

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
November 14, 2024

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

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

- 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 Vice Mayor Townes, to approve the minutes dated October 10, 2024.

Motion carries

- F. Financial Matters:
None presented.

- G. Old Business:
None presented.

- H. New Business:

- a. Recognize Narcotics / 24th Drug Task Investigator Label Ezell

Motion to recognize Agent Ezell made by Councilperson Beeler, second by Vice Mayor Townes.

Motion passes.

Mayor Griffin took this time to present Agent Ezel, a Certificate of Appreciation thanking him for being named the 2024 West Tennessee Narcotics Officer of the Year and telling him how fortunate the City of McKenzie was to have such a valuable officer to be a part of our department in the protection of our community.

Police Chief White then gave a breakdown of all the items he was involved in: 85 felony cases, 16 vehicle seizure, 39 firearms, 2000 fetal pills, 6 lbs. of meth, over 90 lbs. of marijuana, ½ lb. cocaine, found illegal gambling and after being in various vape shops found over 10,000 illegal THC items, not to forget has received \$ 570,172 in cash

Councilperson Batton said she had children and was just so thankful for the job Agent Ezell had done.

Agent Ezel thanked the Chief White, Ass't Chief Boucher and Mayor Griffin for allowing him to be here. He responded by saying he played every card he had to come here when the opportunity came available. He also took this time to say he wanted to thank his wife for letting him do what he does. He couldn't do what he does without her support.

Mayor Griffin again said thank you for what you do. This was one of the main things I had wanted to have happen.

- b. Recognize Josefina Batton for her service as a council member.

Motion to recognize Councilperson Batton made by Councilperson Armpriest, second by Councilperson Beeler

Motion carries.

Mayor Griffin took this time to say that this had allowed him to grow as a leader. We had to get to know each other and I feel like we work well together.

Councilperson Batton responded that she had no idea what city council was about when she started, but the relationship with the council and the community means so much to her. She has been here eighteen years and has formed compassion for this community. Thankful to the city for being elected four years ago.

- c. Discussion/approval of employee Christmas bonus.

Mayor Griffin reminded the council that this was already in the budget, but just wanted to bring it to the council. It remains the same as in the past; \$ 100.00 for full time, \$50.00 for part time employees.

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

Motion to approve

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Young	Y	Vice Mayor Townes	Y
Councilperson Armppriest	Y	Councilperson Batton	Y
Councilperson Beeler	Y		

Motion passes

I. Citizens Input

None

J. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 42 calls. 16 EMS calls Transported by non-fire agency, 6 alarm system activations, and various other calls. He informed the council that they had received a USDA Dept of Forestry grant, which enabled them to purchase some equipment with 100% grant funding, no city match. He then talked about Fire and Police would be at Hometown Hangout on Saturday night, Nov. 16th for a donation event for Christmas with Kids. Chief Tucker said they had agreed they would be giving a donation to the Angel Tree to help them out with their list of names.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead informed the council that leaks had slowed down. The department was busy working on equipment; lots of work at sewer plant, so need patience.

Police Chief White reported that the Police Dept. had answered 1226 calls for the month. 516 traffic stops, 290 security checks, 56 ambulance runs, 45 officer investigations, and various additional calls. He said Officer Jones was working to get the impound lot cleared out, and officers were looking forward to helping with the Christmas with Kids project.

Public Works Supervisor Johnny Mercer said his department were still cleaning out ditches, picking up brush and getting some of the downtown Christmas lights up for open house. Mayor Griffin thanked Supervisor Mercer and his workers for the work they had done on the city leaf truck. Supervisor Mercer had received a quote of \$ 17,000.00 to repair the box on the truck and had done the work himself for less than \$1,000.00. A great savings to the city and his department.

Jim Seaton, Codes Department reported that he had two houses coming up for demolition.

One house located on McClure and one on Walnut Street. Owners on Oaklawn have let us know they have their own excavators coming to demo it.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell reported that soccer had finished up a couple of weeks ago. There were approximately 252 kids participating in the fall season. All the ball fields have been aerated. The Home Run backfield fence has been removed. His department will try to repurpose that fence on the Ball fields. He will be meeting with the Home Run Club to discuss ideas on refacing the scoreboard. Parks Department has started pulling up the Christmas decorations and checking them before setting them up. Director Hollowell wanted to thank Superintendent Umstead in loaning out the water department jack hammer for the parks department to use in removing concrete from the ballfield posts. Parks light pole lights will not be on once Veterans Park decorations and Christmas lights are all set up.

City Recorder Waldrup wanted to report that things were going very well with ReKar. They are checking with our office employees concerning any issues. Hometown Christmas events are about finished.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young wished everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

Councilperson Armpriest asked about if we could do anything to make the steps on the Sidewalk downtown more visible. Mayor Griffin informed her we could not make any changes until the grant was closed. We have put caution tape across the steps again, Councilperson Armpriest then asked about grants. Mayor Griffin explained we have to find the grant that fits what we need. We have a couple of employees who can work on grants.

Vice Mayor Townes took this time to thank everyone for the great jobs the department do. He really appreciated it.

Councilperson Batton had no comment.

Councilperson Beeler thanked Councilperson Batton for her help when he came on the board teaching me the ropes and all her under table kicks.

Mayor Griffin let the council know there had been a meeting with the National Guard concerning the Mulberry soccer complex. They will begin work in June 2025. TLM is working on the plans for the site. He then announced that the council was invited to the City Christmas lunch on Dec. 13th at noon at Hometown Hangout. He also reminded

everyone of the swearing in ceremony for the 2024 elected council members would be Tuesday, November 26 at 10:00 a.m. in the council chambers.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Young, 2nd by Councilperson Batton to adjourn at 6:26 P.M.

Motion carried

APPROVED: _____
Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk

