

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
January 9, 2025

- 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 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 a warm welcome.

- E. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Vice Mayor Townes, seconded by Councilperson McBride, to approve the minutes dated December 12, 2024.

Motion carries

- F. Financial Matters:
None presented.

- G. Old Business:
None presented.

- H. New Business:

- a. Discuss / approval of free Library sponsored by United Way

At this time, Mayor Griffin introduced Jennifer Medford, who works with United Way as a Community Champion. Ms. Medford advised the council this had been presented to the library board already and it has passed, pending approval by the city council. She went on to say that the plan was to have fifteen (15) free libraries that United Way covers in the

West Tennessee area and after speaking with County Mayor Butler, he felt that McKenzie would be a good area to have the free library for Carroll County. Ms. Medford explained that the library worked similar to a Blessing Box, she also had with her a small model so that everyone would know how it would look and said that TCAT in Newbern were building the boxes and the city would need to purchase the post for installation. United Way will stock the library and of course the community would be welcome to help stock it. Individuals can keep the books as well. They will be stocked for ages 0-18 years. If someone is looking to find a free library, locations can be found on the internet. All books will be age appropriate and the free library will be checked on a regular basis to ensure no books will contain controversial topics. She said that she would prefer whatever area we decided on that it be in a lighted area.

Mayor Griffin said that the librarian had requested it be near the splash pad, but he did not feel that would be the best place, because of the water unless it was put outside the fence on Waldren, mentioned that maybe in the housing authority might be another consideration, but would need approval from their board. He said that he was very thankful that McKenzie had been chosen as a recipient.

Mayor Griffin then asked for a roll call vote:

Councilperson Young	Y	Vice Mayor Townes	Y
Councilperson Armpriest	Y	Councilperson McBride	Y
Councilperson Alexander	Y	Councilperson Beeler	Y

Motion passes

Motion to discuss / approval of LaDonna Herrin to Historic Committee made by Councilperson Young, 2nd by Vice Mayor Townes.

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young	Y	Vice Mayor Townes	Y
Councilperson Armpriest	Y	Councilperson McBride	Y
Councilperson Alexander	Y	Councilperson Beeler	Y

Motion passes

- c. Motion to discuss / approval of Jennifer Travis to Historic Committee made by Councilperson Beeler, 2nd by Vice Mayor Townes.

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young	Y	Vice Mayor Townes	Y
Councilperson Armpriest	Y	Councilperson McBride	Y
Councilperson Alexander	Y	Councilperson Beeler	Y

Motion passes

- d. Motion to discuss preliminary plans for Mulberry Park made by Councilperson McBride, 2nd by Vice Mayor Townes.

Mayor Griffin explained there was really no action to take tonight, just wanted to give an update after meeting with the engineers. All members of council and press had a copy of the preliminary drawing, but there would be probably changes after it had been reviewed by the soccer board and parks and recreation.

Councilperson Young asked if the fields would be regulation. Mayor Griffin advised they would. They would also run N to S, except for one, which would be E to W. the basketball court would stay as it, as well as the playground area.

Councilperson Young then asked if there would be a concession area. Mayor Griffin said there would be concessions and restrooms where the restroom is now. A business has committed to \$ 50,000.00 over a three (3) year period for lighting only. Another business has committed to landscaping.

Mayor Griffin said that by February, would like to have public input to order to finalize the plan.

- e. Vice Mayor election.

Mayor Griffin informed the council that this was on the agenda in order to be in line with the city charter stating this should be done every two years. Motion to have vice mayor election made by Councilperson Armpriest, 2nd by Vice Mayor Townes.

Floor was opened for nominations.

Motion to elect Vice Mayor Townes made by Vice Mayor Townes.

Motion to elect Councilperson Beeler made by Councilperson Alexander stating that he wanted to give his reason why. Drew was a busy man who is invested in the community and a lot younger than all us old folks. He felt that this would help get the younger community more involved and vested in our community.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young - Jessie Townes
Councilperson Armpriest - Jessie Townes
Councilperson Alexander – Drew Beeler

Vice Mayor Townes - Jessie Townes
Councilperson McBride – Drew Beeler
Councilperson Beeler – Drew Beeler

Mayor Griffin – Drew Beeler

Motion passes.

I. Citizens Input
None

J. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 33 calls. 11 EMS calls Assist with medical/ EMS crew, 6 EMS calls transported by non-fire agency, 4 motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead reported things were quiet. He went on to say that he hoped they were ready for the snow.

Police Chief White reported that the Police Dept. had answered 1251 calls for the month. 366 traffic stops, 527 security checks, 54 ambulance, 37 log information calls, 22 officer investigations and various additional calls. Chief White stated there were two officers in the academy, and their first week had gone well so far. He added that his department would be on the lookout and getting ready for the expected weather.

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer said his department was looking forward to using the new salt slinger for the first time with the upcoming snow forecast and added that this would be the second time to use the plow. He stated they had some issues picking up leaves now since the leaves were frozen to the ground right now.

Jim Seaton, Codes Department reported they were digging footing for the habitat house and reported that T-Cat would be starting a 17,000-foot addition.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell said his staff had been busy taking all the Christmas decorations down. They had placed them all in the rear of the farmers market so they would dry out before packing them up. They had just completed the fence for the high school fence. They plan to repurpose the high school field for the T-Ball field. Director Hollowell said they would be serving equipment as baseball would be starting in February.

City Recorder Waldrup commented that our citizens were beginning to get accustomed to the online payment plan, which gave them the option of paying from anywhere there was an Internet connection, and not having to come to city hall. There had been almost a triple increase in payments made from this time last year.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young wanted to say to all be safe if the weather hit as expected. He then extended congratulations to Councilperson Beeler.

Councilperson Armpriest asked Superintendent Mercer if his department was the one who put salt down at the Senior Citizens building and thanked them.

Councilperson Alexander said the city departments were doing a good job as usual. He stated he appreciate the police offering rides and was glad the departments were working together.

Councilperson McBride thanked the Fire Dept. for their work at the Old West fire. He also stated there had been in intruder in his subdivision. He took this time to thank all the departments for what they do, and congratulated Councilperson Beeler.

Vice Mayor Townes said he hoped this new year would be as good for the city as last year.

Councilperson Beeler stated he had the privilege for attending the Christmas for Kids shopping event and being there and seeing it firsthand means a lot for the community. He took this time to say thank you for everything the departments do.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Young, 2nd by Vice Mayor Townes to adjourn @ 6:28 p.m.
Motion carries

APPROVED: _____

Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk