



**2017 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
MAYOR ROBERT STEINHAGEN**

Presented June 27, 2017

Table of Contents

1	Opening.....	3
2	Purpose.....	3
2.1	Applying Lombardi’s Focus on Fundamentals.....	5
2.2	Conservatism Defined.....	5
2.3	Representative Government; Government of the Majority.....	7
2.3.1	Protecting Our City from the Tyranny of a Vocal Minority.....	8
2.3.2	The Majority Elected Us to Speak for Them!.....	8
2.3.3	The Contemptuous Nature of the Vocal Minority.....	9
2.4	We Must Protect Our City From Despotism.....	11
2.4.1	Silence is Not A Virtue in the Face of Tyranny.....	11
3	Government is Not the Solution!.....	11
4	Audacious Goals Revisited.....	12
4.1	My Foundational Principle of City Government.....	12
4.2	Passing the Senior Tax Cap.....	12
4.3	Passing Parliamentary Procedures; protecting free speech.....	12
4.3.1	Lesson Learned.....	13
4.4	Passing a Code of Ethics.....	13
4.5	Beginning Discussions for NOAA Warning Sirens.....	14
4.6	Reevaluating the Comprehensive City Plan.....	14
4.7	Reviewing our City Ordinances.....	14
4.8	Evaluating City Staff/Support.....	15
4.8.1	City Administrator.....	15
4.8.1.1	City Administrator to Retire in Two Years.....	16
4.8.2	City Planner.....	16
4.8.3	City Attorney.....	16
4.8.4	Part Time Clerical Help.....	17
4.9	Citizen of the Year Should Be for Citizens Only, Not Mayors & Council Members.....	17
4.10	Citizen Appointments Should Be for Citizens Only.....	18
4.11	P&Z is Not for Developers/Homebuilders.....	18
4.12	New City Website.....	18
4.13	Evaluate The Real Cost of City Hall Furniture.....	19
4.14	Evaluate Why the City Council Needs iPads with Data Plans.....	19
4.15	Protect the City From Taking On Future Debt.....	19
4.16	Establish standards of Accountability Between RCH and the City.....	20
4.17	Establish Higher Standards of Financial Accountability for the MCVFD.....	20
4.18	Change the official newspaper for MC.....	20
5	Self Monitored Septic System Ordinance.....	20
6	Public Safety.....	21
6.1	Law Enforcement.....	21
6.1.1	Law Enforcement; Not Crime Prevention.....	21
6.2	Medical/Fire Safety.....	22
6.2.1	Proposed New Mission: To Train, Equip, & Serve.....	22
6.2.2	Training & Equipping Hopeful Young Firefighters.....	22
6.2.3	Training & Equipping Citizens to Help Themselves.....	23
6.2.3.1	My Offer to Pay for AED Devices In Strategic Places Around the Community.....	24
7	An “All In” City Council.....	24
7.1	Councilman Jim Herren.....	24
7.2	Councilman Scott Turnbull.....	24
7.3	Councilwoman Adrienne Balkum.....	24
7.3.1	Helping Change the Mindset of Incoming Members of Our Community.....	25
7.3.2	Bolstering Respect for One Another.....	25
7.4	Councilman Sim Woodham.....	26
7.5	Mayor Pro Tem Wayne Orchard.....	26
8	Closing Remarks.....	26

1 Opening

A little boy wanted \$100 badly and prayed for two weeks but nothing happened. Then he decided to write a letter to the Lord requesting the \$100. When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to the Lord, USA, they decided to send it to President Trump. The President was so impressed, touched, and amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a \$20.00 bill, as this would appear to be a lot of money to a little boy. The little boy was delighted with the \$20.00, and sat down to write a thank-you note to the Lord. It said: Dear Lord, Thank you very much for sending me the money. However, I noticed that for some reason you had to send it through Washington, DC and as usual, those jerks deducted \$80.

“It’s been more than a year since Wayne Orchard and I first took office, less than two months for Councilmembers Balkum, Turnbull & Herren, and just two weeks for Councilman Woodham.

Yet, in that incredibly short amount of time we’ve come a long way in restoring trust and refocusing our city’s priorities.

While there are still many challenges before us, I’m proud of what we have accomplished together to position McLendon-Chisholm for a better future.

2 Purpose

This address is the first of its kind for our city.

Often times a State of the City address is an opportunity for celebration. Tonight, however, it is an opportunity to clarify our mission, re-establish our vision, and set forth an aggressive, even audacious agenda that will be guided by our mission in order to fulfill this vision. That’s because I believe that our city stands at a crossroads in time where its future will be set by those of us who desire to come together to build community and not by those who are out to destroy it.

Additionally, the purpose of this speech is to bring clarity to the public discourse inasmuch as it depends on the city council and me. To do that, I must take time to review some basics that are to serve as the foundation of future communication as we move forward.

The best way that I know to illustrate this is from my own childhood where, as a child of parents who both grew up in Texas, and being born and raised in Texas, like every other man I have come across with similar upbringing, I played organized football, both in middle school and my freshman year in high school.

I have no qualms about saying that I hated every minute of it.

I didn't hate it because I didn't get to play much, in fact I think my official position on the team was "left-out." However, it was when I actually took the field, when I hated it most of all. My time of play usually occurred toward the end of the game when we were either winning by a lot or losing by a lot, which is when coaches of virtually every sport imaginable gives the kids like me their obligatory playing time in order to appease the parents, most of whom were convinced that their child could win the game single handedly if only given the chance.

My attitude about the game was grounded on the fact that I literally had no idea what I was doing when I went in to play. I remember the huddle, after the quarterback would call the play, all of us would first repeat the play then brake from the huddle. The problem for me was, I had no idea what the play call meant. Since I played as a lineman, all that I knew to do was "hit."

No one had ever sat me down and explained the game of football, including my coaches. Hitting, was the sum total of what I knew as a player, which made the game even less appealing for me.

It wasn't until years later that figured out the detrimental cultural significance of growing up in Texas, which is a pervasive assumption that a boy born in Texas to parents who are natives of the state come out of the womb with a knowledge, understanding, and inward desire to play football.

