

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
March 14, 2024

A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin

B. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Young

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 February 8, 2024.

Motion carries

F. Financial Matters:

Water Department had awarded bid to refurbish one of the well at a cost of \$ 110,572.00 to National Water Services.

Mayor Griffin told the council, the well had been in a patched-up situation for a couple of years. Superintendent Umstead had reached out for bids to get the well refurbished and fully operable in order to have confidence the City would not get into an issue of not being able to maintain our tank levels in a crisis situation. Mayor Griffin also explained that the Water Department would not have to borrow the money, since it could be paid from one of the other water accounts.

Motion made by Councilperson Armpriest, second by Councilperson Pruneau to approve the Cost of the tank being refurbished by National Water Services.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passes.

G. Old Business:

- a. Discussion/Approval on 2nd reading of Ordinance 563 to offer monthly property taxes payments in lieu of yearly payments.

No discussion.

Motion to approve Ordinance 563 on 2nd ready made by Councilperson Armpriest, second by Councilperson Alexander.

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 of 1st reading or Ordinance 564 to amend text of Zoning Ordinance stipulating manufactures homes permanent foundations.

Mayor Griffin explained the Planning Commission had presented this amendment for council approval, since the original ordinance had stated the unit must give the general appearance that the manufactured home was on a permanent foundation system. This amendment would specifically say the unit must have a permanent brick, block or stone foundation. He asked Councilperson Young to explain more since he sits on the planning commission. Councilperson Young stated that the tongue and axles were removed prior to the under pending of the home, which all helped give it the appearance of a permanent structure.

With no further discussion, Councilperson Alexander made the motion to approve on 1st reading the text amendment requiring a permanent foundation. 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 passes

- b. Discussion/Approval to seek a Water Rate Study per TAUD advisory.

Mayor Griffin shared with the council that we since it had been several years since we had a rate study, we needed to be sure that our water utility services still had the monetary resources needed to meet the day-to-day operations. The cost of the study would be around \$ 7500.00

City Attorney Pemberton also stated that having this study was a good practice in that the City could make their own decisions of any rate increase. He said that a utility could have no loss within twice in a three-year period or the State would come in and determine their own rates, which most of the time was a much higher percentage vs. what a city would determine. He went on to say the idea of a rate increase is never an easy conversation.

Councilperson Armpriest made the motion to approve the Rate Study, 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:

Bert Hudgins addressed the council to reconsider expanding the sale of fireworks from June 26 through July 5th and December 30th through January 1st to the proposed dates of June 20 through July 5th and December 20th through January 1st.

Another proposal was currently the fireworks cannot be set off or fired from June 26 through July 5th, and December 13th through January 1st. His proposed changes would be June 27th – July 5th and December 25th through January 1st.

He would also like to see it be unlawful to sale to children under the age of 10 years or any intoxicated person. He would like to state unlawful to sale to children under the age of 16 or 18 and again any intoxicated person.

Wanted anyone selling fireworks to provide a proof of liability insurance in order to have a Permit to sell fireworks.

Mayor Griffin thanked him and said that the council would have this on the agenda at the April council meeting and advised having a 5:00 workshop prior to the meeting with Mr. Hudgins, Chief Tucker and Chief White included.

J. Department Head Reports:

Brian Tucker, Fire Department stated they had responded to 53 calls. 19 medical assist, assist EMS Crew, 7 EMS calls, excluding vehicle accident wit injury, 6 alarm systems activation, 6 MVA – no injuries, and various other calls. Chief Tucker reported that recently a team of 9; 2 from Law Enforcement and 7 from Fire provided CPR for forty (40) minutes to assist a gentleman in a life saving capacity. He informed the council there were now twenty people from both departments in EMS classes.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead stated he would be happy to get the well back in service because he knew our fire rating depended on this. He advised the council we had another

CDBG bid opening on Wednesday that would fix some issues in the Beal Street area. There had also been a bid opening to repair in the leaking roof in the Water Department office. Superintendent Umstead also mentioned the crew had been busying cleaning around the water plant and sewer plant. Mayor Griffin commented them on receiving more than \$ 3,000.00 in scrap clean up.

Police Chief White reported his department was fully operational and now had Real Time mapping saying how addresses now pull up on the screen. The CAD dispatch helps both Police and Fire in making the times more accurate. He said how appreciative he was of having the partnership with Kristy at 911. He said this new system can pull up an address for 911 calls, even if referred to as a nickname. New addresses get updated immediately by 911, so it all just helps in response time dramatically. Chief White also said this month there was another officer graduating from the academy.

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer said his crew had been busy cutting trees down University Drive. His backhoe was still in the shop, so they were limited on some of the things that could be done. Next month, they should be able to start getting some hot mix so work with the water department to fix some of the smaller holes. They were staying busy running the weekly route pick-ups.

Jim Seaton, Codes Department stated his long-term violators were down to 10. He reported that two properties were demolished in February and had 3 more coming up this month. The old Gaines building property had started a clean up with two of the four buildings being torn down.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell said this was the start of the busy season. Middle school was already having games, and high school would be starting next week. All fields are game ready. The new netted backstop had been installed and he felt the girls would really like it. Soccer would be started next week as well. Mowing had already begun as well.

K. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young had nothing

Councilperson Armpriest said she was very appreciative of all the department, and thanked Superintendent Umstead on making an impact.

Councilperson Alexander thanked all the departments for their work, and wanted to say thank you to police for making their security checks and thank you to the EMS individuals for saving the life of the gentleman.

Vice Mayor Townes wanted to thank all the department heads for their work.

Councilperson Batton had nothing.

Councilperson Pruneau had nothing.

L. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Armpriest, 2nd by

Councilperson Pruneau to adjourn at 6:41 P.M.

Motion carried

APPROVED: _____
Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk