

**City of Nelson**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

July 12, 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 Laura Rollins.

1. **Invocation**

Mr. John Ahlberg led the invocation.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. James Queen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Agenda Approval**

Mr. David Hamby asked to have the agenda amended by adding 8c. Discussion of City Parks. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**5. Public Appearance**

Mr. John Ahlberg gave an update on the school and his thoughts on the last meetings.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

a. June 7, 2021 – Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. June 24, 2021 – Work Session - Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

c. June 24, 2021 – Special Called Meeting - Mrs. Martha Tipton 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 that the new CCSD Ball Ground precinct is now open.

He stated that June had 4 calls for service on the Cherokee side.

b. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Green reported the City received an email from a resident and a letter from a teen asking to have the Pickens Park updated, she also clarified some comments from the last meeting relating to the FY2020 audit, stating she contacted the auditor and they said there was no mishandling of cash or missing funds and the errors noted on one of the findings could likely be due to a software issue from ASYST.

c. Finance Report – Mrs. Miranda McDowell was unable to attend. Mrs. Kelsey Riehl went over the current bank account balances.

**8. Unfinished Business**

a. Discuss and Vote – Retaining Wall on School Street – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated the company the Council originally voted to approve did not address the drainage issue in their drawings. The other company, Engineered Earth Solutions, that submitted a proposal did address the direct drainage issue but not the overall site issue. Mrs. Susan Johnston spoke with the company and explained the cost of the proposal: $450 field survey & $0.60 /sf - $1200min. engineered final design fee. She stated that the overall cost should be less than $2000. Mrs. Kelsey Riehl asked that the Council approve the proposal for over that amount, in case there is a difference in price another meeting won’t have to be held. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the EES proposal for up to $2500, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. Discuss and Vote – Construction drawing estimates – Pickens St. Park – The Council and Mayor discussed the drawings. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the construction drawings from Root Design, seconded by Mrs. Susan Johnston.

Mr. James Queen & Mrs. Susan Johnston in favor

Mr. David Hamby, Mr. Nathan Hamby, & Mrs. Martha Tipton opposed

Motion fails.

c. Discuss of City Parks – Mr. David Hamby stated the current parks, in the center of the City, were in disrepair and the focus should be on fixing and maintaining what is there before anything is completed on the Pickens St. Park. Mrs. Susan Johnston stated that more than one project could be worked on at the same time and the Pickens St. Park has been on the CIP since 2013. Mr. Nathan Hamby asked about removing the Community Building and checking on the possibilities for the use of that area for the basketball court. The Council and Mayor continued to discuss. Mr. Lamar Kellett asked if the public was allowed to speak. – The Council voted to reopen Public Appearance:

**Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to reopen Public Appearance, seconded by Mr. James Queen**,

Mrs. Susan Johnston, Mr. James Queen, Mr. David Hamby, Mr. Nathan Hamby in favor

Mrs. Martha Tipton opposed

Motion carries

Mr. Kellett stated that those opposed to the Pickens St. Park should give ideas of what they feel would be acceptable in that area.

Mr. Matthew Hutchins asked the Council to come together, he offered his assistance on anything they needed.

Mrs. Doris Hampton stated her concerns about the church

Mrs. Emily Hampton stated that kids are not behaving at the park

Ms. Tulisha Jackson stated that kids would not use the park

Comments were also made by

Mrs. Penny Thacker

Mr. William Taylor

Mr. Wilt Pyle

Mr. Stephen Johnston

Mrs. Debra Swanson

Mr. Buster Ingram

Mr. Bill McNiff

Mrs. Brenda Hamby

Mrs. Marsha Heaton

Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to close public comment, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**9. New Business**

a. Discuss and Vote – Insurance stipend for City employees – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated the City has looked into insurance options for employees but the cost is exorbitant for the City and the employee. In the past the City has offered a stipend in lieu of insurance, this year’s budget had a line item for this stipend but for transparency reasons it needed to be document that it is a stipend for full time employees in the amount of $250 a month. The Council and Mayor discussed, there was no opposition to the stipend. Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve the monthly stipend, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. Advisement – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl reported Cherokee Co sent a notice of overpayment of M&O taxes in the amount of $10,875.18. This was caused by a software glitch in their system over the past 3 years (2019, 2020 & 2021) The total amount of payments sent to the City was $11,189.65, the amount we were supposed to receive was $314.47, leaving the overage of $10,875.18. The City has already sent a check to the County for this amount.

**10. 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_