

0Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
June 22, 2026

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

Vice Mayor Beeler - Absent
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 McBride, second by Councilperson Armpriest to approve the minutes dated May 14, 2026

Motion carries

- F. Financial Matters:

None

- G. Citizen's Input:

Armand Hebert of 2001 Cedar St, McKenzie, TN addressed the council on behalf of the

Rotary Club. Mr. Hebert was asking to place a portable storage building on city property to create a food pantry that would expand their efforts to help eradicate hunger in the community. Rotary has had two projects this year that fed over 800 individuals. Rotary has been working with EW James to collect food items and also a food voucher program. There has also been over 200 boxes delivered. Rotary believes this would create a partnership of working together and learning how we could both best serve our community.

Mayor Griffin proposed putting a committee together for viable options on how we could proceed. Mayor Griffin mentioned that the rear of the United Neighbors building could possibly be used.

Mr. Hebert responded that Rotary would be open to any ideas.

Mayor Griffin asked who could serve on the committee and Councilperson Alexander, and Councilperson McBride all offered.

City Attorney Pemberton said that he felt this would be a viable partnership and suggested having two board members from council. He also mentioned that there should be a resolution for a lease agreement for the building or space.

H. Old Business:

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

Mayor Griffin asked City Planner Donny Bunton to address the council to explain the Planning Commission recommendation. The property is owned by Perkins Enterprises and are three (3) properties zoned as B-2 and R-3. Mr. Perkins is in the process of selling the property and it just makes sense for all three to be zoned B-2 as they are all being used commercially.

Motion made by Councilperson Alexander, 2nd by Councilperson McBride to approve the B-2 zoning request

Roll Call:

Councilperson Armpriest: Yes
Councilperson Alexander: Yes

Councilperson McBride: Yes
Councilperson Young: Yes

Councilperson Townes: Yes

Motion passes.

B Discussion/Approval on second reading for Ordinance No. 579 Budget 2026/2027.

Mayor Griffin took this time to apologize for moving the meeting date to tonight saying that we realized there were some errors published in the McKenzie Banner due to the transition from one Excel spreadsheet to another. In order to have full transparency to the community we wanted to give at least ten days to verify any changes. In this you will notice we will be using roughly \$200,000.00 from fund balance, but by doing this we will be accomplishing street paving, public works roof, renovate park restrooms, purchase tornado sirens, fire and police radios, SRO vehicles and hopefully signage in the downtown. Also, as I stated in the public hearing under Section 8, there will be no tax increase, we will stay at the 0.8218 per \$ 100.00 of assessed value for all three of the counties we are in.

Motion to approve the 2026/2027 fiscal year budget made by Councilperson Armpriest, second by Councilperson Townes.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Armpriest: Yes
Councilperson Alexander: Yes
Councilperson Townes: Yes

Councilperson McBride: Yes
Councilperson Young: Yes

Motion passes.

I. New Business:

A. Update from Rekar.

Mayor Griffin called upon Tommy Legins, Rekar representative. Mr. Legins said the company had decided to sell the business to Republic and as of July 1, Republic would be receiving all the Rekar contracts. The direct service will start July 1. The customer service side will go through a transition period until the end of September. The city will continue to get the billing from Rekar until that time.

Mayor Griffin then stated that he had met with Republic representatives Todd Chamberlain, manager of municipal/government affairs and Kevin Willie, business

unit finance manager and explained that we had been very unhappy with the service we received before from Republic and that we expected better this time. Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Willie were both in the audience at the meeting and said that things would be very different and they would work with us on any issues we might have. Things have changed in terms of quality of care, customer service and how the business is run. Rekar team is coming over to the Republic team, so we will still have the same quality of service, creating a smooth transition.

B. Discussion of Public Works roofing quotes.

Mayor Griffin said he would like to not vote on the bids tonight, but have some council members meet with Johnny to look over the bids to review and make a decision on the best opinion. He then asked who would be available to meet. Council members Young, Armpriest and Townes volunteered.

C. Discussion / Approval for Robin Russell to be named CMFO.

The Comptroller's office requires that we have a CMFO. Ms. Waldrup has completed all the classes but one, but in the time frame required, we went ahead and sought council as how to proceed to have this in place for the upcoming fiscal years beginning July 1. Mrs. Robin Russell, who acts as the city's CPA has agreed to be named as our CMFO in order to accommodate the Comptroller's requirements.

Motion to approve Robin Russell to be named as CMFO made by Councilperson McBride, second by Councilperson Townes.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Armpriest: Yes
Councilperson Alexander: Yes
Councilperson Townes: Yes

Councilperson McBride: Yes
Councilperson Young: Yes

J. Department Head Reports:

Battalion Chief Arnold with Fire Department stated they had responded to 72 calls. 10-medical falls, 6 chest pain (non-trauma), 5-motor vehicle collision, 4-no appropriate choice, 4-sick cases, 3 lift assist and various other events. He also mentioned there had been two tractor-trailer incidents, one on Hwy. 22 & Connie Allen, the other on the corner of University & Cherry. He mentioned that Safe Haven was through with their testing of the Baby Box and hoped that the blessing would be done soon in order to have it open if

needed.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead reported that progress was being done at the Sewer plant. Many of the issues that we have had for six or more years have been repaired. The belt press has worked out and the permit has been approved for the sludge process and can be taken to the landfill.

Mayor Griffin remarked that Earnest had knocked off several things since he had become superintendent.

Parks Director Hollowell reported that baseball and softball had wrapped up. His department had started work on the Mulberry Soccer Complex; sod will be getting laid soon in order to be ready for the spring season. They were staying busy trying to keep the grass mowed due to all the rain.

Police Chief White reported they had 1236 calls for the month of May. 492 security checks, 319 traffic stops, 24 suspicious persons, 13 wreck, no injuries, 12 welfare checks and several more calls. Chief White also mentioned that Jaden Rembert was back from military basic training, so the department is fully staffed.

Codes Enforcer Darrow reported he was busy contacting residents about their yard mowing and clean up issues. He made an update on the Forrest Ave. trailer park saying that there had not been any progress being made at this time. The owners have asked to be re-zoned back to a trailer park and were told no. Mayor Griffin asked about the animal pound and was told there were no animals in the pound at this time. They had taken in around sixty (60) this year and only five had been put down due to Parvo and two who were aggressive. Codes Enforcer Darrow mentioned that he was concerned about dogs being scared with the fireworks.

Councilperson Alexander asked about the excessive grass at the former Gaines Mfg. bldgs., saying everything on Hwy 22 & 79 needed to look pristine. He was told by Codes Enforcer Darrow that the owner had been hard to reach, but had been contacted to have it mowed.

Superintendent Mercer reported his crew was still running household and brush as normal. He reported they had been busy clearing storm drains after the recent storm. They were working on pouring some older sidewalks.

City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup reported that Nights on Broadway and the Farmers Market has started off with good attendance at both. Mentioned that there would be around seven vendors at the Freedom Festival and applications were already coming in for the Sweet Tea Festival.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young thanked Superintendent Merce on keeping the Right of Ways mowed.

Councilperson Armpriest said she appreciated all the hard work all the department heads

Councilperson Alexander said he appreciated how everyone works together to get the job done. He said he was looking forward to another year of working with everyone.

Councilperson Townes said he was just going to repeat how everyone felt about how great it was the departments worked together.

Councilperson McBride reiterated that he was happy that all the departments worked well together.

Mayor Griffin informed that council that the July meeting would need to be moved to Tuesday, July 7 because of the TML meeting.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson McBride to adjourn @ 6:44 p.m., Councilperson Townes made the second.

Motion carries

APPROVED: _____

Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder