

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
April 9, 2026

- A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin
- B. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Mayor Beeler
- C. Roll Call

Vice Mayor Beeler - Present
Councilperson Alexander – Present
Councilperson Armpriest - Present
Councilperson McBride - Present
Councilperson Townes - Present
Councilperson Young - Present

- D. Mayor's Welcome:

Mayor Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. At this time, he extended a warm welcome.

- E. Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Councilperson Armpriest, second by Councilperson McBride to approve the minutes dated March 12, 2026

Motion carries

- F. Financial Matters:
None

- G. Citizen's Input:

Randa Lipman had asked Ms. _____ to represent her tonight and discuss National Donate Life Month. Ms. _____ is a recipient of an organ that saved her life. She shared her story

of being given twenty-two years to live, enabling her to raise her children and see her grandchildren, go graduations and birthdays all thanks to a donor who provided her with this opportunity. She encouraged others to help by signing up to be organ donors, either on their driver's licenses or online.

H. Old Business:

A. Discussion/Approval for TDOT Miscellaneous Safety Improvements & J-Turn Intersection Plans in regards to SR124 to SR423.

Mayor Griffin said he had spoken with TDOT and the “S” on the description last month indicted South and not State which was some of the confusion last month. The J-Turn on Hwy 22 near Lakeside is not in the city limits, so we do not have information on that, but was told it would have work on it in December. The improvements for SR 423 are scheduled to start very soon.

Motion to approve the J-Turn intersection @ SR423 made by Councilperson Armpriest 2nd by Councilperson Townes.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Young: Yes
Councilperson Armpriest: Yes
Councilperson Alexander: Yes

Councilperson Townes: Yes
Councilperson McBride: Yes
Vice Mayor Beeler: Yes

Motion passes.

I. New Business:

A. Recommendations for the Depot Entrepreneur Project.

Mayor Griffin reported that the Main Street Committee met recommending to fill three of the four spots in the former depot building.

1. Shawna Solano: Solano’s Sweet Treats, which are freeze dried products; examples fruits, vegetables, candy, ice cream and dog treats.
2. Eric McDade: Big Buck Beef Chips. He sales beef jerky, cinnamon apple chips and BBQ sauce
3. Patricia McCartney: Quilting with Mrs. Claus. She makes quilted and handmade items that can be personalized.

Mayor Griffin mentioned that Solano's Sweet Treats and Big Buck Beef Chips would possibly share a space.

Mayor Griffin also mentioned that one space on the left side had been left in hopes to get someone who was interested in doing a restaurant or bakery, since there was a small kitchen available in that area.

Councilperson Armpriest asked when this might be opening and was told that most vendors had said would only take them a couple of weeks to open. Ms. Beeler had indicated it might be June before she could get her merchandise. Councilperson Armpriest asked if there were requirements for each business. Mayor Griffin responded that yes a draft had been made to look over and each business would have a lease. The lease agreement is pretty uniform. We are asking that nothing be attached, everything should be moveable in order to save the historic factor of the depot.

Councilperson Young if they would have insurance and was told by Attorney Pemberton that they would be asked to carry their own renter's insurance.

Motion made by Councilperson McBride to approve the recommendations made by the Main Street Committee, second by Councilperson Townes.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young:	Yes	Councilperson Townes:	Yes
Councilperson Armpriest:	Yes	Councilperson McBride:	Yes
Councilperson Alexander:	Yes	Vice-Mayor Beeler:	Yes

Motion passes.

- B. Discussion/Approval for Ordinance # 578 to Amend the Zoning Map on Highland Drive From Partially B-2 and R-3 to Entirely B-2.

Mayor Griffin advised that this came through from the Planning Commission. Mayor Griffin indicated that Dollar General, Factory Connection and Subway had been divided And were on two different tracks, Dollar General and Factory Connection in B-2 and Subway had been in an R-3 track. Mr. Perkins is in the process of selling this property and the buyer had requested that it all be B-2. The plans will be presented at our next meeting along with a public hearing.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Beeler to approve the B-2 zoning request, second by Councilperson Armpriest.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young:	Yes	Councilperson Townes:	Yes
Councilperson Armpriest:	Yes	Councilperson McBride:	Yes
Councilperson Alexander:	Yes	Vice-Mayor Beeler:	Yes

Motion passes

J. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 60 calls. 6-medical falls, 5-vehicle crashes, 5-medical breathing problems, 4-medical, sick, 4-lift assist and various others. Mayor Griffin informed everyone that the Safe Haven baby box has been installed and wanted to thank Chief Tucker and Battalion Chief Arnold for all their work and Greg Barker and his employees for work on the installation. It will be a few more months before the alarm is installed; but we are very thankful to have this. The closest baby boxes are located in Jackson and Murray.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead is out tonight, so Chris Shear will be giving the report. Mr. Shear reported that they were working on getting the sewer plant fully functional, some of the issues had been electrical, so Jones Electric had been there working on those issues. On the water department side, we have been busy with some pop-up issues with lines, so getting those repaired. Having PRI come in and patch the streets where we have cut into them.

Mayor Griffin said he wanted to commend the water and sewer departments for their work. There had been a tank that had not worked in some time and Superintendent Umstead sent a video today showing that it is now working. This will help us with our sewer capacity; we are making a lot of progress and grateful for Earnest and his team getting these things done that had been in disrepair for quite some time.

Parks Director Hollowell stated baseball, softball and soccer were in full swing. We are staying busy with field work and mowing grass. Want to thank Lindsey Parham, the Ag Teacher at McKenzie High School whose class got our downtown planters planted. It's a busy time for Parks and Recreation.

Assistant Police Chief Boucher is sitting in for Chief White tonight as he is at WestStar class. Assistant Chief Boucher reported 1141 calls from the Police Department. 467 of these were security checks, 237 traffic stops, 60 log information, 53 ambulance calls, and many more. They have an opening in the Police Department due to a new hire not completing the academy.

Codes Enforcer Darrow reported that a lot of appliances are being left out and debris from home renovations are just being left in the yard. He has started sending letters. He reported that he only had one dog at this time, and he had been fortunate enough to have re-homed all but one dog at this time.

Superintendent Mercer reported his crew was still running household and brush as normal. He added that leaf season was over, so any leaves would need to be bagged and set out on brush pickup week. The new tractor was having some electrical issues. Water Department was having an erosion control issue at the plant, so we have had our backhoe out there getting it fixed for them.

City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup reported the ladies in the office had started doing some cross-training in the office, which had been a good thing, since one of the ladies had been out some due to illness and death in her family. She also mentioned that work on the fiscal year budget was being done.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young said he would like to give a shout out to Police Dept. for working on the golf cart situation. It had gotten pretty bad-there was a lot of potential for injury with some of the younger ones driving them.

Councilperson Armpriest agreed with Councilperson Young that it was very appreciated. She said it made her heart skip a beat when she saw the young ones just hanging on the backs of the golf carts.

Councilperson Alexander said he just wanted to thank all the department heads for their work.

Councilperson Townes said he wanted to thank the department heads for the way they all work together.

Councilperson McBride reiterated that all the departments' work relationships were a huge bonus for the city.

Vice Mayor Beeler said all the council had covered everything he thought as well.

K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson McBride to adjourn @ 6:19 p.m., Councilperson Townes.

Motion carries

APPROVED: _____

Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer Waldrup, City