



**CITY COUNCIL**  
**City of McLendon-Chisholm, Texas**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 21, 2018**

The City Council of the City of McLendon-Chisholm convened in Regular Session on August 21, at City Hall, 1371 West FM 550, McLendon-Chisholm, Texas, with the following members present:

Keith Short	Mayor
Adrienne Balkum	Council Member
Herman Larkin	Council Member
Scott Turnbull	Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Bloom	Council Member
James Herren	Council Member (video conference)

Staff Present:	David Butler	City Administrator
	Lisa Palomba	City Secretary
	Jim Simmons	Fire Chief/Fire Marshal

1. Mayor Short called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. Mayor Short provided the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags.
3. Mayor Short announced the Rules of Decorum are in place and are to be observed throughout the meeting.
- 4. Citizen Comments.** The following citizens spoke:

Stewart Mayberry, 21 Fireside Drive, commented the City needs to address the interlocal agreements for fire protection and dispatch services as soon as possible.

Christina Reich, 441 Briar Glen, commented that she has lived here since 1990; the City is obligated to pay MCVFD and now obligated to pay more for a City owned fire department; and urged Council to keep MCVFD and to spend money wisely.

Leigh Wilcoxon, 980 FM 1139, commented that a budget was approved to pay the fire department; she doesn't want a new building; Council hired Chief Simmons but now they will not listen to the Chief; Council wants to tear down the City on social media; merge MCVFD with MCFR; provide health insurance to employees; and M-C is the laughingstock of the County.

Mark Kipphut, 31 Fireside Drive, commented "I'm not going to belabor the point that has been made. A couple of agreements have been delivered that need to be acted on. What I do want to comment on is over the emotion that you are hearing since Ms. Balkum promised us answers months ago and hasn't delivered. We need a fire department with a clear path.

October 1 is coming quick and I encourage the Council, and I assume next Tuesday we are still going to have our townhall. Hopefully we will hear a little more of that commitment tonight and what that is going to cover. But at the end of the day, where we stand today has been incremental decisions. For anyone that is a history major, it feels a lot like what happened in Vietnam. A lot of decisions, nothing really linked together. Chief Simmons has a good plan. Chief Murphy has a good plan. Make it happen. That's the easiest way. As you look at the personnel policies tonight, I concur with the comment that was made I do not want to live in a city that is not willing to pay its fire fighters basic insurance, for health insurance in the first year. That is the most difficult job that exists within the city. You would think they would be the ones we take care of first. They are the ones who put out all for us. All hours of the day, 7days a week. It doesn't seem very fair. The policies themselves as I have looked at it I have a question in my mind whether it is consistent with Chapter 143 Local Government Code. Consistency is key that addresses fire fighters and police officers. As long as that box has been checked I would want to see us have a document that is consistent with that. Which really bring back to we are at a point we have to reestablish credibility with our citizens, with our county and partnerships across the county. So, I just ask for you to get on with it. Tell us what it is going to be. Are you going to pass the budget tonight? Are you going to pass a budget that is going to a Town Hall, or not to a Town Hall, to a public hearing? Are you going to pass a tax rate that's related to the budget that's going to a public hearing? But yet, how that budget is going to be executed is still unclear in that one major category. So, when I look over the priorities and I see over \$100,000 put towards the City Attorney and what he has made over the last couple of years, we are doing a great job renovating his house. We are not doing a good job protecting ours. Thank you.

Michael Davis, 106 Chaney Place, commented that he does not like completing the form for citizen comments; how did the City go from a volunteer fire department to a million-dollar fire department; decision is not logical; and reason for change seems to be animosity between parties.

Short briefly addressed the need for speaker form is to correctly identify for the record the name and spelling of the person speaking and their address.

**5. Approval of Minutes. Larkin, seconded by Bloom, moved to approve the July 31, 2018 City Council Meeting Minutes. A vote was cast and the motion carried with 5 in favor, 0 against.**

**6. Resolution No. 2018-26 Accepting Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Award in the amount of \$621,600. Turnbull, seconded by Balkum, moved to approve the Resolution.** Discussion was held among Council Members. Bloom requested clarification regarding end of funding period. The full-time equivalent positions were discussed. Larkin discussed the need to open positions and indicated he is in favor of accepting the grant, but also in favor of the merger between MCVFD and MCFR. Balkum mentioned that MCVFD's non-profit status has nothing to do with the City and SAFER positions would have to be open to any qualified applicant. Turnbull clarified that SAFER would cover salaries of hired firefighters. Bloom cited benefits of a merger and said it needed to be done correctly and all equipment should be analyzed and usefulness of each apparatus determined. Bloom clarified there is still benefit, in his mind, to slow things down in setting up MCFR by October 1. It is a lot to try to accomplish in five

weeks. **A vote was cast and the motion to Approve Resolution No. 2018-26 carried unanimously.**

**7. Resolution Adopting Personnel Policies.** Brief discussion was held among Council Members. Short indicated he was not in favor of the weapons policy as written and indicated he would like additional time for review all policies. **Turnbull, seconded by Bloom, move to table the item to the August 28 meeting. A vote was cast and the motion carried with 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Balkum).**

**Council moved to Item 11.**

#### **11. Updates, Discussion and Direction to Staff.**

a. Employee policies. Palomba continues to work on the policies.

b. Fire Station Site Plan, Platting and Permitting. Staff reported the surveying has started.

c. Veterans Memorial Brick Campaign. Short shared that he spoke with the Commander of the American Legion. They are interested in helping us along with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Rock Wall Chapter who helped the City get the Memorial. Short would like both groups to come at a later date to speak with Council about what they can do to help us and get that going and bring to fruition.

d. Council Member Photos. Short mentioned he saw an email sent by Balkum about Council Member photos are scheduled for August 28, 2018 at 5:15-5:30 p.m.

e. Code of Ordinance Updates. No updates at this time.

f. Future Agendas. Commissioner Bailey visited the City Secretary and he provided the Emergency Services Dispatch Agreement for consideration as well as the Interlocal Agreement for Fire Protection Services. It was suggested to put this on the next agenda. Personnel policies, since they were not discussed, should be added. The Townhall Meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. on August 28. Two agendas should be created, one for the regular meeting and a separate agenda for the Town Hall Meeting. The City Secretary commented that she needs a little direction on the Town Hall Meeting. The City Attorney would like us to be very specific about the topic. Palomba asked Council if she should limit the agenda to just fire protection or expand it to anything else related to public safety or otherwise. Short added, he thinks it is going to be related to fire protection right now. On the budget, the City Secretary shared, I do not expect to see any action unless something happens tonight. There is no expectation on any changes on the budget. It can be left on the agenda as an ongoing discussion but you do not have to take any action. Adopting the Investment Policy is just part of the budget process as we wrap up this year and move into the next. The Investment Policy will be ready for the next agenda.

Mayor Short called a recess at 7:17 p.m.

Mayor Short reconvened the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

**8. Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget Discussion.** Bloom, seconded by Turnbull, moved to open discussion. Ray Smith, CPA was present to answer questions. Turnbull questioned the EMS budget. General discussion was held regarding the budget. Larkin commented that the fire budget needed to be reworked to reflect federal taxes adjusted; the proposed Operations Fire Chief Position salary and benefits costs; SAFER Grant funds; Bloom requested clarification regarding the debt service and utility budget; additional questions were generated regarding surplus funds; the investment pools and general reserves. Turnbull commented that adopting a resolution for early bond redemption in an approximate amount of \$78,512 retires a portion of the City Hall debt early and will avoid a rollback situation. Bloom commented that he is confused about the public safety portion since that is still up in the air. We are not approving anything or making any decisions. Bloom is fine with all the line items that we have gone through but that is the one big expense that has not been nailed down. Turnbull shared that we can increase the public safety budget or the total budget by \$114,000. Nothing we do tonight will affect that because the tax rate that we have agreed on leaves us that much money to do that. Bloom does not want to vote for the budget that by default he is voting for something else. Turnbull added that we have already set our expected income and we can spend more up to the deficit and we can spend more by going into reserves, but what we can't do is raise the tax rate. Smith recommended not budgeting the surplus. Discussion concluded.

**9. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Starting October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019.** Council directed staff to file the proposed FY 2018-2019 Proposed Budget in the Office of the City Secretary, post on the City's website and schedule a Public Hearing to receive public input on the FY 2018-2019 Budget for September 11, 2018.

**10. Proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal Year Starting October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019.** Larkin, seconded by Turnbull, moved that the proposed Tax Rate for FY 2018-2019 Budget be \$0.150000 per \$100 valuation and that Public Hearings to receive public input regarding the Tax Rate be scheduled for September 11 and September 17, 2018. A vote was cast and the motion carried with 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

## **12. Council Member Reports and Announcements**

a. Mayor's Report and Announcements. Short again relayed information regarding VFW and DAR expressing interest in promoting the Veterans Memorial Brick Campaign.

b. Council Member Larkin. No comments.

c. Mayor Pro Tem Turnbull. Discussed drafting a resolution for defeasement. Palomba indicated it is scheduled for September 17 following the last scheduled hearing on the Tax Rate.

d. Council Member Herren. No updates.

e. Council Member Bloom. Bloom indicated he would like to discuss economic development at the next meeting.

f. Council Member Balkum. No additional comments.

13. Turnbull, seconded by Bloom, moved to adjourn the meeting. No objection was heard.  
**The meeting was adjourned at 8:26.**

ATTEST:

Lisa Palermo

APPROVED:

Keith W. M.

