

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Mayor and Council  
City of McKenzie  
McKenzie, TN 38201  
November 12, 2020

- A. Call to Order — Mayor Holland
- B. Prayer — Councilperson Winston
- C. Pledge of Allegiance — Councilperson Winston
- D. Roll Call
  - Mayor Holland - Present
  - Councilperson Martin - Present
  - Councilperson Pruneau – Present
  - Vice Mayor Townes – Present
  - Councilperson Winston - 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. Mayor Holland then asked the council to keep Debbie Riley’s family, especially her daughter Lauren in their prayers. Mayor Holland also informed the council that we would be doing a proclamation for Debbie at the December meeting. Mayor Holland then asked councilpersons Pruneau and Townes to raise their hands for the swearing in ceremony for their appropriate wards.
- G. A proclamation for Joe McCloskey – an outstanding Bethel student whose heroic actions prevented the loss of life for one of our citizens. Mr. McCloskey bravely entered an apartment and brought the resident to safety.

Mayor Holland announced that November 14, 2020 would be proclaimed as Colonel Gordon Browning Day. Gordon Browning was a three (3) time governor for the State of Tennessee. The proclamation proclaims his lifetime of service to his country and the great State of Tennessee. He was a true American and Tennessee patriot. Mayor Holland encouraged everyone to go over and look at the wonderful artifacts in the Gordon Browning Museum.

- H. Approval of Minutes  
Motion made by Councilperson Young, seconded by Councilperson Winston, to approve the minutes dated October 15, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Martin      Y

Vice Mayor Townes      Y

Councilperson Pruneau     Y  
Councilperson Winston     Y

Councilperson Young     Y

Motion carries

I. Financial Matters

Discussion: Bills for the Water Department to Electric Motor Rebuilders in the amount of \$ 2,297.90 (40 HP motor @ sewer plant) were presented.

Action Taken: Motion made by Vice Mayor Townes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Martin to pay the bills.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Martin     Y  
Councilperson Pruneau     Y

Vice Mayor Townes     Y  
Councilperson Winston     Y

J. Old Business:

1. Cell tower lease purchase:

Discussion: Mayor Holland informed the council that the appointed committee had met the other day. It has been discovered tat the cell tower we were previously looking at had been sold 1.5 years ago. The tower now being considered is the one located behind city hall. The price has been reduced to \$ 215,000.00. It was mentioned that when NTCH had the secondary lease on the water tank and they dropped the lease, those funds stopped. With this sale to Landmark, we are guaranteed the \$ 215,000.00 even if they decided to stop, it would be a loss to Landmark Dividend rather than to the City of McKenzie.

Action Taken: Motion made by Councilperson Winston, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Martin to accept

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Martin     Y  
Councilperson Pruneau     Y

Vice Mayor Townes     Y  
Councilperson Winston     Y

2. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for Fireworks Ordinance 535

Discussion: No Discussion

Action Taken: Motion made by Councilperson Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Martin to accept the changes to Fireworks Ordinance 535

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Martin     Y  
Councilperson Pruneau     Y

Vice Mayor Townes     Y  
Councilperson Winston     Y

### 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for Nuisance Ordinance 536

Discussion: No Discussion

Action Taken: Motion made by Councilperson Martin, 2nd by Councilperson Winston to approve Nuisance Ordinance 536

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Martin     Y  
Councilperson Pruneau     Y

Vice Mayor Townes     Y  
Councilperson Winston     Y

#### I New Business:

1. Mayor Holland introduced Pat Hargrove with A2H, who is an engineer and specializes in Bridges. Mr. Hargrove had been out to inspect the bridge and they had discussed applying for BRZ grant. This morning during a phone conversation, Mr. Hargrove had brought up the possibility of getting FEMA money from this issue as we had received reports from TDOT that the bridge had been in good shape, but as a result of all the rain, the bridge had been compromised. If this is approved, FEMA pays 75%, leaving 25% to be paid locally. With this, the 25% could possibly be split equally at 12.5% between TEMA and the City of McKenzie. Also, with this, the City would not have to go through a lot of the environmental and would not take nearly as long as with a BRZ grant. Because FEMA was distributed October 1, I have gone ahead and called Janice Newman and placed a call to Nashville to find out exactly what we would have to do to apply for an application. Mr. Hargrove had said that A2H could fill out the application. There is no need for a motion, as this is only discussion to see if we would even qualify. Janice said that this would be added to areas for areas for possible mitigation, so it should not be a problem.

Mr. Hargrove said he would be happy to explain the difference between a BRZ Federally funded bridge and FEMA dollars. A2H has done several of each. The process with FEMA is that it follows more along the lines of a State Bridge contract, so the State handles all that and would go much smoother and faster in construction cost as well. The BRZ is an 80/20 match.

Councilperson Young asked if we got to the 12.5% expense, which kind of money do you think it would cost.

Mr. Hargrove explained that it depends on the what size bridge we go back in there with. What we had was a fairly long double barrel box culvert that has a lot of fill over the top. Think about all the money and construction cost in a box with a bottom and top deck that are 2' thick with walls 10-12". The longer the box, the more fill you have over it. So, what I would probably do is look at this with a larger single barrel box that is taller, so you could shorten it and save some money, but until you get a survey done and some hydraulic data, I am guessing FEMA

route, I am guessing on a FEMA route this bridge would be somewhere between construction cost wise \$250,000.00 - \$400,000.00 depending on what size, what the velocities are and the amount of rip rap would have to be put in. If you did the same thing with a BRZ project, it would be somewhere between \$400 – 500,000.00 because of all the steps you have to take.

Mayor Holland stated that since we just really don't know at this time what we can do, she felt it was not a good idea to vote because we don't know if we would even be accepted. Until we have a better estimate of exactly what it would cost, and we had a commitment from TEMA that they would be willing to pay the 12.5%, which would help bring the cost way down. To give you an idea on cost with the million-dollar grant for the sidewalks, our share would be around \$50,000.00. I think Johnny is afraid that if we had a huge flood, it would wash that culvert down the stream. We just need to get some feedback from FEMA. I want to thank Pat for coming up with the idea that we could possibly get FEMA money for this project.

Councilman Young stated he was just glad that we are exploring options which he felt was very positive.

## 2. Report on Debt Obligation for Refunding Bond, Series 2020

Discussion: City Recorder noted that the low interest rate of 2.35% would save the City quite a bit of money.

Action Taken: Due to just being an informative report, there was no need for a council vote

## 3. Report on Debt Obligation for Refunding Capital Outlay Note, Series 2020A.

Discussion: City Recorder noted that the low interest rate of 1.74 % would also save the City quite a bit of money and a much earlier payoff in the year 2023.

Action Taken: No action required, as this was an informative report.

K. Any Other Business: Mayor Holland asked the council to entertain a motion for some business not on the agenda which concerned Christmas bonuses for employees.

Motion was made by Councilperson Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Pruneau to add this to the agenda.

Discussion: Normally we give our full-time employees \$ 100.00 and part-time employees \$ 50.00. This year due to COVID, we did not put a bonus into the budget, nor did our employees get a raise this year. We have been watching our sales tax numbers and surprisingly enough it has been good. The smaller rural communities seem to be doing better than the larger areas due to people staying home and buying locally. Also, thanks to our legislation, we are now able to receive a portion of on-line sales tax, which has also helped. I would now like to entertain a motion to the council to give our employees a one-time Christmas bonus of \$1,000.00 to full time employees, and \$ 250.00 to part-time employees.

Motion was made by Councilperson Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Townes to approve the one-time only Christmas bonus of \$ 1,000.00 for full time employed a year, and \$ 250.00 for part-time employees.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Martin     Y  
Councilperson Pruneau     Y

Vice Mayor Townes     Y  
Councilperson Winston     Y

L. Citizens Input: None

M. Department Head Reports:

Police Chief Craig Moates reported for the month of October there had been a total of 1473 calls for service. He stated there had been 783 for security check-home, business & parks, 185 investigations 10-43, 114 vehicle stops, 67 medical, 38 assist other agencies, 35 traffic control and various additional calls. We are currently hiring one of our previous officers back who will be starting on Monday. We have another officer who will be following up with medical, psychological and poly-graph this week, with another couple of applicants we are looking at very strongly.

Fire Chief Tucker stated for the month of October, the Fire Department had responded to 19 incidents; 6 commercials alarms and 6 motor vehicle accidents with various other incidents. There was nothing major for this month.

Mayor Holland also informed the council that Brian Trucker, Robert Ross and Jason Arnold had been working on the COVID safe outdoor dining space in the burned-out space on Lee Street with money that we received with COVID money through the CARES Act. If you are driving by, check out the excellent job they are doing so people can take their meals over and feel safer.

Public Works Director Johnny Mercer reported they were busy trimming trees and picking up leaves. This week we put up some Christmas lights for the upcoming open houses this weekend and said he had been pretty busy in the shop working on some equipment.

Parks & Recreation Director Mike Beasley was not in attendance, but Jeremy Allen was in attendance. He reported that they had been busy mulching leaves in the park and getting things ready for winter. He said they had also begun working in the downtown square getting Christmas lights up and making everything pretty for the upcoming holidays.

Mayor Holland mentioned that Gerald Parish with State Parks and Recreation was here today for an inspection on our new playground equipment. He gave us some great suggestions. We are also starting to work with the county in creating a master recreational plan. The State has said that unless we have this master plan, we would not be able to get other LPRF grants in the future, so we will be working with the county to ensure We will have some type of grand opening for the three (3) park areas where we received new equipment probably in the spring. We had put off those openings until the inspection.

Codes Inspector Philip Morrisett reported he had been keeping Public Works busy with cleaning up some lots. He stated he was still working on getting areas cleaned up.

Mayor Holland reminded everyone that if they saw neglected lots to give Philip a call or call City Hall.

Water Superintendent Wood stated his department was doing their usual, fixing leaks and unstopping sewers. He said they had a promise of November 30 from the company that they would be back to town to start fixing water cuts.

Mayor Holland said that Billy has a list that he would be passing on for fire hydrants that need repair.

City Recorder stated that the office was still waiting for the new computer program to be installed from Local Government. Regina Green has been hired in the office and she is picking up very quickly. She has great customer service skills and we feel very lucky to have her. She reminded the council that they had been invited to McKenzie Station on Monday evening for their soft grand opening.

Mayor Holland stated the December meeting would be in the Park Theatre @ 6:30 p.m. on December 10. We have several presentations to do due to with several people attending. This is the same date of the newly elected official's academy. If you have not taken that, it is a requirement, which also counts for utility training.

N. Council Reports: There were none.

O. With no further business, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Townes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Martin to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Martin     Y  
Councilperson Pruneau     Y

Vice Mayor Townes     Y  
Councilperson Winston     Y

Motion carried.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Holland, Mayor

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