



City of Nelson
Council Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2021 @ 7:00pm
Nelson City Hall

1. Call to Order

Mayor Sylvia Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Attendance

The following persons were present: Mayor Sylvia Green, Councilman David Hamby, Councilman Nathan Hamby, Councilwoman Martha Tipton, Councilwoman Susan Johnston, Finance Manager Miranda McDowell and Attorney Audrey Conley.

2. Invocation

Mr. John Ahlberg led the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Nathan Hamby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Agenda Approval

Mr. David Hamby asked to have the agenda amended by moving 9a FY 2020 Audit Report to right after #6 Public Hearing. Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

5. Public Appearance

Ms. Chloe Martin asked the Mayor and Council to update the City parks. The current condition of the parks makes it unsafe to use them.

6. Public Hearing – FY 2022 Budget

Mr. David Hamby made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, vote unanimous...

none

Mr. David Hamby made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, vote unanimous...

9 a. FY 2020 Audit Report – Welch, Walker & Associates

Tacie Jo presented a review of the findings from the FY 2020 Audit, She stated that the City continues to improve every year and the findings listed were all considered small, there were no major finding and they gave the City a clean opinion. The findings reported to the state were:

Segregation of Duties- Tacie Jo stated this is due to being a small staffed City and is a normal finding for a City of our size.

Material Adjustments and Maintenance of the General Ledger- Tacie Jo stated that this is a finding whenever they have to make any adjustments and it was much less than in prior years.

Reconciliation of cash- Tacie Jo stated that this is a recording issue and that nothing was missing.

Repayment of interfund balances- Tacie Jo stated that this had to do with transfers that were made twice of general funds into SPLOST accounts and there wasn't an issue with any SPLOST funds.

Tacie Jo also stated that there were a few other minor items they noted and some had already been addressed:

1099's for the Council and Mayor if they exceed \$600 a year in compensation.

To check on salary or hourly pay for some of the city employees.

Tax Digest- make sure the exemptions were being billed correctly.

Subledgers – reconciliations should be completed either monthly or quarterly to avoid mistakes.

She stated that this audit report was much better than in years past.

7. Approval of Minutes

a. May 3, 2021 – Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

b. May 26, 2021 – Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

8. Department Reports

a. Police Report - Lt. Darrin Downey, Cherokee County Sheriff's Dept., reported that the new CCSD Ball Ground precinct is now open, he also introduced some of the new Officers that will be working out of the precinct.

He stated that May had 7 calls for service on the Cherokee side.

b. Mayor's Report – Mayor Green gave an update on SPLOST projects and SPLOST balances. She stated that she has received numerous calls and emails about the Pickens St. project and that it is on tonight's agenda. She also stated that the City has partnered with a collection co to start the collection of past due property taxes. She invited the residents to check out the new City website which will be live this month.

c. Finance Report – Miranda McDowell went over the current bank balances and gave an update on the revenue and expenditures. She stated that the city is in very good

shape financially and that the revenues exceeded the expenditures. She stated that the amendments to this year's budget will be ready for the next meeting.

9. Unfinished Business

a. SEE ABOVE

b. Discuss and Vote – IGA with Cherokee County for the Pickens St. Park Project – Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to approve the IGA with Cherokee Co for the Pickens St. Park, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton.

1 in favor – Mrs. Susan Johnston

3 opposed – Mr. David Hamby, Mr. Nathan Hamby, Mrs. Martha Tipton

The motion for the agreement failed.

c. Discuss and Vote – Construction drawing estimates – Pickens St. Park - Tabled
After a heated discussion and input from the residents the Mayor and Council decided to hold a work session on June 24th and have Root Design attend to see if everyone can come to an agreement on what should be built.

d. Discuss and Vote – Retaining Wall – School Street

Mayor Green discussed the bids that were received for the drawings for the wall. The city only received 2 bids even though numerous companies were contacted, some only do block walls, some only do large projects, and some were too busy. The Council discussed the bids and decided to go with Palmer Construction for \$1500. Mr. David Hamby made a statement to make sure that the drainage issue was addressed in the drawings. Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve Palmer for \$1500, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

e. Discuss and Vote – GA Power pole attachment agreement (security cameras) Mayor Green stated that the city received the agreement for the use of the power poles. The Council and Mayor discussed the agreement. Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

f. Discuss and Vote – SDS IGA Cherokee Co. Final – Mayor Green stated that the City has already voted to approve this agreement but since some of the other Cities within the County did not invalidate the agreement. The County was able to reach an agreement with the other Cities but it has to be voted on again by the Council. Mr. David made a motion to approve the SDS IGA agreement with Cherokee Co., seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

10. New Business

a. Discuss proposed FY 2022 budget – Mrs. Miranda McDowell explained the proposed changes to the budget and asked for any feedback or questions. There wasn't any during the meeting so she stated that she was available if anyone wanted to reach out before the budget was approved.

b. Discuss and Vote to combine two properties on Blue Ridge Ave (80 & 68) and then sell as one parcel. Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve combining the properties, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in Favor, Vote unanimous... Mayor Green stated that Atty Jeff Rusbridge would combine and prepare the parcel and Mrs. Kelsey Riehl would take it to be recorded at the court house in Pickens. Mr. David Hamby asked that the City have a record of what has been spent on the two properties and then ask Jeff which is a better way to sell it – sealed bids or auction.

c. Discuss and Vote – Qualifying Fees for the election
Mayor Green asked if the Council wanted to keep the fees the same as they have been in previous years which is \$25, the Council agreed. Mr. David Hamby made a motion to set the qualifying fees at \$25, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in Favor, Vote unanimous...

11. Adjourn

Mr. David Hamby made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

Mayor Sylvia Green adjourned the meeting at 8:34

Minutes submitted by Kelsey Riehl

Minutes approved by _____