It wasn't until I was a student at Texas A&M University that my attitude towards the game of football was transformed when, as president of the 12th Man Student Foundation, I shared my experience with head football coach R.C. Slocum who gave me a book about the legendary coach of the Greenbay Packers, Vince Lombardi.

Lombardi is arguably the greatest to ever coach the game of football, that is, of course after Tom Landry (this is what's called knowing my audience).

Of course, Lombardi was the legendary coach for the Green Bay Packers. His career stats included 96 wins to 34 losses, six Division championships, two conference championships, and two Super bowl wins. He won Coach of the Year in 1959, and was inducted into the pro-football hall of fame in 1971.

It's understandable why the people of Green Bay erected an oversize monument in his likeness right in front of the stadium that bears his moniker.

But the ultimate demonstration of recognition comes from the National Football League as every year; the culmination of the football season is the Super bowl, where teams are playing for the trophy named in Lombardi's honor.

What makes Lombardi such a remarkable coach was neither his play calling nor his ability to predict the opposition's actions, but something that he did at the beginning of every season and that he continued to emphasize at every practice and during every game.

On the first day of the season, Lombardi would assemble the team, made up of athletes so accomplished that they were being paid to play the game that they dearly loved. In front of a hushed room Lombardi would hold up a football and utter the now famous words, “Gentlemen, this is a football.”

He would then describe in detail everything about the ball, what it was made of, how it was stitched, the length, diameter, and its weight. He then led the team to the football field and explained the yard markers, pointed out the out-of-bound lines, the in-zones and the purpose of the goalposts.

Next, he explained the objective of the game, how a team scored, its time constraints, before graduating to the purpose and rules of the offense followed by the purpose and rules of defense. Lombardi was a fanatic about the basics of the game because he knew that every mistake on the field was a direct result of failing to follow through on the fundamentals. He believed that no matter how talented a player might be, without a deeply rooted understanding in the most basic elements of the game, that talent would be aimless and counterproductive to the team’s objectives.

Watch any error made in any sport and it can always be tracked back to a failure in fundamentals. An incomplete pass resulting from the receiver turning to run before he actually makes the catch; a running back fumbles because he was not protecting the football as he ran; a pick six occurs because the quarterback is under pressure and tries to make a play rather than taking a sack, are a few of the most common.

2.1 Applying Lombardi’s Focus on Fundamentals

We can apply Lombardi’s focus on fundamentals in football to virtually everything, from marriage, to parenting, from our work in business, to our faith, and for the purpose of our focus tonight, most especially to the purpose and role of government at every level. The success or failure of our city government is dependent on how well those of us who share in the responsibility of leadership understand and focus on fundamentals.

Throughout tonight’s speech I will take time to define terms where the meanings have been obscured, or even altered by the public discourse, which have led to a fundamental misunderstanding between those in government and the body politic.

To borrow from the famed philosopher Inigo Montoya, from the movie *The Princess Bride*, “this word that you keep using, I do not think it means what you think it means.”

2.2 Conservatism Defined

Of all the adjectives used in American politics today, the word, *conservative* is the most faded of all.

To begin, a Republican does not a conservative make. The fact that less than 5% of McLendon-Chisholm voters voted in the Democrat primary during last year's presidential race does not mean that the other 95% of voters in McLendon-Chisholm hold to the same conservative worldview as me or the members of this Council.

I've been outspoken in expressing that the problem in state and national politics today is not Democrats who advocate for bigger more intrusive government, but the overwhelming majority of elected Republicans who have compromised the values of limited government and individual liberty.

In his landmark book, **CAPITALISM AND FREEDOM**, Milton Friedman brings clarity to my standards of modern conservatism. So, I would like to share an excerpt from the book. Friedman writes:

First the scope of government must be limited. Its major function must be to protect our freedom both from the enemies outside her gate and from our fellow citizens: to preserve law and order, to enforce private contracts, to foster competitive markets.

Beyond this major function, government may enable us at times to accomplish jointly what we would find it more difficult or expensive to accomplish severally.

However, any such use of government is fraught with danger.

We should not and cannot avoid using government in this way, but there should be a clear and large balance of advantages before we do. By relying primarily on voluntary cooperation and private enterprise, in both economic and other activities, we can ensure that the private sector is a check on the powers of the governmental sector effective protection of freedom of speech, religion, and of thought.

The second broad principle is that government power must be disbursed. If government is to exercise power, better in the City than in the County, better in the County than in the State, better in the State than in Washington.

If I do not like what my local community does, be it in sewage disposal, or zoning, or schools, I can move to another local community, and though few may take this step, the mere possibility acts as a check.

If I do not like what my State does, I can move to another.

If I do not like what Washington imposes, I have a few alternatives in this world of jealous nations.

The power to do good is also the power to do harm; those who control the power today may not tomorrow; and, more important, what one man regards as good, another may regard as harm.

The great tragedy of the drive to centralization, as of the drive to extend the scope of government in general, is that it is mostly led by men of goodwill who will be first to rue its consequences.

The existence of a free market does not of course eliminate the need for government. On the contrary, government is essential both as a forum for determining the “rules of the game” and as an umpire to interpret and enforce the rules decided on.

Simply put, when I use the term conservative or conservatism in relation to our city of 2,000 citizens, it is in reference to a government that is truly OF, BY, and FOR the people, where the roll and authority of government is limited and where personal liberty is jealously guarded.

It’s the mindset best expressed by president Ronald Reagan who said, “As government expands liberty contracts.”

2.3 Representative Government; Government of the Majority

The term *representative government* means that those who are elected to office act in accordance to how they believe the majority of the citizens that elected them would act if they were sitting in their seat.

Representative government emphasizes what Thomas Jefferson described in his first inaugural address where he stated, and I paraphrase, “the purpose of our democratic republic is to ensure that the majority opinion rules.”

The fundamental principle of government at every level is to understand that we do not live in a democracy, but a democratic republic. We elect representatives to represent us, so that every decision in government does not have to go through the process of an election. This does not mean, however, that there are not times when the people should, through a vote, be given the opportunity to weigh in on matters that will raise their taxes, put the people into debt, or limit the personal liberty of what citizens can do on their own property.

Two months ago, the City Council voted to appoint me to fill this seat left vacant following the resignation of our former mayor, rather than putting it to a vote in November, which would again be back on the ballot in May. The unanimous vote of the Council was based on the fact that I was elected by an overwhelming margin in the largest voter turnout in our city’s history for a municipal election, and the belief that I best represent the majority of the people in McLendon Chisholm.

Of course, next May, when I run to keep this seat, will determine once and for all whether or not that decision was truly representative of the people. Regardless, that decision is a prime example of *representative government*.

A social media post by a person in our community who teaches government in public high school, ridiculed the Council for its decision to appoint me as mayor, writing “so much for representative government.” The fact that a high-school

government teacher doesn't understand the fundamentals of representative government further demonstrates why focusing on these fundamentals is so important for the public discourse.

The majority opinion is established in every election, when the people elect for themselves individuals who will represent them in office. Citizens eligible to vote express their opinion both in voting and in not voting. Those who choose not to vote have elected to grant those who do the right and authority to make decisions on their behalf.

Political elitists attempt to discredit or invalidate elections when low voter turnout keeps their candidates from office. Conversely, when in power, political elitists abandon representative mindset in government and instead act as trustees, regardless how few voters may have put *them* in office.

2.3.1 Protecting Our City from the Tyranny of a Vocal Minority

Modern liberalism continues to attempt to undermine the will of the majority through advocacy and participation in the actions of government. From special interest lobbyist in Washington DC that buttonhole members of Congress in route to and from session to those beholden to the former political ruling class of McLendon-Chisholm who regularly attend City Council meetings, and regularly communicate with members of City Council, in hopes of persuading us to their points of view, for the majority opinion to truly prevail, the people's representatives must be able to stand up to the loud voices who seek to undermine the will of the people.

These are the same individuals who try and undermine our role as representatives of the people of McLendon-Chisholm by questioning why our supporters, if they really cared about these issues, aren't present at City Council meetings to express their support.

2.3.2 The Majority Elected Us to Speak for Them!

Of course, the reason that the citizens who support us do not attend City Council meetings is not, as some of what I consider to be liberal elitists in our city attempt to contend, the result of apathy or indifference, but fundamentally because they elected us to sit in their stead and stand up to those who have supported the expansion in the size and scope of our city government, raised our taxes, put us into debt, and worked to destroy the lifestyle that the people of McLendon Chisholm desire.

We have been put into office to stand up for these people and against those who disregard what's most important to this important majority.

We meet and deliberate so that citizens don't have to and so they can be home with their families, gathered around the dinner table together, attending their children's soccer, football, volleyball, or baseball practice or games, school activities, enjoying an evening bike ride, leisurely stroll, enjoying the sounds of nature that is still for

most, unpolluted by homogenized urbanization that has taken hold of most every other community; in short making family a priority, which for me as mayor is the ultimate goal for all of our citizens because where the family is strong so too will be our community.

We, the representatives of the people, must continually remind ourselves that it is not the loud voices of the minority opinion that should guide our actions, but the unmistakable and undeniable quiet voices of those who speak loudest on election day.

If we are not careful we too may succumb to the loud voices of the minority opinion to the detriment of the majority.

2.3.3 The Contemptuous Nature of the Vocal Minority

The actions of many of those that I consider to be part of the outspoken former political elite continue to demonstrate their contempt for the voice of the majority. They ignore the fact that the cornerstone of all our campaigns that put us into office was centered on limiting the size and scope of government. In fact, last year's election that swept me and Councilman Orchard into office by a landslide in the face of the largest voter turnout for a municipal election in our city's history by a factor of three, was bolstered by our leadership in rolling back the newly passed tax rate increase.

As evidence of this contempt for the majority, last year during the City Council's budget decision in September one of those who openly mocks citizens who don't attend City Council meetings, stood up to argue that before we acted to vote against increasing spending in our budget or refusing to raise taxes, because they expressed the desire to pay more, that members of the City Council should take time to reach out to citizens to find out about what the people think we should do. That expectation was focused especially, they said, upon the two new members of the City Council, Wayne Orchard and me.

So when I revealed that I had in fact come prepared to that evening's meeting where I did exactly what that citizen had asked us to do, and so when I read the comments made by my supporters regarding their opinion about how we should budget, which was in stark contrast to his, did that citizen stand up and say "wow, Councilman Steinhagen has done what I asked. Hooray, there's finally someone who actually listens. All of you on the Council should listen to him."

Of course not! That so-called *advocate* for representative government fell silent because in reality they weren't concerned with the voice of the people at all. Clearly, they came hoping to catch us on a technicality and drive a wedge between our position as *representatives* of the people.

The Bible warns us of people like them, those who are "wise in their own estimation."

Proverbs 18:2 says that “Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.”

In regard to the role of government, Friedman reminds us that, “what one man regards as good, another may regard as harm.”

Just months after we conducted a citizen survey that afforded all voters and property owners the right to participate, and despite the fact that the results from that survey provided empirical evidence about what the people of McLendon-Chisholm most value, which are the wide-open spaces and more rural lifestyle, where citizens expressed in no uncertain terms the overwhelming sense of betrayal felt when city leaders ignored our city's standards and acted with a blatant disregard for the people.

Punctuating these actions, many of the former political ruling class, including former elected city leaders, returned weeks ago to advocate in support of developers who have made clear that they have absolutely no regard for our cities standards of 1.5-acre minimum per home site. I sat gob smacked watching as, three times, some former elected members of City Council and a former mayor applauded the attorney representing these landowner/developers as this City Council was attempting to uphold and protect the standards that majority wants protected, but that they ignored when they held power.

Many continue to scoff at the overwhelming response of citizens who desire to sell this boondoggle of a City Hall that the people did not want and that the city does not need.

As we begin to prepare for another citizen survey, the same individual who challenged the City Council to seek the opinions of citizens when the City Council was voting on the budget has set about to persuade us to strip voters of their rights to voice their opinion in a survey by allowing for just one response per household.

This would mean that households like mine, where both husband and wife work, which means that we both contribute to paying property taxes, must find consensus. Like many in our community, my mother-in-law lives with us. Her 78-year-old opinions may be irrelevant to some, but not to this City Council.

