

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Mayor and Council  
City of McKenzie  
McKenzie, TN 38201  
June 13, 2024

A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin

B. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Batton

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 May 9, 2024.

Motion carries

F. Financial Matters:

None presented.

G. Old Business:

- a. Discussion/Approval on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 568 for the City of McKenzie 2024/2025 budget

No discussion.

Motion to approve Ordinance 568 City of McKenzie fiscal year 2024/2025 budget on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading made by Councilperson Young, second by Councilperson Armpriest.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carries.

- b. Discussion/Approval on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 569 To Convert Broadway Street to a One Way Street.

Motion to discuss made by Councilperson Armpriest, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Young, beginning with citizens input from Brittany and Jason Martin.

Jason Martin begin that he and Brittany spoke with everyone on this issue and felt like it was a knee jerk reaction, not saying it did not come from legitimate concerns, but this was a solution to a non-existing problem. He feels making it one way would cause issues, especially with older people, as they drive by memory- not sight. He feels Lee Street is an eye sore, due to semi's blocking it because of cars hanging out by William's Furniture or the computer store. That one way is no longer feasible.

Brittany then arrived and I published a letter in this week's edition of June 11. I did want to state that at the last council meeting, it was expressed that council did not understand what the issue was it being a one-way street. Now we have had people reach out to seek the reason. From our office, we have a panoramic view and can see what happens on Main & Broadway Streets; my dad stated he had never seen an accident on Broadway. During the 17-day period when the one-way sign was up, there were more incidents. A lot of confusion from people, confusion that does not have to be there. We have received 80 signatures on the petition to leave it as a two-way street. Brittany said that Councilperson Young said most people said they were indifferent. She felt like we should focus on those who had a vested interest. She said she had semi-trucks coming to their business and other businesses created a logistic issue because people did not know what to do.

Councilperson Armpriest stated she had asked if there was any value in Lee Street going the other way, and was told the concrete islands were too large to make a turn. She had talked with several people, and was told either they don't care, don't like it now, and always been that way, it's political. Jason gave input on the impact to his business and others and she appreciated that. She felt like the issue was that it did not come before the council, but now understands there was more meat to it.

Councilperson Batton said it takes a lot of courage to say what you believe. Change is always difficult. There are always strategies when you change, she agreed that we could have done a better job on the change, but can't fix what is already done. We can fix the problem in front of us. I continue to get responses and agree we do need feedback from the public. You can't just toss the neutrals. What is concerning to her would be the amount of money needed to make changes. We want to be good stewards with the city's money, and I agree we did not go about it the correct way, we live and learn going forward.

Councilperson Armpriest where the money would come from to change the lines and Mayor Griffin responded from there is roughly \$ 16,000.00 left in Public Works street money to do repairs.

Councilperson Young said since we started this meeting, I have had one phone call and two text. Lots of ways to read it and it is concerning to me that my phone was open and received

so little contact, maybe just a lack of interest. Since the last meeting, I have only received 1 text. I have talked with approximately 47 people and the majority of them said one way and the last few just said they were just tired of talking about it and reading about it. My biggest issue if I am right is that MTAS tells us that street should not be a two-way street, as it is 4' short of being what we need. That is what makes it simplified with me is that it is State Law. I did not come to the first meeting with my mind made up, and I want to hear from others. I just want what's best for McKenzie, that is all that concerns me.

Councilperson Beeler said he had received one phone call from Brittany Martin and talked with her about the letter, talked about the confusion and that probably came because of no notice and people not knowing which way to go. Talked about the semi-trucks loading and unloading downtown and stated he has some of the same semi-trucks drivers they have and those drivers are able to get around downtown Nashville. He felt that a semi-truck were not a big issue, as those drivers are trained to be able to maneuver big trucks through there. He had talked with Chief White about accidents from the safety side of things or accidents 3-way intersection coming from city hall, the theatre or Super D and was told there had been a couple of small accidents, it was not a hot spot, but his opinion was as a safety issue, it would be better to make it a one-way street because of it being hard to see vehicles coming from the opposite direction. Today I took the time to come downtown which was super busy, all the parking lots were full and felt it was best to go down toward Lee Street, as it is very hard to see past Urban Trading. I have not made my mind up completely, I am interested to see what everyone else has to say.

Councilperson Batton said so now you are saying that MTAS is saying it does not meet the qualifications of a two-way street. Mayor Griffin responded that was a 2017 project and I have already stated this was a knee jerk reaction, so I went to MTAS and submitted the plans to the civil engineer for streets and the plans for the new sidewalks and that is what he came back with. This was in last month's packet where it states according to the Federal Transportation Act we are 4' shy. Councilperson Batton then said then we created the problem because of the islands. Mayor Griffin responded yes and that he contacted A2H and the engineers who drew the plans are no longer there. Councilperson Armppriest then said who that is their issue, and Mayor Griffin responded was told they are made to spec. Mayor Griffin also spoke with Kenny who was the project manager and had been in public works and said to him I made a crazy decision and Kenny responded; no, it was crazy based upon how wide the sidewalks are. Mayor Griffin stated that when the plans were submitted in 2017, that should have been questioned.

