor Eddie Moore said he had given District 6 Lancaster County Councilman Allen Blackmon two lists of roads that need attention on multiple occasions.

“I don’t think y’all’s street is worse than mine,” said Moore, who lives on Hart Street. “So we got the worst streets that there are in the town.”

Truesdale said he was frustrated, because the road conditions had been reported multiple times, but nothing had been done for the 25 years he has lived there.

Truesdale asked the council for more information, because he felt like the concerns were being inadequately addressed.

“I did what I was supposed to do,” Moore said. “But they (the county) have a road commission, and they take those roads by priorities.”

During the first week of January, local S.C. Department of Transportation officials spoke with Wanda Kilpatrick, Heath Springs administrator.

“I have been in touch with the local Lancaster County DOT since our last meeting,” Kilpatrick said. “They (DOT) are going to go out to College Street and assess the road and then patch the road. Hopefully in the spring and summer, they can just repave the road.”

DOT’s action comes after multiple calls and outreach attempts by Kilpatrick, who said she assumes the inactivity on their end was due to people taking time off for the holidays.

On Dec. 20, Truesdale said, “What you’re telling me, is they send somebody else, and then they get somebody else. We need to get the ball rolling, so somebody can do something.”

Moore said the town of Heath Springs does not maintain its own roads, as the roads belong to the state and have state road designations. College Street is State Road S-29-77.

“If y’all know the governor or whoever, you have a good friend or somebody, well, you need to make a phone call,” Moore said. “But as the town, and as the mayor and the council, we’re doing our part by calling DOT and Mr. Allen Blackmon.”

That did not satisfy Truesdale.

“I shouldn’t have to call and say I need my road fixed, I’m just a regular citizen,” he said at the meeting. “I don’t hold a position, so I want to hold you guys accountable to get back to me and let me know.”

Kilpatrick said she has been in contact with Truesdale since speaking with DOT, and said she plans to continue to work with him to make sure he is satisfied with the repair process, and all of his concerns are addressed.

“Mr. Truesdale will let me know if it (the road repair) doesn’t occur,” Kilpatrick said. “And I will stay on and call DOT or whoever, whatever department I need to talk to make sure it gets done.”

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