

**City of Nelson**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

November 8, 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, Finance Manager Miranda McDowell, Clerk Kelsey Riehl and Attorney Audrey Conley.

1. **Invocation**

Mayor Sylvia Green 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 9d Additional Sidewalk Repair & 9e Maxis Engineering Invoice. Mr. James Queen made a motion to add 9d Additional Sidewalk Repair, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous… Mr. David Hamby made a motion to add 9e Maxis Engineering Invoice, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous… 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. Stephen Johnston asked the Council to approve a water line for the Community Garden located next to the old PD building slated for demolition. He stated there is already existing water service to the building and would like to have a line run to the garden which is close to the building. The Council and Mayor discussed and decided to approve the water line for the Community Garden.

 **6. Public Hearing – Water Tower Property**

Mr. Chris Baugh

 Mr. Wilt Pyle

 Mr. David Caldwell

 Mr. Stephen Johnston

 Mr. Keith Johnston

 Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve closing the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**7. Approval of Minutes**

a. October 4, 2021- Mr. Nathan Hamby made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. October 21, 2021- Mr. Nathan Hamby made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**8. Department Reports**

 a. Police Report - Lt. Darrin Downey, Cherokee County Sheriff’s Dept., reported there were 5 calls for service on the Cherokee side.

 b. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Green stated City Hall would be closed Tues & Wed for training and on Thurs Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. She gave an update on the Kenn. Ave. project.

 c. Finance Report – Mrs. Miranda McDowell went over the current bank balances and the current state of the City finances.

 d. Fire Dept. Report – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl gave the 3rd quarter fire report. The reports are calculated by the Cherokee County Fire Dept. and sent to us by the Fire Chief, Tim Prather. She stated there were 23 incidents inside the City and 7 ambulance transports this quarter.

 **9. Unfinished Business**

a. Kennesaw Ave. Drainage Project – Plan Revisions -Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated the project Manager Mrs. Lori Jones emailed a list of revisions for the project. Due to some unforeseen challenges, there were some changes made once the project started, these changes came out in the City’s favor but they need an official approval before proceeding. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the changes, seconded by Mrs. Susan Johnston, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. City Limit Signs – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated the revised pricing was received for the new City Limits signs. They will be $148.75 each and 7 will need to be ordered. Mayor Green stated that the total comes out to $1,041.25 plus shipping. David Hamby asked that the size is verified since the paper showed two different sizes, the signs need to be 36 x 48. Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the new City Limits signs, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 c. 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 from the estimate last month of $13k so it will now be approx. $16k. The Council and Mayor discussed and decided to research the information a little more before making a decision. The item will be put on the agenda for one of the upcoming meetings.

 d. Additional Sidewalk Repair – The City received a notice from Holcomb Grading and Hauling that there are four additional damaged sidewalk areas on Pickens Street that could be repaired while they are repairing the sidewalk near the storm drain catch basin at a reduced cost since they will already be onsite working on another project. The additional estimate for the 4 areas totaled $2,500. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the additional sidewalk repair, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

 e. Maxis Engineering – Invoice – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated the City received the most recent invoice from Maxis Engineering for $9,800 for work on the Kenn. Ave. drainage project the invoice will be paid from SPLOST 3 once approved. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve payment of the invoice, seconded by Mrs. Susan Johnston, all in favor, Vote unanimous…

 **10. New Business**

a. Sanitation Truck Parking Agreement – Mayor Green Stated the City reached an agreement with Mrs. Glenda Chapman to continue to park the Sanitation truck on her property while the City looks for a piece of property that would be suitable for parking.

 b. Maintenance Dept. Equipment Replacement – 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 $53k minus the trade in value of the City’s current machine. The replacement cost for the Kubota mower is roughly $14k minus the trade in value of our current machine which is currently in need of tires. The Council and Mayor discussed, Mrs. Miranda McDowell stated there were funds available in the SPLOST accounts to cover the purchase if they were approved, Mr. David Hamby asked that we get additional price quotes and pamphlets for the machines and put the items on the agenda for the next meeting.

 c. 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.

 **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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_