Councilperson Alexander said he had been in Paris the other day on a 2-way street there, with trucks parked on both sides, vehicles had to stop and let it be one way driving because of the larger size of the trucks now, and that does create an issue. He also said he had received only one phone call against the one-way street and she was here today. All the feedback I have received was they just did not have an opinion one way to the other. Are all these people who just don't have any feelings about this issue, do they not come into play? Until voters within the city limits call me and tell me they are against the one-way street, my decision is to vote that it become a one-way street. It doesn't make any difference about what I want, it is what the citizens of McKenzie wants. Now having said all that I talked to a really

smart businessman who came up with the perfect solution , and it was as a safety issue. I just listened to it, but the more I thought about it, I really think he has the answer. If you think about this as far as safety, consider people trying to get in and out of Cedar for example without having to inch in and out. I know this is probably not what you would want to hear... leave Broadway one-way and Lee Street as a one-way and then leave Banner Row, a one-way, but the opposite way letting it come out onto Main St. By doing this, you are creating a clear line of vision, leaving nothing to block your view at all. Still have your one-way street, still able to get your deliveries. If you say it has been that way for one hundred years, you are saying no to progress.

Brittany Martin then responded we DO NOT have money to fix the parking that was done illegally, but we do have money to change Banner Row, is that what I understand? Banner Row is in the historic district and no one on that board was consulted. Do the rules for the historic district only apply to a certain set of people. She said that she has to go before historic district and planning if she wanted to change her sign. Councilperson Alexander responded that this was mentioned as an idea. Ms. Martin then replied this is not smart, please reconsider- NOT going to go well if you continue.

Attorney Pemberton spoke up saying the proposal to this board consider ordinance 569 only. Councilperson Alexander, your idea may have merit, but it is not on the agenda tonight. The only question before this board is based upon two readings and the will of this board Do you change it upon second reading or not, or do you change it back to a one-way street or not. That is the only question before this board. You all have heard discussion from fellow board members and from a business and it is up to this board to weight that and cast your vote.

Councilperson Batton said so this gives us the opportunity to think of the solution. To have options, and to know what is right for the City of McKenzie. That is the bottom line.

Councilperson Armpriest said she was not knowledgeable enough to know that tabling was an option.

Attorney Pemberton said you always have the option to table any time there is an issue, you have that ability to table. Never good policy to take a solution to stick it in on a resolution or ordinance and slip it in at the last minute and run it through without being informed. I think the board would be safe at this point to consider tabling this, as we have new ideas that need to be vetted and considered at this point.

Vice Mayor Townes responded saying he had asked to table this at the May meeting because he knew it was a serious situation. I still think we should table it and make the right decision, not what we want. I said before can't make right wrong.

Mayor Griffin asked if Vice Mayor Townes was making this a motion and he responded yes that he was making the motion to table Ordinance 569 until the July meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Batton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carries.

H. New Business:

- a. Discussion/Approval to appoint Craig Hobson to the Industrial Board to fill Randy Webb's term till 2027.

No discussion

Motion to appoint Mr. Hobson made by Vice Mayor Townes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Young.

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 to appoint Patricia Allen to the Housing Authority for a four (4) year term.

No discussion

Motion to approve Patricia Allen made by Vice Mayor Townes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Beeler.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passes

- c. Discussion/Approval to appoint Marcie Boutwell to the Housing Authority for a four (4) year term.

No discussion

Motion to approve Marcie Boutwell made by Councilperson Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Batton

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. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 47 calls. 15 EMS calls transported by non-fire agency, 11 of medical assist -EMS crew, 5 alarm system activations, 5 motor vehicle accidents with no injuries and various other calls.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead stated this time of year they always experienced new leaks, but his department was trying to stay on top of things. He noted that the city hall tank was now back on line.

Police Chief White reported his department had responded to 2063 calls this month. The officers had 1364 security checks, 214 traffic stops, 70 ambulance assist and 415 various other calls. He also mentioned that the gravel parking lot was almost vacant due to the sale of the old police cars.

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer said his crew had been working on water cut street repairs. They were staying busy running the weekly route pick-ups of household and tree & limbs.

Jim Seaton, Codes Department reported he had thirty-two violations. (24) new violations and (8) that are in the stage of condemnation.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell said they are still staying busy, even with baseball winding down. Getting prepared for the July 4<sup>th</sup> crowd coming to the park. Will be getting the flags out tomorrow. Still trying to stay on top of the grass cutting.

City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup said the property tax ACH had now been installed, so hope that it will be a big help to our citizens. As a reminder, the new trash pickup company RaeKar had sent letters out letting citizens know they would be delivering new carts and the start date would be July 1<sup>st</sup>. The caboose concessions would be opening next week at the splash pad and the Park Theatre would be offering School's Out Summer theatre movies on Tuesday June through July.

#### J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young informed the council that Mr. Pruneau had been sick, was doing much better. He will be moving in July.

Councilperson Armpriest said she had realized how much she did not know. She was trying to be more informed.

Councilperson Alexandre told the department heads thank you for the good job they were all doing. Then told Brittany & Jason, he appreciated them being at the meeting.

Vice Mayor Townes thanked all the departments, and said let's get past this with a good finish.

Councilperson Batton asked if we had found out who the people were living in the woods and asked if the police were patrolling the area. She also said that Park Director Billy Hollowell did great managing the Parks & Rec meeting yesterday. She also said that even though she was a transplant and had only lived in McKenzie 18 years – she cared about the community.

Councilperson Beeler thanked Brittany & Jason for speaking. Wanted to give a shout out to Billy Hollowell and his crew for the good job they do.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Batton, 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