

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

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

Vice Mayor Beeler - Absent
Councilperson Alexander – Absent
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 February 12, 2026

Motion carries

- F. Financial Matters:
None

- G. Citizen's Input:

Dr. Travis Russell stated he didn't understand the exact reason to remove fluoride from the water. By adding it to the water, we are regularly helping to prevent decay in our teeth by 25%. He felt it would impact children more than adults and we would be seeing a big

increase in cavities. Dr. Russel said in reality, the fluoride is relatively inexpensive for cities, and he would like to see it stay. Ingest enough of anything, and it's poisonous, but the level we have in our town should not be an issue.

Superintendent Umstead said it is not pure fluoride, but a hydrochloric acid, a by-product of fertilizer. What we have now is .70 fluoride. The State says I cannot dose the water more than .70. Seems to be a waste of time.

Mayor Griffin said the reason this discussion came about is because it is not just plain fluoride, but the hydrochloric acid. We have to add more chemicals in to balance the PH

Councilperson Armpriest asked if there was a possibility of ingesting too much fluoride. Dr. Russell said yes, that would come from children swallowing too much of the toothpaste.

Department of Health: Dr. Valerie Allen stated it is just simply chemistry. We have three (3) of the four (4) dental clinic representatives from Carroll County here tonight, all agreeing that we will see some decay in later years. Keeping fluoride in your water will make a bigger impact on your community.

Councilperson Armpriest asked if there was data on counties that do or do not want fluoride. DH said very few.

Krystal Maynard with the health department said we should look at decay rates and how they have risen. In 2011, Calvary and Canada took it off, and are now putting it back in. In 2015, Buffalo, NY saw more dental decay, but has now put it back in.

Councilperson McBride asked what made Sharon and Bolivar take it back, and was told that when they learned about the impact it would have on citizens.

Superintendent stated .7 is where we are now, add more chemicals on the other side, and the .7 goes higher.

Dr. Valerie Allen stated would hate to take it away, as she felt it would be detrimental to the community. Water fluorination is a key thing. Citizens had a four-month wait to see a dentist when Dr. Allen came, as she is the only one with Medicare.

Mayor Griffin read a letter from Anthony Welti stating that statistics show there is overexposure in children during tooth development. He felt it should be a personal choice,

stating that no other health-related substance is administered to an entire population through drinking water in this way. He felt like individuals who wanted fluoride could do so through fluoride toothpaste, mouth rinses, tablets or drops.

Kevin Moore spoke and said it was a constitutional freedom of the forced medication.

Murray McCaleb said McKenzie is sitting on a wonderful water table. If you don't want anything added, the less you put in the water, the better.

Krystal Maynard responded, saying there are 460 water systems in the state. Around 85% are fluorinated.

H. Old Business:

None

I. New Business:

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

Mayor Griffin explained that instead of crossing to go into Holly Hills, you will turn right and take an immediate left to hopefully reduce the number of wrecks we have. This will also be the same when coming out of Holly Hills. This came from T-Dot's transportation manager. I will be happy to pass the plans around.

Councilperson Armpriest asked what the cost would be. Mayor Griffin there was no cost, as T-Dot has to seek approval from the council since this is in our city limits.

Motion made by Councilperson Armpriest to table this T-Dot's J-Turn Intersection until there was more information. Second by Councilperson Townes.

Motion passes.

B. Discussion/Approval of Resolution # 26-003 Removal of Fluoride from City Water System.

Councilperson Young stated he felt both sides had strong points; saving the \$ 10,000.00 per year is beneficial, but what would be the cost to the citizens. There is 85% of the State's Water systems that still have fluoride.

Councilperson Townes agreed with Councilperson Young. He stated that although Superintendent Umstead is a professional, there are other professions here who do not agree. It might not affect us, but in the long run the younger generation might have issues.

Motion made by Councilperson to discontinue with the deleting of fluoride to the city water. Second made by Councilperson Young.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young: No

Councilperson McBride: No

Councilperson Armpriest: No

Councilperson Townes: No

Motion fails 4-0.

- C. Discussion/Approval of Resolution # 26-003 Approval of Grant Application submission for LPRF Grant for Mulberry Park and Commitment for a 5% Match.

Mayor Griffin said with our letter of support for a grant application handled by TLM. He stated that as we had a master plan, we could move forward with this LPRF grant. It is for up to \$300,000 and with the LPRF grant and \$ 200,000.00 GO Fund Grant with ECD, which would only cost the city 5% for a total of \$ 18,500.00. The grant quote will be 283,000.00 and Go Fund would be 94,000 for a total of 377,000.00 the 5% 18,500.00. This grant is for all the lighting for the soccer field and the extend and expanding the walking track all around the park and to make it ADA accessible. Typically, a LPRF grant is a 50/50 grant, but because it is through ECD, it would only be the 5% match. This would be coming out of the 26/27 budget.

Councilperson Armpriest asked if the lights were in the original plan. Mayor Griffin answered yes, they were in phase 2. Mayor Griffin explained If we are approved, this would check off that part of phase 2.

Councilperson Armpriest asked if the city was still within budget for the complex. Mayor Griffin said we had estimated \$ 181,000.00 and we had only spent \$ 50,000.00.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young: Yes

Councilperson McBride: Yes

Councilperson Armpriest: Yes

Councilperson Townes: Yes

Motion carries

J. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 76 calls. He reported that they had received lots of falls from ice and snow. 10 of the calls were for fire/smoke alarm, 9 Medical responses for fall, 8 citizen assists, 5 for both (non-trauma) chest pain and vehicle crash.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead reported they were hoping to get some yard work done. The paving crew will should be here the week of the 16th to repair potholes. He said that he was happy to report they had saved at least \$ 40,000.00 on a manhole washout. Superintendent Umstead stated that a Badger service tech had been here to train some of the crew and office department on using an iPad to produce digital service orders. This helps create accountability on how fast we are responding.

Parks Director Hollowell stated spring sports was in full swing. League baseball would be starting the end of March. Softball and soccer will be starting the first weekend of April. Grass is growing, mowing and weed-eating has already begun for his department.

Police Chief White reported 1188 calls from his department. 518 of these were security checks , 293 traffic stops, 61 log information, 59 ambulance calls, and many more. The new Tahoe has been delivered and outfitted. The sale of confiscated firearms can now be used to purchase the new Red Dot guns at no cost to the city. Chief White wanted to take this time to announce that Carol Barker, who is over the city's dispatchers, was awarded TAC Officer of the Year for the entire State of Tennessee. We are very proud of Carol.

Codes Enforcer Darrow reported that he had contacted several property owners concerning their property maintenance. One of these properties had tenants living in unacceptable conditions. The owner has been contacted to start renovations within two weeks. Mr. Darrow also remarked that two dogs had been adopted out this week.

Superintendent Mercer reported his crew was still running the leaf trucks. Work was still ongoing on David Street. They had removed and replaced a section of sidewalk on Cherry St.

City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup reported that work on the fiscal year budget had started.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Armpriest said that it was great that so many of the departments worked together to help each other out. Every month, the departments showed such great teamwork.

Councilperson McBride reiterated that all the departments' work relationships were a huge bonus for the city. He said he was also grateful for the police and fire departments working to save money in their departments.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson McBride to adjourn @ 6:27 p.m., Councilperson Townes.
Motion carries

APPROVED: _____

Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer Waldrup, City