

**City of Nelson**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

May 3, 2021 @ 7:00pm

Nelson City Hall

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Sylvia Green called the meeting to order.

**Attendance**

The following persons were present: Mayor Sylvia Green, Mayor Pro-Tem James Queen, Councilman David Hamby, Councilman Nathan Hamby, Councilwoman Martha Tipton, Councilwoman Susan Johnston, Finance Manager Miranda McDowell, Attorney Jeff Rusbridge and Clerk Kelsey Riehl.

1. **Invocation**

Mayor Sylvia Green led the invocation.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. James Queen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Agenda Approval**

Mrs. Susan Johnston made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**5. Public Appearance**

Steven Johnston- Made a request to the Council & Mayor that a piece of property owned by the City be utilized as a City garden, to include a budget line item of $1-2,000 for supplies and maintenance. It was discussed and will be looked into to see if there may be a viable location.

**6. Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance revisions**

none

**7. Approval of Minutes**

April 12, 2021 – Mrs. Susan Johnston 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., stated that April was a slow month and there were only 2 calls for service.

b. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Green reported that the road repairs should start in the next 4-6 weeks according to Cherokee County’s schedule. She also reported that the hopper from the Maintenance department was donated to Pickens County. It was previously used to spread gravel on the roads before inclement weather but the gravel would be brushed into the grass that could then be hit by the mowers. It had not been used since approx. 2016 and was taking up a large amount of space. Pickens County roads and streets sent someone down to inspect it and decided that it would be of use to their department.

c. Finance Report – Miranda McDowell reported the current bank balances and stated that the proposed FY 2022 budged would be presented at the June 7 meeting.

d. Fire Report – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl reported that the Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, sent the quarterly fire report for the City of Nelson. There was a total of 25 incidents: this included 1 non-dwelling fire, 9 EMS incidents, 15 other calls for service.

**9. Unfinished Business**

a. Discuss and Vote – Opening of Sealed Bids – 80 Blue Ridge Ave. – Mayor Green stated there were 4 sealed bids:

North Georgia Roll Off Services LLC $13,800.00

ICG- Intelligent Contracting Group Inc. $11,800.00

Southern Environmental Services, Inc. $18,700.00

Southern Demolition LLC $13,800.00

The Council and Mayor discussed the bids. Mrs. Martha Tipton made a motion to approve the bid from ICG for $11,800.00, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

b. Discuss and Vote – IGA with Cherokee County for the Pickens St. Park Project – Mr. David Hamby made a motion to table the IGA, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, Vote was taken:

3 in favor – Mr. David Hamby, Mr. Nathan Hamby, Mrs. Martha Tipton

2 opposed – Mrs. Susan Johnston, Mr. James Queen

Motion stands and the item is tabled until the next Council Meeting.

c. Discuss and Vote – Construction drawing estimates – Pickens St. Park

Mr. David Hamby made a motion to table the item until the pricing / bids are in on the Kennesaw Ave. drainage project, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, Vote was taken:

3 in favor – Mr. David Hamby, Mr. Nathan Hamby, Mrs. Martha Tipton

2 opposed – Mrs. Susan Johnston, Mr. James Queen

Motion stands and the item is tabled.

d. Discuss and Vote – Zoning Ordinance Revisions – 2nd reading – Mr. David Hamby made a motion to approve the Zoning Ordinance Revisions, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

**10. New Business**

a. FY2020 Audit Report – Welch, Walker & Associates – The auditor was unable to attend so the Council requested to table the item and ask the Auditor to reschedule for the June meeting if they are available. (This was incorrectly listed as FY 2019 on the agenda)

b. Discuss and Vote – Appointment of Levy officer for Property Taxes – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated that the company the City recently hired, Delinquent Tax Services, needs to know who the Levy Officer for the City of Nelson will be. They cannot proceed until they have this information. The Council & Mayor discussed, Mrs. Riehl stated it would probably be better to have the Levy Officer set as the Clerk instead of assigning it to a specific person so that it will just follow the position and not have to be voted on again. Mr. James Queen made a motion to approve the Clerk as the Levy Officer, seconded by Mrs. Martha Tipton, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

c. Discuss and Vote – Use County Exemptions for Property Taxes – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl reported that the Auditor stated that we need to have it on record if we follow State or County exemptions, since Cherokee currently collects the taxes on that side of the City, they have already been applying the County exemptions to the City tax bills. There is nothing officially on record stating what the City goes by. It is better for the resident’s if we go by County exemptions and they can be applied based on the County that the resident lives in, either Pickens or Cherokee. The Council, Mayor and Attorney Jeff Rusbridge discussed. Mr. James Queen made a motion for the City to use County exemptions for Property tax bills, seconded by Mr. David Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous…

d. Discuss Retaining Wall Deterioration – Mrs. Kelsey Riehl stated that the retaining wall located near the Community building at the basketball court is rapidly deteriorating. The Maint. Supervisor, Mr. Ricky Faucett reported the condition earlier in the week and is taking measures to stabilize the area until the Council decides how to proceed. Mr. David Hamby stated that he went by to look at it and it is failing much quicker than it should be. The Council requested that Cherokee County be contacted to see if they have temporary fencing or barricades that the City could use and to see if they could also recommend an Engineer to look at the wall.

**11. Adjourn**

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

Mayor Sylvia Green adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Kelsey Riehl

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