

Regular Meeting of the
Board of Mayor and Council
City of McKenzie
McKenzie, TN 38201
October 9, 2025

- 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 Armpriest, second by Councilperson Townes to approve the minutes dated September 11, 2025

Motion carries

- F. Financial Matters:

None

- G. Citizen's Input:

No one had signed in.

H. Old Business:

None

I. New Business:

a. Discussion / Approval on the proposal of the Depot as a retail incubator.

Mayor Griffin said that he had been talking with Paul Taylor, who is a part of Taylor Investments in Jackson, who built the Columns. Mr. Taylor said we were far ahead of Jackson with this property when they started an incubator. Mayor Griffin explained that we could have 4 units- each with exterior doors and 3 would have restroom facilities. This will be a good incentive for people who have the dream of owning a business without high rent or a purchase until they get more acclimated to running a business. Mayor Griffin also mentioned that Landy Fuqua in Martin would also help these potential business owners build a plan, specific with their business venture.

Attorney Pemberton recommended a deep escalation of rent if the vendor stayed longer than the two specified years, as the project would just be a start-up for those whose ultimate goal is to be a business owner. Mr. Pemberton explained that the lease terms would be spelled out in advance, explaining they would be required to be open 3 days a week with Friday or Saturday being part of those days, and be open five (5) hours per day.

Motion to approve proposal for the Depot to become a retail incubator made by Councilperson Alexander, 2nd by Councilperson Townes.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young: Yes

Councilperson Armpriest: Yes

Councilperson Alexander: Yes

Councilperson Townes: Yes

Councilperson McBride: Yes

Motion carries

b. Discussion to explore a four (4) day work week.

Mayor Griffin started the discussion by explaining that he had been approached by some employees concerning a four (4) day work week. This would only involve city government, public works, parks department and water. The police and fire

departments would still have 24/7 availability for the public. After reviewing some of the other cities around, we are considering how Paris has successfully made theirs work explaining it has made an increase in productivity knowing they only have four (4) days to provide services to their citizens. Mayor Griffin also said he felt this would definitely be a “perk” to our employees, because of our pay rate.

Councilperson Armpriest asked if she could ask department heads how they felt.

Parks Director Hollowell said he would split his crew in the summer with two (2) off on Friday and two (2) off on Monday in order to always have employees getting the field ready for games on the weekends.

Water Superintendent Umstead said the majority of his employees were for it. They would work on how they perform any lab work required.

Public Works Superintendent Mercer said it would work great in his department, as they had no scheduled routes for Fridays.

Councilperson Alexander said he knew people who did it and they really loved it. He feels a four (4) day work week is ahead of the game, as young people think more of their time than they do pay,

Mayor Griffin said he would make an administrative decision to adopt the 7:00 am – 5:30 p.m. work week beginning January 1st. This would give us two months to advertise to the public.

Motion made by Councilperson Armpriest, 2nd by Councilperson Alexander

Roll Call vote

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

Councilperson Townes: Yes
Councilperson McBride: Yes

Motion carries

c. Discussion/Approval on 1st reading Ordinance 574 Occupation Safety & Health Program.

Mayor Griffin explained to the council that this is done about every seven years in order to keep our departments updated and in compliance with state requirements for the occupational safety and health programs.

No comments

Motion to approve on 1st ready by Councilperson Armpriest, 2nd by Councilperson Young.

Roll Call vote

Councilperson Young:	Yes	Councilperson Townes:	Yes
Councilperson Armpriest:	Yes	Councilperson McBride:	Yes
Councilperson Alexander:	Yes		

Motion carries

J. Department Head Reports:

Chief Tucker with Fire Department stated they had responded to 76 calls. 32 EMS calls assist with medical/ EMS crew, 17 EMS calls, 4 alarm system activation, 4 dispatched & canceled en route. Chief Tucker said he was happy to let the council know that with the new staffing schedule his department was up about 30%. They had about 52 medical calls in September. He said they had been to the elementary school for October Fire Prevention Week.

Water Superintendent Earnest Umstead said September had been a very busy month. The airport tank had been painted inside and out and should be back on line by the end of the week. He also mentioned that they had gotten several things completed at the wastewater plant that had been on a list for completion.

Parks Director Hollowell reported that the soccer season would be finished around November 1st. The splash pad had closed down the end of September. They were now removing dead trees along the Jones Electric fence with the help of Johnny Merceer. In the next few weeks, they will start working on leveling the area where the new playground will be installed behind the splash pad pavilion. Mowing is still underway.

Police Chief White reported 1258 calls from his department. 711 of these were security checks, 121 traffic stops, 66 ambulance, 38 log information, 30 animal calls and various

other calls.

Mr. Darrow reported he had issued 71 violations in September. He said a letter with options had been sent to a house at 36 West End Ave. to repair the roof and clean the inside of the property. This property had been reported due to the neglect of both children and animals. He was happy to report that 16 of the 20 dogs that were running throughout the city had been homed.

Superintendent Mercer reported that he was in the process of trimming trees around the elementary school. He would be tearing out a section of sidewalks. The leaf machine was being serviced to begin picking up beginning in November. His department was still running their weekly cycles of household and limb and yard debris.

City Recorder Waldrup reported that property taxes had been sent out and the business office had already begun to get payments. A new business license program had been installed and the ladies had been involved in this training as well.

Mayor Griffin reminded everyone that the Boo Bash would be Oct. 23rd downtown. Last year per cellphone data, there was 3500 in attendance.

J. Council Reports:

Councilperson Young wanted to take this time to commend the Fire Department's medical team and their quick response to emergencies.

Councilperson Armpriest said she was excited on the new retail incubator program. Think this is a great first step in having new businesses.

Councilperson Alexander wanted to say again how great it was that the departments worked together. He also said how wonderful it was for the incubator coming in and hopefully growing a new business to open in our downtown.

Councilperson Townes said the Fire Department was making a difference where life was involved.

Councilperson McBride had no comment.

- K. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilperson Armpriest to adjourn @ 6:40 p.m., 2nd by Councilperson Townes.

Motion carries

APPROVED: _____

Ryan Griffin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jennifer Waldrup, City Recorder-City Clerk