

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
June 8, 2023

A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin

B. Prayer – Councilperson Young

C. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Young

D. Roll Call

Mayor Griffin -	Present
Vice Mayor Townes -	Present
Councilperson Alexander -	Absent
Councilperson Arm Priest -	Present
Councilperson Batton -	Present
Councilperson Pruneau -	Present
Councilperson Young -	Present

E. Mayor’s Welcome:

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Griffin extended a warm welcome to all.

F. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Councilperson Arm Priest, seconded by Vice Mayor Townes to approve the May 11, 2023 minutes.

Motion carries.

G. Financial Matters:

Utility Solutions & Automation for Water Department in the amount of \$ 6,829.56. Motion made by Councilperson Arm Priest, 2nd by Councilperson Pruneau to approve the purchase.

Motion carries

H Old Business:

Reading/approval for 2nd reading of the 2023-2024 City of McKenzie fiscal budget.

Motion to discuss made by Councilperson Pruneau, 2nd by Vice Mayor Townes

Discussion: None

Motion to approve by Councilperson Arm Priest, 2nd by Vice-Mayor Townes.

Motion passes with 5 ayes.

I New Business:

a. Reading/Approval to create First Responders Program to be administered by the Fire Department. Motion made for discussion by Councilperson Young, 2nd by Vice Mayor Townes.

Discussion: Mayor Griffin turned the floor over to Fire Chief Tucker. Chief Tucker started with the closing of the hospital in 2018 causing problems with delayed response time. He said that fire had been offering their services for the last 4-5 years. They now have about 13 EMS personnel working in the department. With this new program, Dr. Colotta has agreed to be the Medical Director. All 13 EMS will be part of the team, they will just over our city, do not plan on going outside. Jonathan Gaskins who is part of the Fire Department team has 13 years as a paramedic and currently works for Priority. Jason Arnold, our Battalion Chief is also a paramedic

Councilperson Young stated he was very excited about this.

Councilperson Batton asked if they would be scheduled.

Chief Tucker responded if someone is available, they will respond.

Councilperson Batton asked if there was a cost for this.

Johnathan Gaskins responded it will be just like the Volunteer Fire Fighters. This will be a joint program with the local EMS Services, who will help with stoking supplies. The bulk is furnished by the ambulance service. The ambulance service will be responding to critical calls and won't be tied up to responding to non-critical calls.

Jason Arnold also mentioned that the Police will get involved with some training as well. Having a larger call volume will open us up for more grants and won't jeopardize the Fire Department for our community if they are going to a call.

Attorney Keeton said steps were being taken to legally approve what we are already doing.

Motion to approve by Councilperson Armpriest, 2nd by Councilperson Pruneau.

Motion passes with 5 ayes.

J. Citizens Input:

None

K. Department Head Reports:

Fire Chief Brian Tucker thanked the council for their support of the First Responders Program. He said he was getting updates on the progress of the new fire truck and hopefully it will be here mid-July. He reported for the month of May they had responded to 7 commercial alarms, 6 smoke investigations, 5 motor vehicle accidents and various other incidents for a total of 24.

Water Superintendent Billy Wood stated we would be having the CDBG grant bid opening in July. He also stated they were still re-lining and doing rehab on sewer lines.

Police Chief White stated that his department had answered 1,352 calls for the month of May. 620 for security checks-home/business/parks, 194 vehicle stops, 93 citizens assist, 83 for investigations 10-43, 50 medicals. Chief White stated that the department was on the upcoming school board agenda pertaining to reinstating the SROs to the city. He also mentioned that TCAT was interested in having an officer on campus at all time. TCAT would provide a % of the salary. This will be addressed in the future. They are also looking at bringing the DARE program back. He took this time to say that the new department canine was flying in from Poland and expected to be here next Tuesday. The dog's name is Toby and he and his officer will be together for a month or so training with a local trainer from Paris. before he is out in the public.

Superintendent Johnny Mercer with Public Works stated his department was busy cleaning running the normal routes. They had also been cleaning around stop signs and fire plugs. His department had pulled the old tennis courts up at the recreational park to be ready for future projects.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell stated his crew was almost caught upon their mowing. Ball season is about at its end as well. The splash pad seems to be staying full every day. He said the pickleball court was a big hit and was staying in full capacity it looked like.

Jim Season who has been working on condemnation is now stepping into the role of Codes Enforcer. He stated he had been busy issuing warning door tags. He has five (5) properties in different stages of condemnation. He had issues 89 code violations and was happy to say that 61 had been resolved. Mayor Griffin stated that Jim would be going to class in Clarksville in the near future to be certified.

L. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young: Stated that a lot of people were enjoying the Pickleball Courts and How everyone always seemed to enjoy the upcoming summers with Nights on Broadway.

Councilperson Armpriest: Expressed happiness that the Fire Department had chosen to offer the EMT services to promote the emergency medical care. She said that she feels that this will help to make us more attractive to bringing people into our city.

Vice Mayor Townes: Concurred by saying anytime you can save a life, it's very impressive.

Councilperson Batton: Said that she was happy that we understood the emergency and appreciated the efforts. She asked how the new soccer fields were coming and was told by Mayor Griffin that they were not totally a free project. He had talked with a few local farmers about moving some things and would continue working on this project.

Councilperson Pruneau: Thanked the Fire Department for getting the EMT program started.

Mayor Griffin stated that as of July 1, Philip Morrisett would be leaving Codes Department and would stay available to help out with any city projects we needed him for. Jim Seaton will be working full-time in the Codes Department, since previously he and Philip both worked as part time employees. Jim will be studying for the Codes test, which might eliminate having to contract with Ricky Watkins on new builds.

- M. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Arm Priest, 2nd by Vice-Mayor Townes to adjourn at 6:43 P.M.

Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____
Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk