

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
February 12, 2026

- A. Call to Order – Mayor Griffin
- B. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance – Councilperson Townes
- 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 Townes to approve the minutes dated January 8, 2026

Motion carries

- F. Financial Matters:

None

G. Citizen's Input:

No one had signed in.

H. Old Business:

A. Discussion/Approval on 2nd reading of Ordinance # 576 Providing A Municipal Zoning Plan for Annexed Property

There was no discussion.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Beeler, 2nd by Councilperson Townes to approve Ordinance 576.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young: Yes

Councilperson McBride: Yes

Councilperson Arm Priest: Yes

Councilperson Townes: Yes

Councilperson Alexander Yes

Vice Mayor Beeler: Yes

Motion carries

I. New Business:

A. Proclamation honoring MHS Lady's Cross Country Team

Motion made by Councilperson Arm Priest, 2nd by Councilperson McBride

At this time, Mayor Griffin read the proclamation and presented it to Coach Beth Mathis (See attached)

B. Discussion/Approval for purchase of 2026 Tahoe by Police Department

Motion made by Councilperson McBride, 2nd by Councilperson Arm Priest

Mayor Griffin explained that the vehicle was on the State contract, so it did not have to be bid out. He then asked Police Chief White to give more information, which was the cost of the vehicle is \$ 54,320.00 with \$ 48,550 being taken from the DUI account and

the remaining \$5,770.00 taken from the LEPO account, making it be completely funded with no cost to the citizens.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young: Yes

Councilperson McBride: Yes

Councilperson Armpriest: Yes

Councilperson Townes: Yes

Councilperson Alexander Yes

Vice Mayor Beeler: Yes

Motion carries.

C. Discussion/Approval on Nepotism policy

Motion made by Councilperson Townes, 2nd by Vice Mayor Beeler.

Mayor Griffin asked that the word “within” on the second line be changed to read as long as not under the direct line of supervision. He took this time to say that especially in the police and fire departments, several supervisors or leaders could supervise an employee.

Attorney Pemberton advised to mimic State Law Policy advising that Section 103 deals with employees being in the same department. He reiterated that the main issue is dealing with the commanding officer chain.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young: Yes

Councilperson McBride: Yes

Councilperson Armpriest: Yes

Councilperson Townes: Yes

Councilperson Alexander Yes

Vice Mayor Beeler: Yes

Motion carries

J. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 91 calls. January had been extremely busy. They had responded to 35 calls in 7 days. ISO had been here, it will take approximately six (6) months before we receive the State results. Wanted to let everyone know they had received a grant for \$ 64,500 that will be used for a new

breathing air compressor to fill their tanks.

Mayor Griffin said he was thankful for Chief Tucker's leadership. At this time, he informed the council the county truck had been released back to the county, due to ISO rulings concerning trucks vs. employees.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead reported they were trying to recuperate from the frigid weather causing water lines to burst.

Parks Director Hollowell was attending an Athletic stated the playground equipment at the splash pad was almost complete; his crew had replaced boards and painted all benches at the city park, they had assisted with snow/ice removal from downtown sidewalks and streets. Middle School baseball would be opening tonight, so they had been prepping ball fields for the upcoming season.

Police Chief White reported 1299 calls from his department. 720 of these were security checks, 147 traffic stops, 26 welfare checks and 22 wrecks with no injuries and various other calls.

Codes Enforcer Darrow reported that he was focusing on abandoned houses and giving the owners' options, sell, or tear down. Some of these houses have not had water since 2012. I am also taking time to talk with rental tenants about the condition of their homes. On the pound side, we have taken in eight (8) dogs this year and re-homed seven (7) of them.

Superintendent Mercer reported his crew spent nine (9) days trying to get the streets cleared. They had purchased 9800 pounds of salt to help melt the ice. They were back to normal, this week was household pickup.

City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup reported they had been busy receiving property taxes. Saturday was a big day with the Chocolate Tour, enjoyed all by who participated.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young wanted to commend the Police Department in going out and helping citizens who needed their medicines, etc. Last time, he checked there had been 26 weather-related deaths in the state.

Councilperson Armpriest would like to commend the street department; how in the

world did anyone expect those roads to be cleared off immediately. It was wonderful to see you guys out responding and doing your best with your equipment to get things cleared.

Councilperson Alexander said basically the same thing. We had a 100-year storm and it was worse than we had seen in a long time. I was in city hall and someone complained about their garbage, and just thought everyone is doing the best they can under these circumstances. Everyone working together during the storm was very appreciated.

Councilperson Townes said he wanted to thank Brian and the First Responders who were there for my mother. I want to say thank you again.

Councilperson McBride want to piggy-back on what the other side said, that it takes everyone working together and want to say thank you to the leadership of the department heads. I would also like to say congratulations to the Cross-Country girls.

Vice Mayor Beeler, I think people always want to find something to complain about, but they don't get to see the backside of all that we are fortunate enough to see with us concerning our employees. Would like to say thank you again to them and congratulations to the Cross-Country team.

Mayor Griffin was pleased to announce that the City had a received an EV Grant for a total of \$ 543,253 to receive 4 all electric trucks. The first one going to Public Works, then parks and streets. It cost roughly \$700.00n a month to operate the box truck at public works, with this grant, we are looking at about \$ 2.00 per day. The city's portion will be \$ 184,000.00 for all 4 vehicles, which includes 3 chargers. Two of the chargers will be installed at the departments and one of them will be installed downtown. The downtown charger can help encourage people to shop downtown while their vehicle is charging. Total for that project is \$724,340.00. The next few months we will be bringing more information.

K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson McBride to adjourn @

6:22 p.m., Councilperson Townes.

Motion carries

APPROVED: _____

Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer Waldrup, City