There was a time when I thought that it would be impossible to find anyone in a city like ours so beholden to liberal big-government elitism that they would publicly advocate to deny American citizens, registered voters, the right to express themselves individually under any circumstance.

One of my neighbors and his wife are both retired military from the United States Army. I'd like to hear appropriate justification about why the voice of only one of these patriots should be heard by our city.

Is it possible that those who advocate for what I consider to be a truly “anti-American” point of view, also embrace the idea that government should ensure to every man according to his need from everyman according to his ability?

2.4 We Must Protect Our City From Despotism

In light of the actions of the outspoken few, the possibility that we succumb to high-minded despots is not as far-fetched as it might once have seemed.

Tyranny and despotism can’t gain a foothold nationally unless those in smaller communities wink at acts that strip law abiding, tax paying, God fearing citizens of liberty.

2.4.1 Silence is Not A Virtue in the Face of Tyranny

I recognize that some may be offended by some of the things I say tonight. After all it’s so much easier to just move past actions of the past in hopes of not upsetting the proverbial apple cart. I believe however silence is one of the fundamental problems in society today; we are not willing to stand against those things that are ruinous to our community

Winston Churchill was often vilified and castigated by the political ruling class of his day. They continually wagged their tongues at him for what they characterized as his “uncivil” rhetoric, ignoring the fact that truth is patently uncivil.

I agree with Churchill when he said that “most people will choose civility over liberty.”

The insidious nature of “relativism” and “compromise of values” is what has led to the normalization and celebration of behavior once thought to be abhorrent.

We have forgotten the words of Sir Edmund Burke, who said that, “the greatest way for evil to prosper is for good men to do nothing.”

3 Government is Not the Solution!

A fundamental difference in mindset between this City Council and others around the state, and throughout the nation, is that we are unified in our belief that the solutions to our needs as a community are not, nor will they ever be, found at city hall, the county courthouse, our state capital, or in our nation’s capital.

Admittedly, this mindset is completely divergent from most in government today, but we dare to be different!

We embrace the mindset of Ronald Reagan who said that “government is not the solution to our problems; government IS the problem.”

4 Audacious Goals Revisited

Upon taking office, I published a list of Audacious goals to turn M-C around, which echoed the promises that together, Mayor Pro Tem Wayne Orchard and I made during our campaign for City Council. The most fundamental of our goals was imposing more restrictions ON CITY GOVERNMENT and not the people.

4.1 My Foundational Principle of City Government

I expressed where the exception of representative democracy should apply; those instances where the **THE PEOPLE** must first give consent to:

- raise the tax rate,
- go into debt,
- take away the personal liberty of what citizens can do on their own property, and/or
- violate the municipal standards inside our city that are supposed to protect our wide-open spaces & more rural lifestyle!

I believe that these standards for our city are fundamental to good government in our city. This is a standard that all five members of this City Council fully embrace.

So, as I share this vision for the future, I will talk about the past efforts to accomplish many of the goals expressed when I was first elected.

4.2 Passing the Senior Tax Cap

I believed that the Council should demonstrate the commitment to low taxes by passing a Senior Tax Cap, which we did last May. Several times in years past the City Council passed on this opportunity, but we did not. Now, when a senior citizen opts-in, they are thereafter protected from future tax-rate increases, by the County, School District, and now the city.

4.3 Passing Parliamentary Procedures; protecting free speech

In one of my first meetings as a member of City Council, my proposal to enact parliamentary procedures under Robert's Rules of Order was unanimously approved. Previous to this, the mayor had absolute authority to decide who could and who couldn't speak without regard to rules or procedures. One former mayor used this power to limit the time that citizens had to speak during citizens comments to just three minutes, unless of course he liked what they had to say, and also denied citizens the right to hand over their allotted time to someone else.

Additionally, that same mayor could determine what a citizen could or could not speak about. This is something I experienced firsthand when attempting to draw a comparison between what was happening in Washington DC and what I witnessed happening in our city. It was ruled by the mayor to be irrelevant and therefore something that I could not speak about.

Actions like these are an affront to liberty, more specifically, despotism on display, as government run amok. As citizens who were fighting against government action that was denying the voice of the people, raising taxes, putting us into debt, and violating the standards that we citizens hold dear, both Mayor Pro Tem Orchard and I experienced these infringements of what I believed were protected rights guaranteed in the first amendment of the Constitution of United States.

What's most satisfying of all is to stand beside five other representatives of the people who are as committed to ensuring that every citizen in our city is provided equal opportunity for their voice to be heard, not just in a public forum like this, but in other ways that are unique to our city.

When it comes to the public forums like these, I can speak with confidence that every member of this City Council is equally committed to ensuring that citizens always have the right to present in accordance with the rules of decorum and procedure as outlined in Roberts Rules of order.

4.3.1 Lesson Learned

One of my many mistakes I made as a new mayor occurred just a few weeks ago when I failed to require that all those present adhere to the standards of decorum, which is a mistake that I hope never to make again. It's why I have read aloud the rules of decorum at the start of every City Council meeting since. Additionally, I allowed those from outside of our city to use our City Council meeting as a sounding board where they had license to express their opinions & concerns about how we should govern our city to benefit them.

I had a longtime supporter call me to his home and sit me down and in the most loving and kind way remind me that the role of mayor and of City Council is not to advocate for or represent those outside of our city, but is and should remain focused on those that have staked a claim inside our city limits.

4.4 Passing a Code of Ethics

We adopted a "Code of Ethics, which in addition to establishing more rigorous transparency standards for city government, it provided us a more comprehensive set of standards for those in office, as well as those appointed to serve on committees and boards. Where we did not before, we now have conflict of interest standards that should put an end to past actions taken by our government that I believe benefited the few to the detriment of the many.

Another fundamental that we must always remember as representatives of the people who are spending the people's tax dollars is that the role of government should always be focused on doing the most good for the most people at the least cost. I feel it's important to recognize my predecessor Nathan Hodges for making our Code of Ethics for our city his first priority as mayor, where his proposed draft

was one of the first things that I voted on in my first meeting as a new member of City Council.

4.5 Beginning Discussions for NOAA Warning Sirens

I wanted to begin the process to add a NOAA warning siren or sirens inside the MC city limits. This matter was addressed about a month and a half ago and is something that the City Council is working on. There are still many questions that need to be answered as we work to find solutions and best options that are right for our city. The purpose of the outdoor sirens is to alert those who are outside when dangerous weather occurs. I hope that by this time next year plans will be underway to have a system inside our city limits. As part of the next citizen survey, I am proposing that we include a question about this so that we can begin to better understand what our citizens think about this issue.

4.6 Reevaluating the Comprehensive City Plan

I proposed the repeal the newly adopted City Plan. While I still believe that the City Plan was constructed using a flawed vision for the City guided by special interest groups to the detriment, and without the input or consent of the people of MC, I now see greater value in the foundation of the work. So, instead of scrapping the City Plan all together, which costs city taxpayers thousands of dollars, we will instead conduct a comprehensive review and update of the City Plan.

I believe that our City planner, Mike Coker, fully understands and shares an appreciation for the vision of the majority opinion of the people in our city.

4.7 Reviewing our City Ordinances

On July 6, we will begin the process of reviewing not just the Comprehensive City Plan but of all city ordinances.

When we think about the mindset of the founding fathers of our nation who watched as Congress began to act under the authority of the Constitution that they created, none were more prolific than Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson held to the belief that laws should be created and enacted sparingly so much so that he believed in what some have characterized as a year-long “cooling off period.” He believed that before the legislature acts on a bill, they should wait for a year to see if that bill is absolutely necessary. After that year, if the necessity of the proposed legislation is apparent, then Congress may act, though cautiously still. Further, he advocated that if Congress should want to act in advance of that one-year time period, then ratification should come by a two-thirds vote rather than a simple majority.

My how far we have come!

Reflecting on Jefferson's mindset, the fact that the overwhelming majority of our city's ordinances were adopted en-mass rather, than as needs arose, is a further

demonstration the importance of leaders to understand and be deeply committed to the fundamental principles of limited government.

This is why I have asked our newest member of City Council, **Sim Woodham**, to take the lead in helping us identify the parts of our city ordinances that our City Council should invest time and attention in considering. The purpose of workshops like the one on July 6 is to provide the City Council time to thoughtfully, methodically, and carefully review and consider when ordinances are truly necessary and when they do little more than provide added revenue to our city. Because the City Council believes in the fundamental importance of limiting government and not the people, we undertake this job as an opportunity to protect individual liberty

4.8 Evaluating City Staff/Support

4.8.1 City Administrator

Next was to determine if a City Administrator truly benefits the city.

I have no qualms about sharing my concerns regarding the value of our City Administrator, David Butler. Even as a member of City Council, I was unsettled in my understanding about his role and importance to our city. The answers that I got at the time did not satisfy or fulfill what I believed was my fiduciary duty to ensure that those employed by the City are serving in a capacity that is truly necessary. The nature of the job of City Administrator, as it was described to me, is somewhat innocuous in that the role requires a person who can work in a very dynamic environment where every day is unique and has its own set of challenges.

So, after taking office as mayor one of the first things that I did was to meet with Mr. Butler, and asked him to begin writing a daily journal about what he did. Since taking office as mayor I have spent a great deal of time here at City Hall, where I have also had the opportunity to observe him in his day-to-day work as well as his interaction with citizens.

City Administrator Butler and I met last week for a quasi-performance review and to review his daily journal which I can attest that he has been diligent to log.

Tonight as part of our executive session, I will be sharing what I learned with members of City Council so that they too can see and evaluate for themselves the work of our City Administrator.

Based upon what I have observed and in reading through his daily journal, the confidence that I have in Dave Butler's performance and the value that he brings to the City is more than sufficient to justify the necessity of the position and his role in it.

I'm confident that the City Council will draw the same conclusion.

In light of this I am making a recommendation for the City Council to provide Mr. Butler a pay raise, something that he has not had for the last two years.

4.8.1.1 City Administrator to Retire in Two Years

Additionally, Mr. Butler has shared with me his intent to retire in two years when he turns 75.

One of the things that I considered when interviewing perspective city secretary candidates was their suitability to move into the job of city administrator when Mr. Butler retires. Should the people of M-C choose next May to keep me in this office, then I believe that **Lisa Palomba**, our new City Secretary, may be a suitable replacement. Of course, a lot can happen between now and then but I don't want to make any secret about my thinking as it relates to how we are going to replace a city administrator that many, including myself, believe it is irreplaceable.

4.8.2 City Planner

Next was to determine if the City Planner truly benefits the city.

Early in my tenure as a member of City Council I met with our City Planner, Mike Coker, and since becoming mayor we have had many more conversations as well. In my estimation, the role of most city planners is to help municipalities grow and expand, which stands in contrast to the values of our city, where we are working to preserve and protect our wide-open spaces and more rural lifestyle. However, one of the things that I learned from our City Survey was the desire of citizens to see more of certain kinds of businesses coming into our city along the 205 Corridor that is zoned for Business. As stated earlier, I believe Mr. Coker understands what's important to the people of M-C and has been an invaluable resource to me, especially as we considered how to respond to the proposed water district in our ETJ.

Additionally, Mr. Coker was instrumental to ensure that our Comprehensive City Plan included wording that made it clear that our minimum 1.5 acre per home site standard was based on a net, not a gross figure. This means that the lot size of a home is one and a half acres.

This provides a glimpse into my evaluation of our city planner and why I see great value in the person that has been hired to serve our city in this capacity.

4.8.3 City Attorney

Next was to evaluate the current City Attorney.

As a citizen before coming on to the City Council I had great reservations concerning our city attorney. However, after working with **Dave Paschall**, both as a member of Council and as mayor, my confidence and satisfaction in the role he plays as our city attorney is more than satisfied.

Paschall has been, and will continue to be an invaluable part of our team as we take on many of the challenges that we discussed tonight.

I would like to add that the City Council is taking a closer look at the contract between the City and the City Attorney as there is a mutual understanding and agreement that the terms need to be modified a bit which should save taxpayer dollars.

4.8.4 Part-Time Clerical Help

I also followed through to evaluate why part-time clerical help has been deemed necessary. It didn't take long for me to see and understand the value of the part-time clerical help that our city utilizes from Judy Hamby. Not only does she provide the most welcoming smile and warm hospitality to every citizen who walks through the door she does provide significant support as well as takes on projects that include helping us preserve and maintain historical documents, among other important work.

As with Dave Butler, Judy has also not been provided any increase in her hourly wage in over two years, which is why I will be recommending to the Council an increase in her hourly wage that is, in my opinion, duly deserved.

4.9 Citizen of the Year Should Be for Citizens Only, Not Mayors & Council Members

I also set out to establish an ordinance restricting the City Council from designating its members with honors that should be reserved for citizens only. Well, I have learned that we can't create ordinances that restrict future Councils.

This year we established what I hope will be a new tradition for our city where one does not have to question whether or not the name on a plaque is truly worthy of the title Citizen of the Year.

That's because some members of City Council kept for themselves the honor of Citizen of the Year, which if one takes a closer look, is not a Citizen of the Year award at all but a special recognition award handed out by the sitting mayor. Six times the so-called Citizen of the Year award was given to a sitting member of City Council, with one member receiving the honor twice, the last time was shortly after the filing deadline for office had closed where that incumbent had a formidable opponent, me!

One newly elected mayor honored his predecessor with the designation of *Citizen of the Year* for his work as Mayor. The word vain means to take something extraordinary and make it ordinary. The very fact that a sitting member of City Council would accept an award that is clearly established to honor citizens is, to borrow from Solomon, vanity of vanities. It marginalizes and makes a mockery of those whose names on the plaque are truly worthy of the title "Citizen of the Year."

The very fact that a former member of City Council, whose name is emblazoned on that plaque during one of the 20+ years of their tenure, castigated me while justifying the worthiness of that honor for themselves, has left me, members of this Council, and citizens utterly gob smacked.

To be clear, I have no problem with the right of any mayor who wishes to honor those that he or she feels is worthy of praise. However, the title of the award should be changed to the Mayor's Special Recognition Award, and those who were serving as mayor or a member of the City Council should be noted.

I think everyone honored on that plaque should fully support this recommendation, as it applies the honor in a more appropriate fashion.

4.10 Citizen Appointments Should Be for Citizens Only

Number eleven was to restrict the membership of any city committee that is appointed by the mayor &/or council to valid registered voters of MC. It's shocking that this should even have been necessary however it was necessary and we have instituted a standard that does just that. Additionally, we are changing the way appointments are made to the Planning & Zoning Commission to further ensure that those serving will uphold the standards established by our city.

4.11 P&Z is Not for Developers/Homebuilders

We have established a new ordinance that prohibits developers/homebuilders, or related parties from serving on any city committee that deals with the planning and zoning of the community. The standard is now in place and I believe that our city is far better off because of it.

4.12 New City Website

The creation of a new city website that is better suited to meet the needs of the community and help the City better communicate with citizens, is paramount to transparent and open government. To say that this is a sore subject would be the understatement of the year. However, the good news is this too will be a reality that I hope will come within the next month.

I will say however, that while I am not fully confident that this will happen by next month, I am confident in **Councilwoman Adrienne Balkum's** ability to get this fixed and make this happen. Councilwoman Balkum is spearheading the City Council's efforts in communication.

Last year when we set out to create a website none of us could foresee the challenges that have inhibited our ability to have a new website by now, but now that Councilwoman Balkum is leading this effort, I believe that we will get this done at a minimal cost to taxpayers.

Evaluate the Real Cost of the City Hall

One of the more daunting tasks that we have taken on is to evaluate the "real" cost of the City Hall construction and report the findings to the people. This continues to be a work in progress.

I am still at a loss to understand how it is that City of Fate, which just cut the ribbon on their 28,000 square-foot city hall, which cost their taxpayers \$8.1 million and our 5,000 square-foot city hall building cost \$2.125 million, which we opened just a year ago.

Both the city of Fate and McLendon Chisholm built on property that was donated, however, in addition to that, the brick for this building was donated, and our roof was supposed to be 50% of the real cost.

Add to that the concrete costs associated with the City of Fate's parking lot, which is more than four times the size of our City Hall's parking lot, which, adding all the factors together, suggest that the per square foot cost of the City Hall would be far less than Fate's City Hall. I have been unable to reconcile how it is that Fate can build a City Hall for \$289 per square foot while ours, which was supposed to be an incredible deal, cost our city \$477 per square foot!

Additionally, we are working to identify possible buyers for the City Hall and the property, in hopes that a new owner would allow us to continue using the Council Chamber and an office or two. One of the more likely prospects would be the Department of Public Safety, where the additional property would be suitable for the needs of the State.

4.13 Evaluate the Real Cost of City Hall Furniture

One of the things that I have been doing is going through records to determine the "real" value of the furniture purchased for the new CityHall. This too continues to be a work in progress. The city spent \$61,559.74 on office furniture in a city that has just two employees! This is an ongoing project and I will report my findings at some point in the future.

4.14 Evaluate Why the City Council Needs iPads with Data Plans.

I'm pleased to say that we have eliminated the data plans that were associated with the iPads, and I hope and pray that no future City Council ever thinks it's a good idea to purchase iPads for its members again.

4.15 Protect the City from Taking on Future Debt

I wanted to establish an ordinance that prohibits the City from taking on new financial liabilities that fail to serve the majority of the people without voter's expressed consent. As mentioned earlier, this idea was more pie-in-the-sky because Texas law prohibits us from binding a future City Council. This is why it's so important for citizens to get out and vote for representatives who are committed to the fundamentals of limited government.

4.16 Establish standards of Accountability Between RCH and the City.

This has not yet taken place but I will be adding this to the agenda soon.

4.17 Establish Higher Standards of Financial Accountability for the MCVFD.

Last year I requested the financials of the Volunteer Fire Department be included in MC's annual financial audit. However, when I made the request there was not enough time for that to occur. However, I fully expect for this Council to support this measure of accountability, and will request that the audit firm go back at least five years so that the City Council has a firm grasp on the financial accounting of the fire department.

