

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
February 8, 2024

A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin

B. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Pruneau

C. Roll Call

Vice Mayor Townes - Present
Councilperson Alexander – Present
Councilperson Armpriest - Present
Councilperson Batton - Present
Councilperson Pruneau - Present
Councilperson Young - Present

D. Mayor's Welcome:

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

E. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Councilperson Armpriest, seconded by Vice Mayor Townes, to approve the minutes dated January 11, 2024.

Motion carries

F. Financial Matters:

None presented

G. Old Business:

None

H. New Business:

a. Discussion /Approval for Landon Priestley's Eagle Scout proposal

Mayor Griffin introduced Landon and asked him to then present his proposal to the council. Brandon explained that he would like to dismantle and refurbish the downtown Veteran's Park benches. He stated that he would paint the legs of the benches and would sand down the wood, re-stain it to add a water proof polyurethan to the wood. He would only do a few at a time, and would not remove all the benches at once.

Councilperson Pruneau said that was a very nice choice. He then asked when Landon would start and how long it would take. Landon replied he had a year to finish the project and he would like to start in a month or so.

Mayor Griffin then asked Park Director Hollowell if he approved of this project. Director Hollowell said he had planned to have this as a winter project and with so many other things going on, had not had time. He stated it was a blessing in disguise for his department and they were very appreciative.

Councilperson Armpriest made the motion to approve Landon Priestley's project. Second by Councilperson Pruneau.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young	Y	Vice Mayor Townes	Y
Councilperson Armpriest	Y	Councilperson Batton	Y
Councilperson Alexander	Y	Councilperson Pruneau	Y

Motion passes

- b. Discussion/Approval on 1st reading of Ordinance 563 to offer monthly property taxes payments in lieu of yearly payments.

Mayor Griffin asked City Recorder Waldrup to inform the council why this was being requested. Ms. Waldrup stated that the business office ladies had received many requests for this since Carroll County's Trustee's office had changed their approach and started doing a property tax monthly charge, citizens have requested the city to do that as well. When asked if this would create a hardship on the business office, Ms. Waldrup stated that she had spoken with the ladies and they felt like it would not be an issue.

Councilperson Armpriest made the motion to approve on 1st reading the change to approve monthly property tax payments for those citizens who would like to change over from yearly to monthly. Second by Vice-Mayor Townes.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young	Y	Vice Mayor Townes	Y
Councilperson Armpriest	Y	Councilperson Batton	Y
Councilperson Alexander	Y	Councilperson Pruneau	Y

Motion passes

I. Citizens Input: none

J. Department Head Reports:

Brian Tucker, Fire Department stated they had responded to 61 calls. 24 medical calls for the month of January, 8 Lift assist, 5 alarm systems activation, 4 aircraft standby, 3 MVA – no injuries, 3 public services, and various other calls. Chief Tucker said the cold weather we had just had was very tough on the crew during structure calls. Chief Tucker mentioned that they had just responded to 8 medical calls this week.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead stated with the weather changes we had experienced the ground moves and creates an uptake on leaks, before long we will probably be wide open with leaks. He said that he had moved people around to see who worked well where.

Mayor Griffin said he was thankful for Earnest leadership this past month and bringing them together to work as a team.

Police Lieutenant Brister reported the department had 1,086 calls for service in January. 467 were security checks-home/business/parks, 164 vehicle stops, 87 medical, 86 investigations 10-43, 50 citizens assist and a variety of other calls. He also said the new trucks were almost ready, all have been painted but 2. The department was in the process of getting some new SRO equipment. He also informed us that the Assistant Chief Boucher's father had passed away.

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer said his crew was busy cleaning ditches, since the leaves had finally stopped. He mentioned the backhoe had a valve in the back leaking hydraulic fluid that needed to be repaired; the company would bring them a loaner to use. They were staying busy running the weekly route pick-ups.

Jim Seaton, Codes Department stated that two additional condemned properties had been removed. One on Elm and one on Kay St. He said he is now more involved with commercial properties; specifically, some of the old buildings around the former Gaines building. He had sent about 75 violation letters out, most of them were to repeat offenders.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell said the nice weather had them busy getting fields ready for the upcoming spring baseball season. Middle school was already practicing, high school would be starting next week. They had removed the old backstop and poured concrete in order to put up a 20' net to give more visibility to the field

K. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young wanted to compliment Jim on a good job with all his work driving through streets and assessing the troubled areas.

Councilperson Arm Priest asked how we were doing with the cleanup McKenzie strategy that came up in the workshop. Mayor Griffin said things were progressing.

Councilperson Alexander had nothing

Vice Mayor Townes had nothing.

Councilperson Batton had nothing.

Councilperson Pruneau had nothing.

Mayor Griffin mentioned that Nights on Broadway would be starting soon. The sidewalks

down Cedar Street should be finished in the next month. The lighting project in Veterans Park and the sidewalk project on Broadway would be starting soon. We are also in the works of updating the crosswalk from the Park Theatre.

- L. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Alexander, 2nd by Vice Mayor Townes to adjourn at 6:22 P.M.

Motion carried

APPROVED: _____
Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk