



CITY of McLENDON-CHISHOLM
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
July 7, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moody called the workshop of the City Council of the City of McLendon-Chisholm, Texas to order at 6:30 p.m.

City Council Present:	Gary Moody	Mayor
	Steve Hatfield	Mayor Pro-Tem
	Gary Lovell	Council Member
	Patrick Short	Council Member
	Jack Pullen	Council Member
	Lee Nichols	Council Member
Staff Present:	David Butler	City Administrator
	Deborah Sorensen	City Secretary
	Michael Coker	City Planner

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Hatfield gave invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Discussion of proposed FY 2015-2016 Operating Budget

Mayor Moody started the discussion of the proposed budget with the fire department line item. He asked for everyone's opinion.

Council Member Pullen stated we need fire protection and this is a big step for us. He would like to trim it some but he is 100% for the fire protection

Council Member Lovell stated that we doubled the contribution last year and can't afford to double it every year. It is risk management. People know we didn't have a fire department when they came here and they are still coming.

Council Member Klutts stated you better have a meeting for the people and find out what they want. If Ron Paul is right, next year the people won't be able to pay for their homes.

Council Member Short stated he looks at the data and looks at what the city planner says. We are going to grow and if we don't keep up with what is going to be needed, it is going to be the same problem. He agrees with Jerry that the public needs to understand what we are doing and why we are doing it. If they look at the projections, he feels that they would agree. He would like a community communication plan. We have been talking about the tax situation for years. In the meantime, we have chosen to be a city and in order to provide more services, there needs to be more ad valorem taxes. We need to properly communicate the need, communicate why and rely on our professionals. We should strongly consider it. There will be people against it, but it doesn't mean it is right. We have to manage the city the best way we can. He is concerned that it if is not

done the right way, we will be behind the eight ball with the fire department and it isn't a prudent way to run the city. If it is properly handled, he thinks the community will accept it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hatfield stated the one thing to stop and consider is that we are the only municipality without a fire department. We have a group of dedicated volunteers that have contracted with us to provide the services. We have no control at all of what goes on in the fire department. We need to accept and understand the situation. We are in a position right now to try to change where we stand with the fire depart. He was disappointed in the manner that they came to us last year and felt that it was not a good situation. The department and professionalism has changed considerably. They are now a full participate in disaster training with the county and do city training. He presented a spreadsheet on how much it would cost the city to start its own fire department. We are moving well ahead of the need. They are proposing to have two fire fighters full time and a part time paid, full time fire chief. We need to enter into a MOU with the fire department that states that within the next two to three years, they would transfer all of their assets to the city. No one at this table is paid anything to do this work. We pay taxes just like everyone else. He agrees with Jack and thinks that we can trim it down some.

Mayor Moody stated this affects insurance rates by the ISO rating. If we can't handle a fire department then the ISO rating will increase. He agrees that it can be trimmed some.

Council Member Short stated he is going to trust Council Member Lovell and Mayor Pro-Tem Hatfield with their input from the fire department. The men are here tonight because God wants us here. We can communicate the need for increase in taxes honestly. He trust Mike, City Planner, with the number he says we need to run the city. It starts with us and ends with us on how we communicate the tax rate. Our taxes have been low for years and he is not raising them just to keep up with the other cities. They have a fiduciary duty to do what is right for the city. If we decide to run for City Council again and are voted out, then so be it. We are all paying our fair share. Can't be so against government and against taxes. Then we hurt ourselves. It is critical that we are in an agreement as much as we can be.

Mayor Moody reiterated that when we started the taxes, we didn't look very far down the road. He has spoken to several mayors in the communities and they have stressed, do not get behind the eight ball.

Council Member Short doesn't feel that this is a hard decision based upon the data. We need to communicate the need and do it right. The people will understand.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hatfield added that you regret more of the things you didn't do versus the things that you did do.

Mayor Moody added that we are running lean. We are about small government. We did not run out and start a public works department because we have a sewer line now. Law enforcement will not be utilized immediately, however, we need to consider it so that we aren't raises taxes in the future.

Council Member Pullen has a bad taste in his mouth when it comes to law enforcement. We all pay county taxes and that pays for the sheriff.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hatfield stated that if we can get one officer dedicated to our city then it will help.

No Action Taken

b. Discussion of Financial Forecast for the future of the City

Mike Coker, City Planner, explained his formulas to City Council.

No Action Taken

c. Discussion of community communications plan regarding the proposed FY 2015-2016 Operating Budget

Council Member Short wants to have a professional by the name of Jennifer Sarber to assist the City Council regarding communicating the new tax rate. He thinks that this particular issue is the most important thing that they will do. She is available to come talk to City Council at the next City Council Meeting if the City Council is interested in it. It will cost \$10,000 to \$12,000 for everything.

Mayor Moody feels that communication is imperative. Council Member Lovell would like to know why City Council has to hire a sales person to sell this. Council Member Short agreed and asked himself the same thing in the beginning. There is hardly any time and this is very important.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hatfield stated that he would be in agreeance to talk to her. He is concerned of the short time period. Council Member Short stated that she is ready to work the very next day if she is hired.

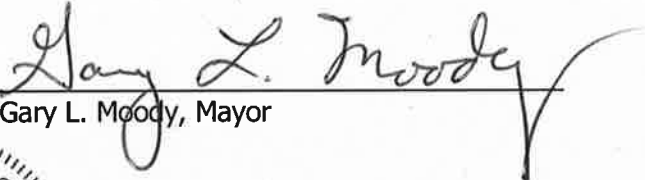
No Action Taken

d. Discussion of setting date and time of Town Hall Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tem Hatfield and Council Member Short will be out August 25, 2015 Meeting. Town Hall Meeting will be scheduled for August 27, 2015.

5. ADJOURN

Council Member Short made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Pullen seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Gary L. Moody, Mayor

ATTEST:



Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, City Secretary

