



**City of Nelson**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
June 4, 2024 @ 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 Nathan Hamby, Councilman John Ahlberg, Councilman William Taylor, Councilwoman Kristeen MacNeill, Finance Manager Miranda McDowell, City Clerk Kelsey Riehl and City Attorney Seth Stroud.

**2. Invocation**

Mayor Green led the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. James Queen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Agenda Approval**

Mrs. Kristeen MacNeill made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. William Taylor, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

**5. Public Appearance**

None

**6. Approval of Minutes**

a. May 6, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Kristeen MacNeill made a motion to approve the May 6, 2024 minutes, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

b. May 28, 2024 Special Called Public Hearing Minutes – Mrs. Kristeen MacNeill made a motion to approve the May 28, 2024 minutes, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

**7. Department Reports**

a. Police Report – Cherokee Co Sheriffs Dept., Lt. Dissis gave the Sheriff's report. – He stated there is still an ongoing issue with speeders. He reported there have been several complaints of work trucks dropping debris on Old Nelson Rd., the Officers are keeping an eye on the situation and making stops when necessary.

b. Mayor's Report – Mayor Green reported on the ongoing clean up from the Memorial Day storms, she stated that Pickens Co has been assisting with the clean up since some of the trees that fell were too large for our Maint employees to handle. She also stated that residents are responsible for the clean-up of their property, the city will be cleaning up debris in the streets and right of way. Mayor Green gave a status of the current city projects, she updated the Council on her meetings during the month of May including a meeting with Bill Wood, Pickens Co Administrator, to discuss the TSPLOST Pickens will be putting on the fall ballot. She said the next Movies in the Park will be June 15<sup>th</sup> and will include free popcorn, an ice cream truck will also be on sight if residents would like to purchase ice cream, she thanked the sponsors for the movie event, Martin Marietta Ball Ground Quarry and the Blue Ridge Marble Co. She stated she is scheduling appointments with the Pickens Fire Chief and a meeting with the Cherokee Co Fire Chief and County Manager Geoff Morton to discuss the Fire Tax. Mayor Green stated a table is being built by Mr. Darrell Russell for the Meeting Room. She stated she has an upcoming meeting with the City Engineer and Project Manager for the drainage project to discuss the detention pond that will be built on the lot the city purchased off of Cherokee Ave. Mayor Green stated she signed a Literacy Proclamation in collaboration with the Jasper Mayor, Kirk Raffield, and will be holding book readings for children along with Mayor Raffield this summer. She stated the city still has not received the Pickens Co Tax Digest as of June 4<sup>th</sup> so another meeting will be requested with the Pickens Tax Assessor, the city received the Tax Digest from Cherokee Co in early May. She also stated she met with Mr. Evan Howell from the Blue Ridge Marble Co., they are working on a "Welcome to Nelson" sign and hope to have design wrapped up by the end of July.

c. Finance Report – Mrs. Miranda McDowell went over the current bank balances and where the city is with the FY24 budget. She stated she will have some amendments to be approved in July.

## **8. Unfinished Business**

a. HI Zoning Amendments – tabled until the July meeting.

b. Tree Ordinance Revision – Mr. John Ahlberg discussed the revisions he would like to see in the ordinance. The Council and Mayor discussed his recommendations and decided to continue working on the changes, specifically regarding commercial / industrial development and revisions for enforcement for those that violate the ordinance. The item will be discussed again during the July Council Meeting.

c. Payment of Attorney's Fees (Ratify) – Mayor Green stated the case with Mr. Stephen Johnston is still ongoing, the Council previously approved the payment of an outside attorney due to a conflict of interest with the City Attorney, Jeff Rusbridge but the matter wasn't voted on in public. She stated the case should be going to trial soon. Mr. William Taylor made a motion to approve the payments to the Speight's Law Firm, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote Unanimous...

d. COLA & Health Insurance Stipend – City Employees – Mayor Green stated the COLA pay increase needed to be voted on in public and is separate from any raises given to the city employees. She requested a 4% increase which has already been accounted for in the FY25 Budget. Mrs. Kristen MacNeill made a motion to approve the 4% COLA increase, seconded by Mr. William Taylor, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

Mayor Green stated the Council previously approve a \$250/month stipend in lieu of health insurance, she asked the Council to approve increasing that amount to

\$300/month for FY25 and to \$350/month in FY26. Mrs. Kristeen MacNeill made a motion to approve the increase of the health insurance stipend, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

e. FY25 Budget –The public hearing for the FY25 budgets was held on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Green asked the Council to approve the proposed FY25 Budgets. Mrs. Kristeen MacNeill made a motion to approve the FY25 Budgets, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

f. FY25 CIP Budget – See above

## **9. New Business**

a. Employee Appointment – Mrs. Pam Coppage – Mayor Green stated Mrs. Pam Coppage has been with the city for over 60 days and has done a great job. She asked the Council to approve her appointment as an Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Kristeen MacNeill made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Mr. William Taylor, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

## **10. Executive Session – Employee Compensation**

Mr. William Taylor made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, Seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

Mr. James Queen made a motion to end Executive Session, Seconded by Mr. William Taylor All in favor, Vote unanimous...

Mayor Green asked the Council to approve the recommended employee raises discussed in Executive Session. Mrs. Kristeen MacNeill made a motion to approve the employee raises, seconded by Mr. James Queen, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

## **11. Adjourn**

Mr. William Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Nathan Hamby, All in favor, Vote unanimous...

Mayor Sylvia Green adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Kelsey Riehl

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