4.18 Change the official newspaper for MC.

Currently the Rockwall Herald Banner is the official newspaper for the city of M-C. I would like to include on the upcoming citizen survey question that asks citizens which newspaper they would prefer. At one time, I had felt as though the banner was borrowing from Lennon, the useful idiots of the then ruling class of McLendon Chisholm.

My attitude has changed however as the reporter for the Banner assigned to our city has done a good job in presenting information in and balanced way. While I continue to take exception with some of the interpretation that's printed from time to time, my only concern is that the press report in a fair and balanced and accurate way. I feel as if the Banner has improved upon that standard.

Still, this is a decision that I feel that the people should make, which is why a question about this will be included on the next Citizen Survey.

5 Self-Monitored Septic System Ordinance

Another example of action that has limited the size and scope of government is the new ordinance that I proposed earlier this year that was passed unanimously, which allows homeowners the opportunity to take a class on maintaining their own septic system.

I've written and spoken about this issue prolifically so I won't go into the reasons behind this, but for those homeowners who are tired of paying companies \$175 or more to simply confirm that your system is working, the \$150 a homeowner can pay to be trained to do it themselves and never have to pay another maintenance fee is well worth it.

A few weeks ago, citizen Herb Harker and I were the first to take the class which was in Greenville. What I learned is what I wish I had known when I first moved into my home. The knowledge that I gained from taking that class was truly beneficial to me and I know will be truly beneficial to all homeowners in our city.

I'm talking with Kelly, who does a lot of our cities inspections on septic system installation, about becoming certified to touch the class herself so that we can offer these classes right here in McLendon Chisholm. Stay tuned.

6 Public Safety

When it comes to public safety, our city is well positioned to take advantage of current resources that keeps our city from high-investment costs.

6.1 Law Enforcement

First, I believe that our city dodged an enormous bullet when “we the people” rose up in opposition to the proposed plan by city leaders to hire its own police officer.

That's because police are just like Lay's potato chips, you can't just have one. The police officer has to be supported by other staff, a cost that is often hidden when will meaning politicians try and bang the gong of “public safety.” After all who is going to argue against keeping the public safe?

However, any action in opposition to a police department can be portrayed as being against public safety.

However, during the last campaign for City Council, then candidate, now Councilman Scott Turnbull established that the reality of a police presence in McLendon-Chisholm would begin with a staff of at least five.

When one reviews the budgets of other cities that surround us, it becomes very apparent very fast how monumental a financial undertaking a police force really is. In most cities, police departments make up more than three quarters of the public safety budget and are usually the largest single expenditure of any municipality.

Our city is well served by the Rockwall County Sheriff's Department. A few weeks ago, I met with Rockwall County Sheriff Harold Evanson. One of the things that came out of that meeting was an understanding that should our city ever need a dedicated officer or officers, we can contract with the Sheriff's Department to have a dedicated officer or officers inside our city. While of course there will be a cost to our city associated with that, should it ever become a need, the cost would be a fraction of what would be necessary if our city ever got into the police business.

While the prospect of contracting with the Sheriff's Department for our own designated officer is likely to be a long way off, there is great satisfaction in knowing that our city has the ability to minimize cost while improving public safety when needed.

6.1.1 Law Enforcement; Not Crime Prevention

It's important to remember that police don't necessarily make us safer; in fact, their presence can often create a false sense of security. That's because, unless their

presence is immediate, police don't prevent crime but enforce the law when a law is broken; hence the title as "law enforcement agencies."

Whenever the topic of *crime prevention* comes up, it's typically in reference to what citizens can do for themselves. Unless you have a police-car parked in your driveway or a uniformed officer at your side wherever you go, the best way for citizens to prevent being a victim of crime is to take steps to protect themselves and their property.

In accordance with my belief that the people, not government, are the solution to our problems, I believe strongly that we the people should focus on preventing crime in our neighborhoods and communities.

The single greatest crime prevention methods are when citizens give time and attention to watching out for their neighbor. They recognize when things are out of place, like automobiles that circle the neighborhood or people who come into the neighborhood that don't belong.

Further, I would like for city to provide a means for its citizens to become better equipped, such as helping facilitate and promote concealed handgun license classes for citizens.

I think that our city should promote the change in the cost for a CHL when it drops from \$140 to \$40 this September, providing more money to go towards ammunition!

6.2 Medical/Fire Safety

6.2.1 Proposed New Mission: To Train, Equip, & Serve

When it comes to the McLendon-Chisholm Volunteer Fire Department, where 90% of their budget is funded by taxpayers of McLendon-Chisholm, I am asking them to consider a new mission and vision that I believe will set them apart and make them more valuable to our community and surrounding municipalities.

The revision in mission and vision I am proposing would be to "train, equip, and serve." Here's why:

While 70% of all fire departments in U.S. are volunteer, they make up fully 77% of fire departments in the state of Texas.

The fact is there is nothing substandard about a volunteer fire department, quite the contrary.

6.2.2 Training & Equipping Hopeful Young Firefighters

One of the greatest benefits of the volunteer fire department is something that I believe that the MCVFD should place a greater emphasis on, and that is to become a

training ground for young men and women who one-day hope to become full-time firefighters.

The reason why is because of all municipal jobs in cities like Dallas, Garland, Mesquite, Fort Worth, and the like, the most highly competitive is the fire department. For prospective candidates one of the ways to move up on the list of candidates it is to have volunteer fire fighting experience. I understand that larger city fire departments that are aware of those great volunteer departments that are committed to helping to train and equip prospective firefighters, often refer applicants that don't make the cut to those departments, so that they can get the training and experience that will make them more eligible to make the cut.

The greatest staffing challenge for volunteer fire departments with this new mission to train and equip young firefighters, as with any teaching hospital, is in selecting the best candidates out of all who apply. That's because supply becomes more plentiful for those volunteer fire departments.

The MCVFD is strategically positioned, surrounded by many major cities, which makes it that much more inviting for prospective candidates to choose McLendon-Chisholm.

Volunteer fire departments can never compete with larger cities on salary and benefits anyway, so to focus on training and equipping, where real experience can be had, is working from a position of strength.

