

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
June 12, 2025

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

Vice Mayor Beeler - Present
Councilperson Alexander – Present
Councilperson Armpriest - Present
Councilperson McBride - Absent
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, second by Councilperson Townes to approve the minutes dated May 8, 2025

Motion carries

- F. Financial Matters:

Water Department – Thermocasting \$ 24,425.00. This was discussed at the May meeting regarding the large sink hole and drain issue behind Save A Lot. The company provides the camera work, jetting and flushing for area behind Save A Lot, running under Puff Pro toward the Shell Station to see if the culvert has collapsed.

Motion made by Councilperson Armpriest, second by Vice Mayor Beeler to pay Thermocasting.

G. Old Business:

- a. None

H. New Business:

- a. Discussion/Approval of Proclamation for Bethel Ladies Basketball Final 4

Motion made by Councilperson Armpriest, second by Vice Mayor Beeler to have the Proclamation presented to the Coach Nelson and team members in the audience. After reading the proclamation, Mayor Griffin took a minute to congratulate them on their success.

Roll Call vote:

Councilperson Young:	Yes	Councilperson Townes:	Yes
Councilperson Armpriest:	Yes	Vice Mayor Beeler:	Yes
Councilperson Alexander:	Yes		

Motion carries

- b. Discussion/Approval for Food Truck Ordinance 572

No discussion

Motion to approve made by Councilperson Young, second by Councilperson Townes

Roll Call vote:

Councilperson Young:	Yes	Councilperson Townes:	Yes
Councilperson Armpriest:	Yes	Vice Mayor Beeler:	Yes
Councilperson Alexander:	Yes		

Motion carries

- c. Discussion/Approval for Resolution # 25-004 to cut section of Locust off for the Mulberry Soccer Complex.

Motion to approve: Councilperson Armpriest, second by Vice Mayor Beeler

Discussion:

Councilperson Armpriest asked if this would affect any of the residents in the area. Mayor Griffin responded that this section did not affect any residents. If someone needed to come through, they can re-route to either Walnut or Magnolia.

Councilperson Young asked how long it would be before the new road was open. Mayor Griffin responded that he had talked with both Parks Director Hollowell and Public Works Director Mercer about contacting some of the paving companies for their bid and getting on their list. Mayor Griffin then asked if there were any other questions and with none asked for the roll call vote:

Councilperson Young:	Yes	Councilperson Townes:	Yes
Councilperson Armpriest:	Yes	Vice Mayor Beeler:	Yes
Councilperson Alexander:	Yes		

d. Discussion/Approval of Ordinance # 571 for City of McKenzie Budget 2025/2026.

Motion to discuss Ordinance # 571 made by Councilperson Young, second by Councilperson Armpriest.

Mayor Griffin explained that coming from our workshop, the tax rate was 0.6218 which Carrol County has not yet approved, and we will not know what the approved preliminary rate is until June 23rd. The presented budget shows no added value to growth or projects. The proposed rate is bigger than what was proposed. We will have to have a called meeting before the end of June to have the equalization across the three (3) counties we are in. Mayor Griffin explained the sheet we had presented was based on homes assessed at approximately \$ 120,000.00 and that we had shown the budget at a balanced rate, then how with different tax rates what the different monthly investment would be for the property owner and the revenue to the city. The home valued now at \$ 120,000.00 with the county assessment would be valued at \$ 240,000.00 changing the county tax from \$ 296.52 to \$ 373.08. A yearly increase of \$ \$ 76.56

Councilperson Armpriest asked how that \$ 76.56 affected our budget. Mayor Griffin said there would be no impact to our budget, as with that rate we have a revenue neutral budget. Councilperson Armpriest so this reflects very little growth or projects for the city. The only improvement would be a .75 cent per hour employee wage increase with no added value to projects. She then stated that it seemed the only way we could move forward was to have a bigger increase than that.

At this point, Mayor Griffin said that if a tax increase was proposed, we would need to have a public hearing stating this and another public hearing for the budget before a special called meeting approving the budget before the end of June.

Councilperson Armpriest said what she heard from most citizens they would like to see street repairs and services to our infra-structure. She said because of this, we would need to do a tax increase if we were ever going to move forward.

Councilperson Young said there comes a point in time NOT raising taxes catches up with you. You can't make a budget with no increases, for example you never know what the cost is going to be for asphalt when it is time to pave.

Councilperson Alexander said he would like to look at other things other than just property tax. I have no answer for what it is. Everyone around us is struggling. He went on to say that he hears most from citizens is streets. No tax increase for many many years has made us more behind. He again said he would like to search for everything available to help increase the revenue source.

Councilperson Armpriest made the motion to exceed the certified rate of 0.8218% for Carroll, Weakley and Henry counties. Second by Councilperson Young

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young:	Yes
Councilperson Armpriest:	Yes
Councilperson Alexander:	No

Councilperson Townes:	Yes
Vice Mayor Beeler:	Yes

I Citizen's Input:

Dorothy Jones was not in attendance.

J. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 52 calls. 22 aircraft standbys, 10 EMS calls assist with medical/ EMS crew, 4 motor vehicle accidents with no injuries, 4 dispatched & canceled enroute, and several additional calls. Chief Tucker also stated there had been several small fires throughout the month.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead was not in attendance due to main break.

Police Chief White reported that the Police Dept. had answered 1895 calls for the month. 1,093 security checks, 347 traffic stops, 55 log information calls, 50 ambulance, 36 officer investigations, 34 animal calls, and various additional calls. Chief White stated that his last officer will be graduating in the end of the month and it will be the first time in many years, the department will be fully staffed. He also said that he had been notified a very large decrease in our crime rate,

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer reported that they were still doing household and limb-brush pickup. Mr. Mercer also stated that he was still working on culverts and ditches that had sustained damage during the spring storms and flooding. He reported that work was being done on the generator at the shop and at this time it was mostly wired in.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell reported Babe Ruth was playing on the baseball field. Train had been moved from the splash pad and a new small playground will be installed. They have been putting up the slit fencing at the soccer complex. Wanted to thank water department for help with the opening of the splash pad and the fire department for filling up the new planters. He said after six weeks, they still had an average of 6 gallons left.

Codes Enforcer Seaton said there had been 51 new violations. 5 of these were on pop up signs and 2 were new building permits.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young said Nights on Broadway had started and it was really good, he had had lots of fun.

Councilperson Armpriest said that she wanted to thank the city for the wonderful Memorial Day program.

Councilperson Alexander had nothing.

Councilperson Townes had nothing.

Vice Mayor Beeler said he wanted to thank all the departments for all they do, he appreciates everything the departments do.

Mayor Griffin informed everyone that he had received official communication from the National Guard, and they will be here on Saturday the 14th for two weeks. Mayor Griffin reminded the council that we would have a called meeting with public hearings on June 24th. The first will be 5:00 p.m. for the property tax increase; 5:30 p.m. will be for 2025 -2026 fiscal year budget. 6:00 p.m. will be for the special called meeting.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Beeler to adjourn @ 6:32 p.m.,
2nd by Councilperson Armpriest

Motion carries

APPROVED: _____

Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk