

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Mayor and Council  
City of McKenzie  
McKenzie, TN 38201  
May 11, 2023

A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin

B. Prayer – Councilperson Pruneau

C. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Pruneau

D. Roll Call

Mayor Griffin -	Present
Vice Mayor Townes -	Present
Councilperson Alexander -	Present
Councilperson Arm Priest -	Present
Councilperson Batton -	Absent
Councilperson Pruneau -	Present
Councilperson Young -	Present

E. Mayor’s Welcome:

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Griffin extended a warm welcome to all.

F. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Councilperson Arm Priest, seconded by Vice Mayor Townes to approve the April 13, 2023 minutes.

Motion carries.

G. Financial Matters:

Jones Electric & Automation for Water Department in the amount of \$ 11,957.74. Motion ‘ Made by Councilperson Pruneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Alexander to approve the purchase.

H Old Business:

None

I New Business:

- a. Discussion/approval for reading of Resolution 23-001: A resolution to grant the McKenzie Municipal-Regional Planning Commission the authority to delegate approval of “Two Tract (lot) plats” to the building official.

Discussion: Councilperson Young stated that our city planner; Shelton Merrill brought this before the planning commission to be approved. This was introduced to the State by Governor Lee in April 2023.

Motion to approve by Councilperson Armpriest, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice-Mayor Townes.  
Motion passes with 5 ayes.

- b. Discussion/approval for 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance 553: An Ordinance to add Chapter 7 Mechanical Amusement Devices to Title 9 of the McKenzie Municipal Code.

Discussion: Councilperson Alexander stated if this was considered for gambling devices, he did not approve. If they were considered arcade devices, he had no issue. City Attorney Keeton stated if no money is being paid out, they are not considered gambling. Gambling devices are prohibited by State Law. If someone wants regular amusement devices, then there would be no need to have an ordinance.

Motion to drop this ordinance was made by Councilperson Pruneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Townes.

Motion passes with 5 ayes.

- c. Discussion/ approval to have bid opening for Employee 2023/2024 Health Insurance.

Malone & Company presented their bid with several different plans and deductibles. Deductibles ranging from 3,000.00 to \$ 7,000.00.

Benefits Blueprint presented their quote that was equal to the program deductible we have now at \$ 1,500.00 and the monthly premium staying at the same number.

Councilperson Pruneau suggested we go with Benefit Blueprints after looking at the difference in the deductible amounts between Malone & Company and Benefits Blueprint. He said he felt we could partner for two years to see if we are happy with their service and if not, go back to the State plan.

Motion made by Councilperson Young to accept Benefits Blueprint plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Townes.

Motion passes with 5 ayes.

- d. Reading/approval of the 1<sup>st</sup> reading for the 2023-2024 City of McKenzie budget.

Discussion: City Recorder Waldrup stated that there had been no changes to the budget from the time council members had received the budget items the previous week.

Councilperson Pruneau asked that we continued to donate the \$ 100.00 donation to Danny Thomas St. Jude's Children Research Hospital.

Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Young to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the budget.

Motion passes with 5 ayes.

J. Citizens Input:

None

K. Department Head Reports:

Fire Chief Brian Tucker reported his department had worked a total of 29 incidents during the month of April. 8 of these were commercial alarms, 6 each was for motor vehicle accidents, aircraft standbys and smoke investigations along with several other incidents.

Water Superintendent Billy Wood stated his department was working on their regular job of fixing leaks and sewers. The CDBG grant was coming up in June.

Police Chief White stated that his department had answered 1,484 calls for the month of April. 762 for security checks-home/business/parks, 237 vehicle stops, 87 citizens assist, 86 for investigations 10-43, 61 medical assistance and numerous other calls. Chief White stated that the department was now fully staffed with only 1 officer in the academy. Officer Williams will be finishing the first week of June.

Superintendent Johnny Mercer with Public Works stated his department was busy cleaning ditches and doing lawn work on the Code's departments overgrown lots. Superintendent Mercer also mentioned part of his crew had helped with the concrete walks out at the new pickleball courts.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell stated that baseball and softball both would be holding regional tournaments at the park. He stated that all the leagues would be winding down at the end of May. His crew was busy putting nets up and getting the benches ready for the opening of the pickleball courts hopefully May 22 or 23<sup>rd</sup>. Parks Director Hollowell took this time to thank the Public Works Department and Water Department employees for their help in getting the pickleball court area ready to open.

Philip Morrisett with Codes stated everyone seemed to be behind on yard mowing. Jim Seaton in Codes stated that he had been in the process of getting new door hangers to help with the codes enforcement.

Jennifer Waldrup in the office reported that they were in the process of getting credit card machines so people would be able to add being able to pay property taxes, fire contracts, or event items.

L. Council Reports:

Councilperson Arm Priest: Asked about the opening of the Farmers Market on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and the date for Nights on Broadway, and was told June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilperson Alexander: Said he appreciated the departments working together on projects

for the city.

Vice Mayor Townes: Mentioned that he was starting to notice a difference on the clean up codes since the council workshop.

Councilperson Pruneau: Asked Chief Tucker about the status on the fire truck and the cars the Fire Department had ordered. Chief Tucker responded fire truck should be here by the first of August, the brush truck was in progress, had received the plate, but no truck! They had received the two red Ford vehicles for the Chief and Assistant Chief are in now.

Councilperson Pruneau then asked Chief White how they were doing. Chief White replied they were getting two used Tahoe's that had been well taken care of. One of them is in Nashville being equipped for the new canine. He stated once they were all in, we should be in good shape. He mentioned that the new canine is a No Bite, drug dog. The dog and his handler will both have to be certified.

Mayor Griffin stated that as of July 1, Philip Morrisett would be leaving Codes Department and would stay available to help out with any city projects we needed him for. Jim Seaton will be working full-time in the Codes Department, since previously he and Philip both worked as part time employees. Jim will be studying for the Codes test, which might eliminate having to contract with Ricky Watkins on new builds.

- M. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Arm Priest, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice-Mayor Townes to adjourn at 6:52 P.M.

Motion carried.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Griffin, Mayor

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk