

**City of Nelson**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

January 10, 2022 @ 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 (via phone), Councilwoman Martha Tipton, Councilman William Taylor, Clerk Kelsey Riehl and Attorney Audrey Conley.

1. **Invocation**

Steven Johnston led the invocation.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. James Queen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Agenda Approval**

Mrs. Martha Tipton asked to have the agenda amended by adding 8d. Maint – Plumbing Repair. Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve the amended agenda seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 **5. Approval of Minutes**

December 6, 2021 Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 **6. Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials**

Attorney Audrey Conley swore in William Taylor, James Queen & Sylvia Green.

**7. Public Appearance**

Kim Bare from the Beautiful Nelson Committee asked the Council to consider a proposal to allow the BNC to manage special events with a budget of $1000 per event. Mayor Green suggested the group work on an Easter event with her and see how it works out, she also stated she appreciates any help the community offers the city. Ms. Bare stated the BNC would like to send a quarterly newsletter with a budget of $2400 annually, Mayor Green stated she was planning on handling the publication but appreciated the offer.

**8. Department Reports**

 a. Police Report - Lt. Darrin Downey, Cherokee County Sheriff’s Dept., reported there were 3 calls for service in December on the Cherokee side.

 b. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Green reported on the Kennesaw Ave. project, the SLFRF grant and rescheduling the work session originally slated for Jan 20. It will tentatively be scheduled for Feb. 10 if Michael Kidd (Root Design) is able to attend on this date.

 c. Finance Report – Mrs. Miranda McDowell went over the current bank balances.

 d. Maintenance Department – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated the underground water line for the Maint. Dept. has a fairly significant leak and needs to be fixed ASAP. Heritage Plumbing can replace the water line for $1550. The dept has been without water since right before Christmas. The City can attempt to obtain additional quotes but this is considered an emergency repair. Mrs. Riehl also noted the company sent an estimate to move the water line at the old PD building to the Community Garden and install a stand pipe for $650. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the repair, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 **9. Unfinished Business**

a. Equipment Replacement for Maintenance Dept. - Mrs. Kelsey Riehl reported the Bobcat Toolcat had a price increase since the estimate was approved by Council. The new estimate is $ 57,953 the previously approved estimate was $54,817. Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the new estimate of $57,953, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. Kennesaw Ave. Change Order – Fill dirt for mowable slope – Mayor Green stated this was discussed during the last meeting and the City tried to acquire the dirt through a local source but due to weather issues it couldn’t be guaranteed for the time frame it was needed in. The contractor agreed to a reduced price for the fill dirt not to exceed $125 a load. Mayor Green stated she gave the go ahead for 50 – 60 loads of dirt not to exceed $7500. The contractor sent a change order to be approved for $7500 (60 loads of dirt). Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the change order for $7,500, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 c. Dispose of Maint. Dept. zero turn mower – sealed bids or auction – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated Nelson tractor offered $1500 as a trade in towards the new mower, since this option wasn’t chosen the mower can be auctioned by Jeff Dobson at the May auction or the City can accept sealed bids. She also stated the Maint. Dept. may want to hang on to the mower as a back up if one of the other ones is in the shop. Mayor Green stated the old mower was in need of tires, Council and Mayor decided to purchase run flat tires for the new mower and use the tires currently on the new mower on the old one if possible. The decision to keep or dispose of the mower will be tabled for a few months to see if it is in the best interest to keep the mower as a backup.

 d. SLFRF Grant – Mayor Green reported on the deadlines for the grant as well as the required reporting periods. She stated that the Sanitation & Maint. Workers could be given a hazard pay bonus of $1000 from the grant funds, and the City had several options for the remainder of the funds including a new sanitation truck or putting the funds towards the Kennesaw Ave. drainage project. Mrs. Miranda McDowell recommended using the funds to give the Sanitation & Maintenance workers the hazard pay bonus and allocating the remaining funds towards the Kenn. Ave project. She stated the City has funds in the SPLOST accounts to cover a sanitation truck and the SPLOST funds currently earmarked for the project could be used for other projects. The Council and Mayor discussed her recommendations and agreed. Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the $1000 hazard pay for the Sanitation and Maintenance workers, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous… Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the remaining funds be allocated towards the Kenn. Ave project, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 e. Sanitation Truck – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl reported the cost for a new truck has continued to increase since the City started looking into a new truck a couple of years ago. The smaller truck (8yard) is $124,063 and the larger truck (11 yd) is $163,583. The cost is expected to increase again sometime in June of 2022. The Council and Mayor discussed, Mr. Nathan Hamby asked if the larger truck has a Cummings engine and an Allison transmission, Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated that she was unsure but could ask the company. The Council asked for more information on the truck and to add it to the Feb. agenda.

 f. Uses for City owned properties – Mr. William Taylor stated the Council and Mayor need to discuss and decide on the base use of some of the city’s park properties to give guidance in design and to avoid confusion and delays with the Master Park Plan. The Council and Mayor discussed the possibility of a new City Hall, the community garden, the kiddie park, retaining wall by the basketball court on School St., and the possibility of other city properties that could be added to the design. Most are in favor of looking into a new City Hall building due to problems with the current building as well as not having the ability to expand upon the current building due to lot size and surrounding lots, the community garden will stay in the current location for the time being and will have a water line installed and the water bill will be paid for by the garden group. Mayor Green stated numerous people have contacted her about the kiddie park and asked to have it refurbished. The Council discussed the retaining walls on School St. and decided to look at the area after the Community building is removed and make a decision on keeping a retaining wall or regrading.

 **10. New Business**

a. Yearly Appointments –

 Mayor Pro-Tem – Mr. James Queen

 City Attorney – Mr. Jeff Rusbridge

 City Solicitor – Mr. Jeff Rusbridge

 Municipal Judge – Mr. Darryl Caudill

 City Building Inspector – Mr. William Fortner

 Financial Manager – Mrs. Miranda McDowell

 City Clerk – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl

 Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the yearly appointments, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 b. Qualifying Fees – Mr. James Queen stated he is in favor of keeping the qualifying fees at $25. Mr. David Hamby made a motion to set the qualifying fees at $25, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 c. Adding / Removing Check Signers – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated we currently have three check signers, herself, Mr. James Queen, and Mr. Nathan Hamby. Mrs. Susan Johnston was also a check signer but will need to be removed since she is no longer on Council. Mrs. Riehl asked if all Councilmembers and the Mayor could be added as check signers to make it a little easier to get checks signed due to Councilmembers works schedules and to avoid having to sign checks that she wrote. The Council and Mayor discussed and agreed. Mr. William Taylor made a motion to add all Council members & Mayor as check signers and to remove Mrs. Susan Johnston, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 Current Council Members & Mayor:

 Mayor - Sylvia Green

 Councilmember - Mr. James Queen

 Councilmember - Mr. David Hamby

 Councilmember - Mrs. Martha Tipton

 Councilmember - Mr. William Taylor

 Councilmember - Mr. Nathan Hamby

 **11. Adjourn**

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

 Mayor Sylvia Green adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Kelsey Riehl

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