

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
May 20,2021

- A. Call to Order — Mayor Holland
- B. Prayer — Councilperson Young
- C. Pledge of Allegiance — Councilperson Young
- D. Roll Call
 - Mayor Holland - Present
 - Councilperson Batton - Present
 - Councilperson Burns – Present
 - Councilperson Martin – Present
 - Councilperson Pruneau - Present
 - Vice Mayor Townes – Present
 - Councilperson Young - Present
- E. Mayor’s Welcome:
Mayor Holland called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Holland extended a warm welcome to all.
- F. Approval of Minutes
Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, seconded by Vice Mayor Townes, to approve the minutes dated April 8, 2021.

Motion passes.
- G. Financial Matters:
Fire: NAFCCO - \$ 7,278.40

Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, seconded by Councilperson Martin

Motion passes

Water: Diversified Contractors: \$ 36,786.00 Emergency tank repair

Motion made by Councilperson Martin, seconded by Councilperson Young

Motion passes
- H. Old Business:
None
- I. New Business:
 - a. Approval of Brian Winston to the Planning Commission Board

Motion made by Councilperson Young, seconded by Vice Mayor Townes

Motion carries

b. Approval of Jill Renfro to the McKenzie Regional Library Board

Motion made by Councilperson Martin, seconded by Councilperson Batton

Motion carries

c. Approval of agreement between the city and MSSD for baseball/softball sports fields

This agreement was made several years ago. This agreement was enacted by the board in 2011 when we began charging \$ 2,000.00 per year for the labor & materials to maintain the fields for the school system. We have never increased the amount, but as you can see, prices have gone up tremendously after we did a re-assessment. Between the high school & middle school it amounts to around 40 games per year, not counting any practices. We met with the school system and discussed the different scenarios. They asked that we not charge at all. I need a motion to either not charge at all, or charge the full amount of \$6,000.00 or raise it by \$ 1,500.00 per year.

Councilperson Pruneau recommended charging \$ 3,500.00 to help recoup some of the City's Expense. He went on to say that he is supporter of school, but as a band director he had to raise the funds for the band. They had been offered to run the concession stand in order to raise money and had declined. He felt the council was going beyond what we should do.

Councilperson Martin concurred with Councilperson Pruneau. He stated that when he taught in Huntingdon, the city turned the fields over to the school system completely. He said they would incur more expense than the \$ 3,500.00 if they took over the fields.

Councilperson Pruneau also stated that the fields were not the only entity that the city was obligated to take care of. He stated we have the Senior Citizens Center and United Neighbors that we maintain their buildings and pay their utility bills for them. He said they really shouldn't flinch at paying the additional.

Councilperson Young stated that he felt like they realized they were getting a really good deal with this, especially with the price saying the same for the last twenty years.

Councilperson Burns asked if other towns our size did this, or if the schools maintained their own fields. Mayor Holland explained since we are a Special School District, it is a little different. It would be easier to say this amount of the school budget goes to field maintenance if we had city schools. We have citizens who are paying for ballfields and streets, but then we have a lot of people outside our city limits using our fields. So, what we are asking for is just a little bit of help. I really think they are getting a good deal, especially if they looked at the cost of building a field. Councilperson Young and the Mayor went to a meeting with the Superintendent, the Home Run Club, coaches, principles and we proposed that since other teams want to use the high school baseball field. We let them know that the high school and organizations had put a lot of money into this field and they could not use it. After checking with attorney Laura Keeton, she stated since it was city property, we couldn't keep them off

the field, so he began to consider a lease that would be included. They didn't want to do that after they saw the amount of money it would cost, did not want to do. So, we are offering them a very good deal.

Councilperson Batton asked if this was a realistic goal, was concerned we might be setting the school up for failure. Mayor Holland assured her it was not an issue, she stated that we gave them that option of having the concession stand, which could make around \$ 10,000.00 with volunteer workers. We would give that option to any non-profit, but like to offer it to the school system first. Mayor Holland stated we have had no one in years to take this fund-raising opportunity.

Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, seconded by Councilperson Martin

Roll call vote:

Councilperson Batton	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Pruneau	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>	Vice Mayor Townes	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Martin	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Young	<u>Y</u>

Motion passes.

d. 1st reading for 2021 -2022 budget

Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, seconded by Councilperson Young

Councilperson Martin asked if any of the Cares Act money was included in the budget. Mayor Holland stated that at this time, it was not due to the fact that there were still many questions as to how it would be used.

Roll call vote:

Councilperson Batton	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Pruneau	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>	Vice Mayor Townes	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Martin	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Young	<u>Y</u>

Motion passes.

e. Discussion of Lightning Alert System for ballpark:

Mayor Holland gave a hand out on lighting alert systems. She stated that she had received several calls from parents concerning games being played during storms at the park. She stated that in a surrounding town, there had been a lightning strike that had killed someone on one of their ballfields, stating that whatever we can do to prevent that from happening here is of the utmost importance. Mayor Holland stated she had talked with several department heads and had been given some information from this company Earth Networks and listened to their presentation. Mayor Holland said whatever we do for our citizens, their safety is of the utmost importance. She said if the umpire is TSSAA certified, they will call a game, but if we are using non TSSAA individuals to umpire, they might not realize the importance of what is happening

around the field and could be coerced into continuing the game by a more aggressive coach. By using one of these systems, it eliminates any argument. The handout talks about two different types of lighting, and this automated system would recognize what is happening in the atmosphere around the field. It helps to reduce confusion about what different individuals phones are predicting concerning an upcoming storm and the distance away. It is backed by real time. We can have someone call in and talk with us to discuss and explain the system.

Councilperson Batton if this was the only ones who had this type of system? Mayor Holland said she would look into getting others.

Councilperson Young wanted to be sure nothing was cut from Parks and Recreation budget if we went along with this.

Councilperson Burns wanted to make sure if this would justify the reality of the risk involved with coaches if we did not go forward.

Councilperson Batton wanted to know if there was any information on an Emergency Risk Management plan for storm preparedness.

Councilperson Young said we would really have to educate the coaches and players on this system.

Fire Chief Tucker stated that if the alert system at Martin goes off, there is no option but to leave the field, and there is no returning until 30 minutes after the last alert goes off. There is nothing at the park now that can alert the entire park of impending danger.

Mayor Holland stated that if a coach continued to stay on the field, she felt like that should be the last time that coach should be allowed to coach a team. She said how much do you value your child or grandchild's life.

J. Citizens Input:

Teri Warren had called and asked to speak, but she did not come.

K. Department Head Reports:

Fire Chief Tucker reported 24 incidents for the month of April. It was an average month for the department. Nothing major as fires go. There were 9 EMS Assist calls, 8 commercial alarms, and various other calls.

Mike Beasley, Parks and Recreation Director stated that the staff was busy mowing and weed eating the various park areas around the city. High school and middle school games are over. City League girl's games have ended, but will be hosting couple of tournaments in June, city league boys still have some games left, so ballfields continue to be worked on daily. The splash pad will be opening May 29th. Working on cleaning the flower beds.

Johnny Mercer with Public Works stated that the brush truck had been repaired and was back on the streets. They were in the process of mowing the right-of-ways. They have worked on Liberty Lane filling cracks. The department was also taking care of citizen mowing that had been received from the Codes Department. Still waiting for Martin Paving, we were # 50 on their list at the time of the bid opening. They are continuing with their equipment servicing.

Philip Morrisett for the Codes Department reported he is keeping check on grass and on yard debris.

Water Superintendent Billy Wood stated he was still waiting for Paving Restoration Services to come and repair the water cuts. Sewer rehab continues in order to get off the moratorium. We will begin the process for applying for another CDBG grant. We are only obligated for 5-10% of each \$ 525,000.00 grant.

Assistant Chief Rick Sawyers reported for the month of April there had been a total of 1058 calls. We had 382 calls for security check-Home/Business/Parks, 228 Investigations 10-43, 146 vehicle stops, 48 traffic stops, 36 medical assist and various other calls.

L. Council Reports:

There were no council reports

M. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Young, 2nd by Councilperson Burns to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____
Jill Holland, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk