

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
February 13, 2025

A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin

B. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Alexander

C. Roll Call

Vice Mayor Beeler - Present

Councilperson Alexander – Present

Councilperson Armpriest - Present

Councilperson McBride - Present

Councilperson Townes - 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 Councilperson Armpriest seconded by Councilperson Townes, to approve the minutes dated January 9, 2025.

Motion carries

F. Financial Matters:

None presented.

G. Old Business:

None presented.

H. New Business:

a. Discuss / approval of Resolution 25-001.

Mayor Griffin explained that this resolution would execute and submit an application for the 2025 Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$ 1,000,000.00 for the purpose community water. Mayor Griffin then asked Water Superintendent Umstead to speak about what area had been proposed. Mr. Umstead then explained that he wished to have fire hydrants installed

down Cedar to help ensure the residences in that area and the Wastewater Treatment Plan with fire protection. He would then like to install water lines down the Cedar in the area of the McKenzie Brummitt Funeral Home to Hwy 79 near the former Smith Tire Barn and Everett Lake.

Motion made to approve made by Councilperson Townes, 2nds by Vice Mayor Beeler.

Mayor Griffin then asked for a roll call vote:

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

Motion passes

B Motion to discuss/approval of Moving forward with the Mulberry Soccer Field Plans

Mayor Griffin started by saying this is just to see if the council is on board to go forward with plan 1 or plan 2 for the soccer field in order to get pricing, TLM created these two plans incorporating the land that the Industrial Board donated to us. These fields are all regulation size for each of the age groups and include 150-160 parking spaces. When either of the plans have been chosen, the Mayor intends on presenting the approved plan with the exact dollar amount. The National Guard will be here in June to work on the land the Industrial Board donated and have also included building the exterior of the concession/storage building. Plan 2 has to options on it that would really make this a great complex. The first thing is to reroute the portion of Locust Street. This curve has been a hard curve for years, even with a car pulling a trailer. By changing it from a left-hand curve to a right-hand curve – it eliminates traffic from going in the middle of the fields and helps to protect any children participating. Another option would be to purchase a piece of property that is on the Mulberry Street side to square up the playing fields.

Councilperson Young said he was always interested in the sports option for the children of McKenzie. Right now there are approximately 250 kids in the soccer leagues. This complex would finally give soccer a home, so they would not be moving from place to place. Councilperson Young then asked Mayor Griffin if this complex would require a grant. Mayor Griffin responded that with the National Guard helping and the city employees labor, there should not be a lot of cost. He reminded the council that \$100,000.00 had been set aside from ARPA funds by the previous council and mayor. He just wanted to move forward with choosing a plan for pricing. He also said that we would be working with Brad Hurley of the Carroll County Chamber to put together a master plan for our parks. Not having a master plan had caused us to stopped getting funding with state grants. Hopefully in 2026 we will be able to get a LPRF grant. He will work with the different areas to see what would be the best choices to build in each park.

Councilperson Alexander made the motion to go forward with Plan 2 that includes rerouting of the road. Second by Councilperson Armpriest.

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. Strategic Planning Dates:

Mayor Griffin stated that last year's top three (3) goals were cleaning up the city, market McKenzie and to build better relationship with Bethel University. He said that he felt like we had done pretty well with clean up. Still wanted to do better with marketing and the Bethel University relationship. Would like to check available dates in March that the Council would be able to get together. Mayor Griffin asked if we preferred day or night. Mayor envisioned a whole day working with the department heads and hearing their goals.

Councilperson Young said he would like to be able to go to Paris Landing and spend the night.

Mayor Griffin said maybe we could just wait until April, which would give him time to get pricing and availability. Would be looking at April 1-11.

No further discussion.

Mayor Griffin stated that he wanted the council to mark down March 21, at 10 am – noon, Joe Barker will be hosting leadership meetings in McKenzie. He will be inviting the Industrial Board, school board as well. He will ask for RSVP in order to serve lunch.

d. Recognize Jason Arnold on completing training for Mental Health Strike Team.

Mayor Griffin commended Jason on completing the necessary training for the Mental Health Strike Team and presenting McKenzie so well. Mayor Griffin asked Jason to let the council know what this training entails for the team member. Jason explained this started in 2019 as a collaboration between the Department of Health and the Fire Association. The team provides debriefing concerning bad calls, death, attempted suicide, crisis with natural disasters. Provide lots of hard conversations with people suffering from PTSD, it's very powerful. We had to experience a debriefing as well when one of our own was killed.

The entire councilman congratulated Jason on this training because of its importance.

I. Citizens Input
None

J. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 44 calls. 19 EMS calls assist with medical/ EMS crew, 7 motor vehicle accident with no injuries 4 aircraft standbys, 4 EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency and several others. Chief Tucker took this opportunity to say how proud he was of Jason Arnold stepping up and becoming a part of the Mental Health Strike Team. He stated that PTSD is real, not made up. When Jason asked if he would approve him being on this strike team, he was really happy as it works out well for the city too. Took this time to say the department had received the Forrester Grant and had gotten \$5,000.00 of equipment on Monday

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead reported they were busy repairing some water/sewer lines.

Police Chief White reported that the Police Dept. had answered 1262 calls for the month. 522 security checks, 372 traffic stops, 55 ambulance, 52 log information calls, 22 officer investigations and various additional calls. Chief White stated that the two officers in the academy had completed week six, so they were halfway through the academy. He has one officer leaving February 28th, but is stepping up to bigger and better things. He will now be over five counties, which is a huge step for him. Chief White said he is very proud of him and proud of what he did for McKenzie.

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer said his department was still doing the household brush pickup. His department is currently working on street drains and wanted to remind everyone that after March leaves will need to be bagged

Jim Seaton, Codes Department reported that he was moving forward with property condemnation. Joe Teague had signed for receipt of the card concerning his property on Elm.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell said his staff had been busy working on the high school field and the new fence. Mr. Hollowell took this time to thank Johnny Mercer for painting the poles for the field, and Brian Tucker for painting the score board. His team attached all the decals so that joint effort saved the city quite a bit of money as high school ball would be starting the first week of March and middle school will be starting next week. League sign ups and soccer signups are underway.

City Recorder Waldrup commented that property tax payments were still underway.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young wanted to take this time to commend the Fire Department. Then said he was proud of all the department on what

they had accomplished the last couple of years and was proud of where we as a city are now. Councilperson Young then said everyone needed to look at the baseball field; Billy Hollowell and his staff had done a really good job.

Councilperson Armpriest said it was wonderful how the departments worked together to move the city forward.

Councilperson Alexander said he just wanted to thank everyone for everything they do. Proud of how they look at ways to save the city money.

Councilperson McBride congratulated Jason Arnold for completing his training for the Mental Health Strike Team. Agreed with Councilperson Young and how great the ballfields were looking and said he appreciated everyone's hard work to move the city forward.

Councilperson Townes had no comment.

Councilperson Beeler stated he was thankful for everyone's hard work and was really excited and looking forward to the Mulberry soccer complex coming together.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson McBride, 2nd by Councilperson Townes to adjourn @ 6:59 p.m.

Motion carries

APPROVED: _____

Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk