

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
July 11, 2024

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Call to Order – Mayor Griffin

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Beeler

C. Roll Call

Vice Mayor Townes - Absent
Councilperson Alexander – Present
Councilperson Armpriest - Present
Councilperson Batton - Present
Councilperson Beeler - Present
Councilperson Young - Present

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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 Councilperson Batton, to approve the minutes dated June 13, 2024.

Motion carries

F. Financial Matters:

None presented

G. Old Business:

- a. Discussion/Approval of 2nd Reading of Ordinance 569 to Convert Broadway Street to a One- Way Street

Mayor Griffin addressed the council and the public that after receiving the letter he requested from TLM and it confirmed there was room to continue Broadway was a two-way street, he would be advising the council that he agreed that Broadway should continue as a two-way street. He then asked Joel Washburn and Brittany Martin if they would like to address the council.

Citizens Input: Joel Washburn and Brittany Martin

Joel Washburn was the first to speak saying he had served in a public office for sixteen years. He had been a journalist for forty-five years and served with most of the mayors since Mayor Scarbrough. In the 1960's, Broadway was a two-way street with parking in

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the center as well. He had measured and found that the new parking spaces were 26' long and the ones at city hall were 16' feet. He said that the change was a knee jerk reaction that needed to be changed back and make Broadway a two-way street again.

Brittany Martin started by thanking Mayor Griffin for stating Broadway should stay a two-way street. She then said her main concern was for the downtown businesses and the walk in customers. Their business has been here 100 years. She also asked that the council always be mindful of things that may affect the downtown businesses. She ended by saying the Banner is here to support you or report you.

Mayor Griffin then asked the council if they had any comments.

Attorney Pemberton addressed the council saying if you want to turn Broadway back into a two-way street, you will vote no when the call to vote occurs. It will then fail on second reading to become a one-way street.

Councilperson Batton said that she would continue to vote on things that are in her heart. Change is going to happen whether we want it or not. When there are changes, we remain positive with a good heart. We want to see McKenzie grow. We have seen our mayor humble himself by saying he had made a mistake. We need to remember that there is a strategy when making changes and to always involve all parties in these decisions.

Councilperson Young said he talked to a lot of people. Most just say they don't care, they were just tired of hearing and reading about it. Just said to please vote on it and get it over with. Having read the TLM letter, he stated he was fine with changing it back. Excited to see where we are, and just need to get past this and move on.

Mayor Griffin said I made a knee jerk decision, which I have admitted to.

Councilperson Armpriest said her biggest issue was if there had been an accident. I think we could have gotten to this before there was so much animosity. I appreciate the Banner bringing this to the council's attention.

Councilperson Alexander said if we had the TLM report earlier, we would have gotten to the point then that we are now.

Councilperson Beeler stated his aspect was the safety side of it and he said he thought the letter covers all the issues and hopefully the Banner will cover this.

Brittany Martin said it would take a while and a lot of repetition informing everyone it is a two-way street. People still have questions if it is one-way or two-way.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young	Y	Councilperson Batton	Y
Councilperson Armpriest	Y	Councilperson Beeler	Y
Councilperson Alexander	Y		

gives a more complete picture of the situation in the country
and the position of the people. It is a very important
document for the study of the history of the country.

The author of the book is a very famous and well-known
historian. He has written many books on the history of the
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Motion passes

H. New Business:

- a. Discussion /Approval to purchase two police vehicles with funds from the Drug Fund and the Safe Street Fund

Mayor Griffin asked Chief White to inform the council on the purchases. Chief White said they planned to purchase two 2024/2025 F150 trucks in the carbonized gray color to match the others we had previously purchased from the State approved dealership in Nashville. He said even with paying for the vehicles, the bank accounts are still in good shape.

Councilperson Alexander made the motion to approve the purchase of these units. Second by Councilperson Armpriest

Councilperson Batton asked if we were still leasing vehicles from Enterprise. Mayor Griffin said no, after he reviewed the fees for just the one park vehicle it was in excess of over \$9,000.00, he found that it was much cheaper to do a bond fund

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young	Y	Councilperson Batton	Y
Councilperson Armpriest	Y	Councilperson Beeler	Y
Councilperson Alexander	Y		

Motion passes

I. Department Head Reports:

Battalion Chief Jason Arnold reported to due absence of Fire Chief Tucker, who was recovering from an injury. Fire Department stated they had responded to 44 calls. 13 EMS calls -party transported by non-fire agency, 10 medical assist -- assist EMS crew, 5 smoke scare -- odor of smoke, 5 alarm system activations- no fire, unintentional and various other calls.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead stated we are in leak season, we fix one, find another one. Just trying to stay ahead.

Police Chief White reported the department had 1,932 calls. They had been busy with 48 ambulance calls, 42 log information, 36 officer investigations, 19 calls for 911 hang ups, assist to motorist, open lines, and public service, 14 animal calls and various other calls.

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer said his crew are still working on ditch cleaning, running household this week. Worked with the water department repairing 15 water cuts in the streets, continuing equipment servicing.

Jim Seaton, Codes Department stated he had thirty new violations and all but 4 had been completed. August 5, these people will be back in court.

Mayor Griffin reported that Parks Director Hollowell was on vacation this week. He took this time to thank parks, police, fire on helping make the 4th of July go off so well. He thanked Beta Sigma Phi for always decorating the pier.

Jennifer Waldrup said the office had experienced a lot of calls concerning the change of the trash companies. Several citizens had not understood to have the Republic can empty in order to have it removed. Hopefully things would smooth out.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young said the downtown looked great, the lights and shrubs were very nice. He had spoken with Mr. Pruneau and he was doing well with his move, feeling better and starting to eat again.

Councilperson Armpriest said that she was glad how everyone had come together to work out the street issue. She said that codes was very important because the council wanted to bring the city standards us, to make us a more inviting place to come. She mentioned it was important to make sure the codes were enforced the same for everyone.

Councilperson Alexander wanted to thank all the department heads for the great job they were doing. He said he agreed with Councilperson Armpriest that codes are needed. We can't just let go of property grounds and let buildings just fall in.

Councilperson Batton thanked everyone.

Councilperson Beeler said the fireworks were great and thanked the Police for doing a great job with traffic control.

- L. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Alexander, 2nd by Councilperson Batton to adjourn at 6:21 P.M.

Motion carried

APPROVED: _____
Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk

