

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Mayor and Council  
City of McKenzie  
McKenzie, TN 38201  
August 12, 2021

- A. Call to Order — Mayor Holland
- B. Prayer — Councilperson Batton
- C. Pledge of Allegiance — Councilperson Batton
- D. Roll Call
  - Mayor Holland - Present
  - Councilperson Batton - Present
  - Councilperson Burns – Present
  - Councilperson Martin – Present
  - Councilperson Pruneau - Present
  - Vice Mayor Townes – Present
  - Councilperson Young - Present
- E. Mayor’s Welcome:

Mayor Holland called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Holland extended a warm welcome to all.
- F. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilperson Young, seconded by Councilperson Martin, to approve the minutes dated June 10, 2021. Motion made by Councilperson Burns, second by Vice Mayor Townes to approve the minutes dated July 8, 2021.

Motions pass.
- G. Financial Matters:

Parks & Rec for playground equipment for Mulberry Park @ \$ 24,578.67 and for City Park @ 14,362.33 for a total of \$ 38,941.00  
Event stage for a total of 7,979.98

Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, seconded by Councilperson Young.

Motion passes
- H. Old Business:

There was none
- I. New Business:
  - a. Discussion/approval for Duane Patrick’s Eagle Scout Project to build a gaga pit.

Discussion: After much discussion as to the age appropriateness, location of the gaga pit, upkeep of the area. Question was presented if he was pressed for time to complete the project, if not perhaps at the next meeting he could present a plan that included visuals. A motion was made to put this item on hold until the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in order for a plan to be presented.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Townes and seconded by Councilperson Pruneau to have Duane Patrick present his project at the September meeting.

Motion carries

b. Appoint Shirley Martin to Library Board

Discussion: None

Motion made by Councilperson Young, seconded by Councilperson Pruneau to approve Shirley Martin.

Motion carries

c. Approve Phil Thomason & Associates to revamp the Historic Guidelines Manual

Discussion: Mayor Holland informed the board that our historic guidelines needed to be updated and we had been fortunate enough to receive a grant that is specially for upgrading historic guidelines.

Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, second by Vice Mayor Townes to approve Phil Thomason & Associates to revamp our Historic Guidelines Manual

Motion carries

d. Approve park signage to include the TCA guidelines concerning "Smoking in Public Parks."

Discussion: Mayor Holland stated that it is now a law in the State of Tennessee that you cannot smoke in public parks, this also includes vaping.

Motion made by Councilperson Burns, second by Councilperson Martin to approve adding the TCA guidelines to the park signage concerning Smoking in Public Parks.

e. Discussion/approval to purchase knuckle boom truck for Solid Waste Department.

Discussion: Mayor Holland asked the Public Works Director Johnny Mercer if he would like enlighten the council. Johnny stated the truck was 20 years old, and they were working on the truck more than they using it. He stated it is a Freightliner chassis, which is a more common

truck. The purchase agreement has a guaranteed buyback of \$ 95,000.00 after 24 months. He also advised the council that it would still be two to three months before we would get the vehicle, as they have to build it. Mayor Holland also added it would be paid for from Solid Waste Capital Outlay. Councilperson Young asked if we were considering the lease agreement or to purchase outright. Councilperson Pruneau asked what would happen with the old truck. Johnny stated that we would keep it for a back up.

A motion was made by Councilperson Pruneau, second by Vice Mayor Townes to approve purchase of the truck.

Roll call vote:

Councilperson Batton	Y	Councilperson Pruneau	Y
Councilperson Burns	Y	Vice Mayor Townes	Y
Councilperson Martin	Y	Councilperson Young	Y

Motion carries

f. Discussion/approval for speed calming devices.

Discussion: Mayor Holland stated that several neighborhoods had asked about speed bumps. Our attorney does not agree with speed bumps. It was explained that these can slow down EMS vehicles. Through research they have found that the speed calming devices that show you are going for example 35 MPH in a 20 MPH help to get the drivers attention. We researched these before and they ran between \$3,500 to \$ 4,000.00 depending on the extras. They would be portable, so they can be easily moved from neighborhood to neighborhood. Mayor Holland said she and Chief Moates had discussed the possibility of purchasing 3. Councilperson Batton mentioned that between the elementary & middle school people including the school buses are flying down the street. Lt. Ryan White from the Police Dept. said that he would check into the possibility of getting grant funds to help work the area. He also said he would call the Carroll County bus shop and inform them of the speeding. Public Works Director Mercer said that he would get another School Zone sign to post in the Woodrow/Brooks Street area.

Motion was made by Councilperson Burns, second by Councilperson Pruneau to give approval to solicit bids for up to three speed calming devices.

Motion carries.

g. Discussion/approval of using 5 acres for future emergency services; including fire, police and ambulance.

Discussion: Mayor Holland informed the council that the city has 5 acres of land located on Hwy 22 between the high school and the Baptist Rehab building. This land was given to the city by Ray Morris to build a future fire station. She stated she had talked with Chief Moates and Fire Chief Tucker and they came up with instead of just fire, it would be good to use it for all emergency services.

Motion was made by Councilperson Martin, second by Councilperson Burns to change the wording to approve using this land as a future emergency services site.

Motion carries.

- h. Discussion/approval of working with Priority Ambulance Services for locating to the approved EMS 5 acres.

Discussion: Mayor Holland stated that Priority Ambulance had indicated to Fire Chief Tucker they would have to leave within a year because of the condition of the building. It would be possible that they could not even give us ambulance service when they have to leave the building. Mayor Holland said we have had trouble in the past with service because of the wait time. After talking with Baptist, she was told they have two (2) ambulances assigned to McKenzie which are fully staffed if we could supply the land. Priority indicated they would be willing to erect a modular service building if we could provide the land. Councilperson Martin asked who would own the building, and Mayor Holland responded Priority would own the building. The question was asked what if Priority decided to leave. Mayor Holland responded we would have no services. Baptist only contracts with Priority, they do not own the ambulance service. Assistant Chief Arnold said if Priority left, Baptist would contract with another ambulance service, so we should still be able to have services. The good thing is that this property is still in the same vicinity of the helipad as before. Mayor Holland also mentioned that Assistant Chief Arnold was in an Advance EMT class now so that if services were delayed, he or other members of the fire department could assist until the ambulance was able to respond.

Councilperson Burns made a motion to approve beginning negotiations between the City and Priority. Second by Councilperson Young

Roll call vote:

Councilperson Batton	Y	Councilperson Pruneau	Y
Councilperson Burns	Y	Vice Mayor Townes	Y
Councilperson Martin	Y	Councilperson Young	Y

Motion carries.

- i. Discussion of Motel/Hotel Occupancy

Discussion: Mayor Holland advised that we were again having problems with the motel allowing occupants stay longer than 30 days. It is designated in the B2 district as a motel – so if the occupants surpass 29 days, they are using it as a residence. In addition, we have had 6 calls this month about the motel, which puts them as a borderline nuisance meaning we could close them down. Our attorney, Laura Keeton is working with the MTAS attorney to draft an ordinance stating the motel cannot be used as a residence. Councilperson Burns asked how we could enforce the ordinance. Mayor Holland responded that according to TCA we could check their records to verify their length of stay. This discussion is just to bring you up to par.

J. Citizens Input: None

K. Department Head Reports:

Interim Parks Director Jeremy Allen said they had been busy catching up with mowing. Fall softball is getting ready to start, they had spent the last two weeks getting grass off the infield.

Johnny Mercer with Public Works reported that all the paving had been completed. They were staying really busy with right of way mowing. They were working on re-stripping some of the downtown crosswalks.

Philip Morrisett for the Codes Department stated he was having an issue getting people to mow. If they continue not to mow, we will work with public works to mow and send them a bill.

Assistant Water Supervisor Earnest Umstead stated they are continuing with their regular job of fixing leaks and unstopping sewers.

Lt. Ryan White represented the police department. He said they still needed to hire 2 more employees, we do have a new recruit in the academy. He also reported for the month of July there had been a total of 1612 calls. We had 936 calls for security check-Home/Business/Parks, 124 vehicle stops, 92 citizens assist, 65 investigations 10-43, 52 suspicious person/vehicle, 50 medical assist and various other calls.

Assistant Fire Chief Arnold reported they had been repairing the building out back and installed an air dehumidifier to house the equipment needed when the Hico antenna was moved into town. Both Janice Newman and Mayor Butler have been notified. They are now just waiting on a mode for B & E. The department was busy with 20 calls this month. They had 5 EMS, 5 smoke investigations, 4 aircraft stand bys, 3 residential fires and several additional incident calls.

L. Council Reports:

Mayor Holland commended Interim Park Director on what a great job he had been doing. She stated that we had received several applications for the position of Park Director. She said that the assessments would be starting in the next two weeks, with part of the process including a series of exercises by other park directors. Mayor Holland also spoke about the National guard coming to survey and drawing a plan for the 3 new soccer fields. In the future we will add restrooms to this new area and will be re-vamping the walking trail at Mulberry and updating the restrooms there.

Councilperson Pruneau asked about the security cameras downtown. Mayor Holland responded that the police department has been working with the security people, so hopefully in the next few weeks, everything will be up and running.

Mayor Holland mentioned that our Bethel students had started moving in and several

businesses are welcoming them with discounts. She also stated that hopefully the downtown parking concerning Renaissance students has been rectified we feel. We purchased signs directing students to park in the parking lot behind Super Drugs, and so far, everything seems to be going smoothly. Bethel Security will monitor any situations that may occur.

Mayor Holland reminded the council that the TML Conference was coming up, so if they were interested, they need to get registered. She asked the council to keep Drake Pate's family, who was a member of our volunteer fire department in their prayers, and also the family of Dean Robb, a 15-year member of our planning commission in their prayers.

- M. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Martin to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

Motion carried.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Holland, Mayor

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk