



August 28, 2018

Statement Made at the City Council Meeting

13. Public Statement by Council Member Balkum – McLendon Chisholm Fire Rescue (MCFR) Employment. *(Requested by Council Member Balkum)*

Now that we have the SAFER GRANT we should start a hiring process. I have been hearing a bit of push back of certain subjects and frankly, I'm extremely disappointed that once again a perception that politics is being played with our public safety is being projected to the Citizens of McLendon-Chisholm.

The City encourages those who are currently employed or volunteering with MCVFD to submit applications for employment and volunteerism with MCFR. It is my understanding that most or all have applied.

Does this mean MCVFD goes away? That decision can only be made by the members of MCVFD and the City has no opinion one way or the other.

Yes, we want to have a reasonably priced station that will meet the citizens and MCFR needs.

First and Fire Trucks have promised delivery of our apparatus in two weeks. Now it is up to Chief Simmons to hire, equip and familiarize experienced personnel to man those trucks on October 1.

As of last Friday (August 24), Fire Chief Simmons informed me that he has 30 applications for employment with MCFR. As I previously stated I am THRILLED that these applications includes MCVFD members. Based on discussions that I have had with multiple heads of other departments they tell me that those who have years of experience would not need extended training to become familiar and properly operate our equipment. Of course, the longer that our employees get to work together the more efficient of a team they will become.



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On June 5, Chief Simmons requested that the Council sign a 3.5 month contract with MCVFD to provide fire protection services to allow ample time for Chief Simmons to equip and staff MCFR to operate on October 1, 2018. If the October 1 start up date is no longer viable Chief Simmons will be asked to prepare a report explaining in detail why he was not able to meet his goal.