6.2.3 Training & Equipping Citizens to Help Themselves

But the training and equipping aspect of this new mission isn't just about providing young men and women who want to be firefighters with valuable experience, there's also an even more noble opportunity, which is for the citizens of McLendon-Chisholm.

Several weeks back in an effort to demonstrate the added value of the MCVFD, **Chief Robert Jones** highlighted the reduction in response time that can occur when the fire station is staffed for more days and extending the hours of when the station is staffed. Highlighting how important it was to get immediate help and assistance for a heart attack victim, Jones noted that the MCVFD is often first on the scene before an ambulance, and encouraged us to consider how we can provide what he sees as necessary staffing to have professionally trained medical personnel on scene within six minutes after receiving the call.

However, according to the *American Heart Association*, even with the fastest response possible, anything greater than four minutes is often too much time to elapse. For a heart attack victim, the single best chance of survival is to be with someone who is trained in CPR where chest compressions can begin immediately. Even for a nonresponsive victim those compressions add critical time to an individual's survivability because it ensures that oxygen is getting to the brain and other vital organs.

This is another shining example of a fundamental that government is not the solution to the problem, even when it comes to emergency medical care, the best solution continues to be where the people can help themselves.

This is why I believe that a mission that is focused on training and equipment can offer our citizens an incredibly valuable service by helping to facilitate CPR training.

Training & equipping future firefighters, citizens to help themselves, as well as serving the people when fire & medical needs come up, will make the MCVFD and even greater partner for the people in our city.

6.2.3.1 My Offer to Pay for AED Devices in Strategic Places Around the Community

In addition, my wife and I are investigating a way to make a tax-deductible donation for several automatic electronic defibrillators, commonly called "AED devices," to be placed in strategic locations around the city, including in some neighborhoods. These devices can most often be found in schools, government buildings, and airports and are designed so that even someone without medical training can intercede and save a life.

7 An "All In" City Council

Finally, I want to highlight the outstanding City Council that we have sitting at this Dias. Our focus and efforts for the future are relying on the time and effort that each member brings. This is why each member is spearheading specific aspects of our city and will help guide this body in the areas that they are designated.

7.1 Councilman Jim Herren

Councilman Jim Herren is focused on roads and transportation. Jim serves on the Road Consortium that will help keep us up-to-date on the progress of the upcoming 205 extension among other road projects that are inside our city. As we plan for growth, Jim will help to ensure that we are being thoughtful about how that growth will impact traffic and ultimately public safety.

7.2 Councilman Scott Turnbull

Councilman Scott Turnbull will help guide the city Council to make better financial decisions in the future. In addition to helping with the city's investment policies, Councilman Turnbull will be a driving force to help us keep the costs of government to a minimum.

7.3 Councilwoman Adrienne Balkum

Councilwoman Adrienne Balkum is leading us to help improve communications at every level. The fact that Facebook live is now a common practice for our City Council meetings is because of her leadership. As I mentioned earlier, Adrian is also helping spearhead a newly developed website that will better serve our community.

7.3.1 Helping Change the Mindset of Incoming Members of Our Community

Adrienne is also helping us to communicate the virtues of our city, which includes our commitment to limiting the size and scope of our city government.

One thing we learned from the Citizen Survey was the difference in attitudes among many who are moving into the Sonoma Verde development, which is currently the most highly dense community in our city. Many come expecting Government services that are similar to those of surrounding cities, which is why councilwoman Balkum, who lives in the Sonoma Verde community, is helping us to change the mindset of those considering becoming a part of our community, to understand that what we most value as a community is our wide-open spaces and more rural lifestyle.

We want those who moved into our community to understand that our vision is not to become another homogenized version of what other communities offer, but to be unique we want McLendon Chisholm to continue to be a city where you can still hear the peaceful sounds of nature and see the bright stars at night.

7.3.2 Bolstering Respect for One Another

I'm hoping that Adrian can help us protect the personal liberty of what people can do other own property, like shooting off fireworks this upcoming Fourth of July, a privilege for most of us who coming from big cities where this opportunity was for been.

It wasn't that long ago that the leaders of this city attempted to take away this right because of a few people who behaved in ways that threaten the lives and welfare of citizens and property that along prohibiting this right would not change the actions or behavior of those who acting responsibly, as I believe that they would violate the law as law abiding citizens watch helplessly as overtaxed law-enforcement agencies attempt in vain to stop these lawless acts. Just as we see in every major municipality around the nation. That's because you can't fix stupid.

We can create a culture however of respect for one another. Leaders around the community, from HOA's to this City Council, can help provide guidelines that make things like shooting off fireworks something that everyone can enjoy.

As the president of my neighborhood HOA, I created a newsletter where I added recommendations about shooting off fireworks inside our neighborhood, which included ending by eleven p.m., limiting the days to around July 4, and being sure to pick up remnants of fireworks that end up in neighboring yards. That simple step transformed the attitudes of many within our community who had before supported laws that would prohibit these activities.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, the solution to the challenges that we face are best held in the hands of the people and not in government that ties the hands of the people.

7.4 Councilman Sim Woodham

Earlier in the speech I shared that the newest member of the City Council, Sim Woodham, will be focusing on helping us to review the ordinances and building codes. This is a massive project, one that will take us some time to complete, but in the end, I hope that with Councilman Woodham's leadership, we will have fewer restrictions and more freedom.

7.5 Mayor Pro Tem Wayne Orchard

Restrictions and more freedom. Mayor Pro Tim Orchard and I continue to be committed to providing leadership and driving our city to reflect the values of the people. I am grateful to have such a great leader and friend at my side as we move forward.

8 Closing Remarks

Obviously, there is much work ahead of us, but I am confident in our future.

We will continue to have full agendas because this is the only time that our City Council is allowed to meet as a group, as state law prohibits us from deliberating behind closed doors.

I hope that the commitment that we have made is evident to all citizens even those who oppose the direction that we're heading.

I ask citizens to pray that we will continue to hold fast to what is true, right, and honorable as we move forward in the coming days. May God bless the people of our wonderful city and may He be honored in all that we do. Thank you.