

**City of Nelson**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

December 6, 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 James Queen, Councilman David Hamby, Councilman Nathan Hamby, Councilwoman Martha Tipton, Councilwoman Susan Johnston, Clerk Kelsey Riehl and Attorney Jeff Rusbridge.

1. **Invocation**

Mayor Sylvia Green led the invocation.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. James Queen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Agenda Approval**

Mayor Green asked to have the agenda amended by adding 9d IGA Pickens Co – Property Tax Collection. Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the amended agenda seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**5. Public Appearance**

Ahlberg Academy Students sang Christmas songs.

Kim Bare – Reported the Community is in favor of the Master Park Plan

**6. Approval of Minutes**

a. November 8, 2021 - Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Susan Johnston, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**7. Department Reports**

a. Police Report - Lt. Darrin Downey, Cherokee County Sheriff’s Dept., reported there were 2 calls for service on the Cherokee side.

b. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Green stated the City updated the Joint Comprehensive Plan to add phase one of the broadband agreement, which is one of four required elements in the plan. She stated the City will hold a Christmas event at City Hall on Sat., Dec. 11 from 2-4 for the City residents. Mayor Green gave an update on the Kenn. Ave. drainage project and advised Council that last week, she and Mr. James Queen, met with the Project Manager, Mrs. Lori Jones, it was brought to their attention that the slope on the east side of Kennesaw Ave. needs to be changed from the current 2:1 to a 3:1 or a 4:1 so that it would be mowable, she stated it would require 50 – 60 truckloads of dirt but the City and the Project Manager would work together to get the best price.

c. Finance Report – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl went over the current bank balances.

**8. Unfinished Business**

a. Equipment Replacement for Maintenance Dept. - Mrs. Kelsey Riehl reported the Maint. Dept. is in need of some new equipment, specifically a Bobcat Toolcat and Mower. The City’s Bobcat Toolcat is a 2012 and needs some repair work, the Kubota mower is 6 years old and they are usually replaced every six years, this machine currently needs tires. The replacement cost for the Bobcat is roughly $55k minus the trade in value of the City’s current machine. The replacement cost for the Kubota mower is roughly $14,500k minus the trade in value of our current machine which is currently in need of tires. Mrs. Miranda McDowell sent an email statement notifying Council that funds were available through Pickens SPLOST 2020 (new) but advised the equipment be put on a 5-year replacement schedule going forward and added to the CIP. Mr. David Hamby recommended getting a quote for the trade in value of our current machine but stated the City may want to hold off on trading it in initially. Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve the purchase of the Kubota mower for $14,500 with SPLOST funds and to get a trade in quote for the current mower, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous... Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve the purchase of the Bobcat Toolcat UW56 for approx. $55k with SPLOST funds and to get a trade in value of the current machine, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. Master Park Plan – Root Design – Mrs. Susan Johnston gave an overview of what Root Design would be providing in the Master Park Plan. The Council and Mayor discussed the plan, including the option of incorporating a new City Hall into the design as well as options for the kiddy park. Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to approve the plan, to be paid for with funds from SPLOST 3, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

c. Tag Reader Cameras – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated the Sheriff’s Office sent four locations for the Flock cameras to be installed. The cost of each camera is $2,500 each year plus a one-time installation fee of $250. If all 4 cameras are approved the initial cost would be $11,000 then $10,000 each following year. The initial expense would be covered by SPLOST funds, Finance Manager, Miranda McDowell, is checking to see if the yearly fees would be allowed to be paid from SPLOST or if it would come from the general fund, she stated the City has the funds to pay for the cameras either way. She also stated it will be added to the CIP as a recurring capital expense. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the 4 Flock cameras, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

d. City Security Cameras – Price update – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl reported a price increase due to new legislation for security cameras in Gov’t facilities. The camera company sent an email that describes all of the changes that were made in the past couple of weeks but the cameras the City currently uses are no longer going to be allowed if the City receives Grant funds per the camera company (Syntech). The price increase is roughly $3,000 more than the approve amount of $13k so it will now be approx. $16k. The Council and Mayor discussed. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the price increase, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**9. New Business**

a. Franchise Agreement – ETC – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl reported this is a renewal of the current franchise agreement that is set to expire in 2022. The City Attorney, Mr. Jeff Rusbridge, has read over the agreement and stated it was fine. Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve the franchise agreement, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. Hazard Mitigation Plan – Cherokee Co. – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated this is a renewal Resolution, 2021 – 2026 with Cherokee Co. The County updates their yearly hazard mitigation plan, which includes the City of Nelson, specifying what the City is responsible for in different situations. The full plan is several hundred pages and a copy is available at City Hall. The Resolution is a requirement in order to receive grants from the hazard mitigation grant program if needed. Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

c. Demolition Bids – Community Center & Old Police Building – Mayor Green opened the sealed bids:

Anything Concrete CB $21,000

Anything Concrete PB $23,000

Wrecking Corp. of America CB $63,500

Wrecking Corp. of America PB $49,000

Intelligent Contracting Group CB $30,962.20

Intelligent Contracting Group PB $32,453.40

Holcomb Grading CB $22,295

Holcomb Grading PB $18,000

Southern Demo CB $35,900

Southern Demo PB $27,100

Complete Demolition Services CB $25,000

Complete Demolition Services PB $25,000

The Council and Mayor discussed the bids that were received, Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve Holcomb Grading for both buildings, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

d. Tag Reader Cameras – Pickens & Cherokee County Sheriffs Depts. - The Cherokee Co. Sheriffs Dept. and Pickens Co Sheriffs Dept. are installing permanent in place tag reader cameras in their counties and are asking local municipalities to partner with them and install cameras in the City to help defer the cost, increase safety, reduce crime, etc. Cherokee Co and one of the representatives from the company for the Flock camera system explained how the cameras work. The cameras capture the car tags and store the information for 30 days, they also explained that it is not a “big brother” system and does not store information long term. It has been used to find elderly people with dementia, amber alert victims, and criminal activity. The cameras are mounted approx 14’ off the ground on poles that are provided by the company and powered by solar panels. Each camera is $2,500 per year with a one time install fee of $250. The Council and Mayor asked the officers to work with both County Sheriffs Depts. to recommend some locations that might work for the City and to bring the recommendations back to the Council.

**10. Executive Session – Employee**

Council and Mayor decided to discuss in public.

Mayor Green asked the Council for approval of the yearly bonuses. She stated the past few years the City employees have received $300 and she requested it was increased to $500. The Council and Mayor discussed, Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve employee bonuses in the amount of $500, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**11. Adjourn**

Mr. David Hamby made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

Mayor Sylvia Green adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Kelsey Riehl

Minutes approved by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_