

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Mayor and Council  
City of McKenzie  
McKenzie, TN 38201  
December 12, 2024

- A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin
- B. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Beeler
- C. Roll Call

Vice Mayor Townes - Present  
Councilperson Alexander – Present  
Councilperson Armpriest - Present  
Councilperson Beeler - Present  
Councilperson McBride - Present  
Councilperson Young - Present

D. Mayor's Welcome:

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. At this time, he extended warm welcomes to the new council member McBride and re-elected Councilpersons Beeler and Townes.

E. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Councilperson Armpriest, seconded by Vice Mayor Townes, to approve the minutes dated November 14, 2024.

Motion carries

F. Financial Matters:

None presented.

G. Old Business:

None presented.

H. New Business:

- a. Recognition of Investigator Kyle Beaucham

Police Chief White introduced Investigator Beacham and then commended him on his diligent work when he got involved in the work of a huge money laundering ring out of Florida. He stepped up and found the evidence. This sizeable sum has now been awarded to us by MTAS and the Comptroller's office. Chief White went on to say how fortunate we



are to have these officers in our department. He wanted to thank Investigator Beauchamp for stepping up above and beyond. Chief White went on to say with this money being awarded to the department, it will put us 5-10 years ahead. The software we have now is non-compliant, so that can be updated. The tasers we have now are not made anymore. We will need \$ 100,000.00 to purchase twenty-two (22) tasers. Body cams can be purchased , as well as in-car computers that write the fine immediately. These items can be purchased and will not be any cost to our tax payers.

Mayor Griffin said that in the last two years our police department has had huge accomplishments.

b. Discuss / approve Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

Mayor Griffin said he had seen where Mayor Conger had done this in Jackson. He will need to build collaboration for creating this type of council. He has spoken with principal Spivey and the board. We thinks they will need 6-8 students. He talked with Ms. Dyer and is considering having two (2) from each grade. Thinking might be good to take them to Nashville in March when legislation meets.

Councilperson Young said he really liked it; our young people need to know how the city is run.

Councilperson Armpriest stated it might help to keep younger people in McKenzie.

Councilperson Beeler said as a business owner, he went through leadership course and is Still learning about what all we have to offer.

Motion to approve made by Councilperson Young, second by Vice Mayor Townes.

Roll Call Vote:

|                         |   |                       |   |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Councilperson Young     | Y | Vice Mayor Townes     | Y |
| Councilperson Armpriest | Y | Councilperson McBride | Y |
| Councilperson Beeler    | Y |                       |   |

Motion passes.

I. Citizens Input  
None

J. Department Head Reports:



Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 40 calls. 12 EMS calls Transported by non-fire agency, 10 alarm system activations, 10 medical assists with EMS crew and various other calls. He said they had been very fortunate to receive so many donations for Christmas for Kids, which was planned for Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead informed the council that his fencing projects had been completed. The one at the park had green vinyl strips to hide the equipment, which was a much better look than the kudzu that had been hiding it. The other fencing project was on David Street, where a vehicle had lost control and demolished it. Tank maintenance was also under way.,

Police Chief White reported that the Police Dept. had answered 1117 calls for the month. 378 traffic stops, 333 security checks, 49 ambulance, 39 log information calls, 24 burglar alarms and various additional calls. He stated there would be two guys starting the academy in January. He agreed with Chief Tucker concerning all the great donations they had received and officers were looking forward to helping with the Christmas with Kids project and excited to be spending a lot of money on these kids. Chief White stated it was a blessing to get to do this.

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer said his department was staying busy with their regular household/limb pickup schedule and now with leaf pickup. The leaf box will be painted on Saturday after the rebuild. They got the theatre dressed up for the holidays with the giant tree and hanging of the wreaths.

Jim Seaton, Codes Department reported there was only one outstanding demolition left on Elm Street. He said maybe some of the liens against properties not being cared for could be sold as income for the city.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell said he would like to give kudos to his staff for everything they have been doing. They have fertilized all the ballparks and now started working on the new 8' fence at the high school field. The old fence has been moved to the T-Ball field. He mentioned that Chief Tucker had agreed to paint the scoreboard when the weather cleared up.

Councilmember Alexander asked if the pickleball courts stayed busy and Parks Director Hollowell said yes.

City Recorder Waldrup wanted to report that citizens were starting to pay their city taxes, which was really helping out.

#### J. Council Reports:



Councilperson Young expressed he was happy that Christmas for Kids had been revived.

Councilperson Armpriest wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

Councilperson Alexander advised everyone to keep up the good work, said everyone is doing a good job and the city looks very good. Merry Christmas to all.

Councilperson McBride said he thought everyone was doing a good job and expressed what a great weekend we had just had with the Hometown Christmas events. He said that he was looking forward to working with everyone.

Councilperson Beeler stated he looked forward to working with everyone as well.

Mayor Griffin informed the council and audience that we would be looking for individuals to take the two (2) spots on the Historic Commission Board and one (1) spot on the Planning Commission. He reminded everyone of the employee dinner on Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> at Hometown Hangout. Advised all that we would be meeting with TLM concerning the Mulberry Park proposal sometime in January and that he had received an email from the National Guard that they will be available in June 2025. Wanted to remind everyone that we needed to think about 1-, 3- and 5-year goals in all departments to continue moving forward.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Townes to adjourn @ 6:25 p.m.

Motion carried

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Griffin, Mayor

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

