

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Mayor and Council  
City of McKenzie  
McKenzie, TN 38201  
May 12, 2022

A. Call to Order – Mayor Holland

B. Prayer – Vice Mayor Townes

C. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Mayor Townes

D. Roll Call

Mayor Holland - Present  
Vice Mayor Townes - Present  
Councilperson Batton - Present  
Councilperson Burns - Present  
Councilperson Pruneau - 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. Nomination/approval of new council person representing Ward 2.

Mr. Steve Watson was introduced to the council. Councilperson Young made the motion to approve Steve Watson as Ward 2 councilperson. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Townes.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Batton	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Pruneau	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>	Vice-Mayor Townes	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Young	<u>Y</u>		

G. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, seconded by Vice Mayor Townes to approve the April 14, 2022 minutes.

H. Financial Matters:

None presented

I Mayor Holland introduced Bethel University President Walter Butler and Ms. Jackie Puckett, Professional Recruiter presenting Bethel to the City of McKenzie’s employees who would be interested in continuing their education in business or criminal justice just to name a few. Employees can do the traditional face-to-face instruction one night per week or online to receive an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree at a 25% deduction in cost. President Butler stated that this could help employees stay with their job in the city or help new recruits to come to McKenzie. President Butler stated that because Carroll County was 200 years old, Bethel

wanted to do something for the county, so as of June 7<sup>th</sup>, any adult who has never been to college, can get the first class free. Mayor Holland thanked them both for coming and stated that the city really appreciated the partnership with Bethel allowing us to do this in order to help retain our employees.

J. Mayor Holland took this time to read a proclamation to recognize TCAT students for their great winning accomplishments in the State Competition by showing their skills. They will be representing us in Atlanta as they complete in the National Competition in June. She also added this same bunch were the creators of our city's largest Mistletoe Ball, and the new grill at the recreational park, that the ladies of Beta Sigma Phi contacted them about building and who paid for the metal supplies. She asked everyone present to join in a hearty congratulations to this group.

K. Old Business:  
None presented

L. New Business:  
a. Approve the amendment to the Private Charter # 46 to eliminate City Wards and make Council at Large.

Motion by Councilperson Young, seconded by Councilperson Burns to approve the amendment to have Council at Large

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Batton	<u>Y</u>	Vice Mayor Townes	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Watson	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Pruneau	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Young	<u>Y</u>

Motion passes

b. Discussion/approval of Ordinance 546 Amending the Accessory Buildings and uses Section of the official Zoning ordinance.

Discussion: None

Motion by Councilperson Pruneau, second by Vice Mayor Townes to approve Ordinance 545.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Batton	<u>Y</u>	Vice Mayor Townes	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Watson	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Pruneau	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Young	<u>Y</u>

Motion passes

c. Discussion/approval of ordinance 547 Amending the text of the Zoning Ordinance of McKenzie, Tennessee by amending the Minimum Lot Area Requirement for R-1 (Low Density

Residential) Districts.

Discussion: None

Motion by Councilperson Pruneau, second by Vice Mayor Townes to approve Ordinance 545.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Batton	<u>Y</u>	Vice Mayor Townes	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Watson	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Pruneau	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Young	<u>Y</u>

Motion passes

d. Discussion / action of Police Recruitment Tool.

Discussion: Mayor Holland asked Police Chief Moates to explain more about what was being suggested. Chief Moates explained that since it is difficult to recruit officers everywhere. One of the things they were seeing was to offer a sign-in bonus to individuals who were already an officer. This could be quite a bit of savings, since we would save money by not sending them to the training academy, paying a salary & benefits for the 12 weeks they had to drive with a certificated officer. A certificated police officer would be able to start almost immediately. The bonus could be paid ½ when starting work, and the other throughout the year. Lt. White informed the council that they were presently short 5 officers. They were short on every shift and the officers we have were working a of over-time to fill in.

Motion by Councilperson Young, second by Councilperson Burns to approve this recruitment tool.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Batton	<u>Y</u>	Vice Mayor Townes	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Watson	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Pruneau	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Young	<u>Y</u>

Motion passes

e. Discussion / action of Employee Benefits.

Discussion: Councilperson Young suggested that this be tabled and discuss in a workshop.

Motion by Councilperson Young, second by Vice Mayor Townes to table this until the last week of May.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilperson Batton	<u>Y</u>	Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>
Councilperson Burns	<u>Y</u>	Vice Mayor Townes	<u>Y</u>

M. Citizens Input: Mrs. Ruth Umstead of Oaklawn Street stated that the homes on her street were situated closely together and the neighborhood children liked to ride their bikes in the street, and her husband was hearing impaired, and like to cross the street to obtain mail or visit with neighbors, but it was very dangerous because cars drove very fast on the street. She asked if a Slow – Children at Play and Hearing-Impaired signs could be installed. Police Chief Moates explained that sometimes this type sign was dangerous because people felt like it was indicating they should be out in the street. Public Works Superintendent Johnny Mercer said that he had talked with her about the Hearing-Impaired sign, and ordered it. He had not received it, but would check with the company again.

N. Department Head Reports:

Fire Chief Brian Tucker reported 25 incidents, 8 for aircraft stand by, 6 EMS Assist, 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents and various others. Mayor Holland took this time to thank the Fire Department for working and repairing the farmers market sliding door. She stated that Fire Chief Tucker was not only a good fire chief, but a good carpenter as well.

Water Superintendent Billy Wood stated they were staying busy with leaks. He was also Working with TDEC on a sewer plant grant and an additional grant for the sewer lines.

Police Chief Craig Moates started his service report reported 1,410 calls for service. 747 security checks, 163 vehicle stops, 90 citizens assist, 45 Investigations 10-43, 44 medical and various other calls.

Superintendent Johnny Mercer with Public Works stated they had received a \$ 16,000.00 quote to build a new box to attach to the new truck to make it a leaf truck. They decided to see if an Old truck that had been out of use could be repaired for a lot smaller increase and was glad to report that they had been successful in replacing that engine to work as the fall leaf truck.

Philip Morrissett for the Codes Department stated he did not have a lot to report this month. He has been busy concentrating on one person, and felt all of his issues would be coming to a head on Monday during city court.

Parks Director Billy Hollowell stated softball, baseball and soccer season was about to end. With this happening, the park would be hosting regional tournaments the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>. He and the crew would also be also be getting the splash pad checked out and doing opening maintenance for the opening on Memorial Day weekend.

O. Council Reports:

None of the council had any reports, but Mayor Holland asked to amend the agenda for an additional item. Motion made by Councilperson Pruneau, second by Councilman Burns. 6 Ayes 0 Nays to amend the agenda.

Mayor Holland stated our 911 console was twenty-five (25) years old and didn't interface with the newer equipment. The cost for us getting equipment replaced was astronomical. It is getting very hard to have it worked on as well and since we are the secondary unit in the county and if something happens at the 911 center, it would be extremely hard to have communication. Mayor Holland stated she would like to have a motion to ask that the 911 Board pay for a new console, as they are in the range of \$ 80,000.00.

Motion made by Councilperson Young, second by Councilperson Burns to allow Mayor Holland bring this to the attention of the County Mayor.

6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carries.

- O. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Burns, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Townes to adjourn at 6:59 P.M.

Motion carried.

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

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