

City Council Meeting – McLendon-Chisholm, TX

When individuals hold a belief—whether accurate or not—the human mind naturally seeks information confirming that belief. It's a psychological pattern we all share. This evening, we have a great deal of vital information to cover. From the tone and energy in the room, it's clear that many have already formed strong opinions about the matter at hand. That's completely understandable.

But I ask you to consider this: *What if* the information you're about to hear contradicts what you currently believe? What if it's factual, verifiable, and presented with full transparency? Are you willing to revisit your beliefs in light of new, credible information? Studies show that knowledgeable and thoughtful individuals are eager to do exactly that. They question their assumptions, challenge their perspectives, and engage in critical thinking—not just based on emotion but through research, evidence, and a commitment to truth.

I respectfully and sincerely invite you to keep your heart and mind open. In the SEAL Teams, we live by a principle: "**Trust, but verify.**" That's all I'm asking of you. Also, please keep in mind that

context is crucial. Sometimes, I will provide additional background or clarification to ensure the information is understood within the broader picture.

BACKGROUND (CONTEXT):

I was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, spending the first half of my childhood in the projects Germano Millgate Apartments. A year after graduating high school, I decided to serve my country and enlisted in the United States Navy. Over the course of 25 years, I dedicated myself to that mission—15 of those years serving as a U.S. Navy SEAL.

In the final year of my military career, I served as a legislative fellow on Capitol Hill, working under the guidance of the Chief of Staff for a North Carolina Congressman. My portfolio included military and veterans' affairs, legislation related to China, and direct engagement with constituents—an experience that laid the groundwork for my transition into public policy and political service.

After retiring in 2017, I made Texas my home and began working in state politics as the Executive Aide to the Texas Attorney General.

Following two impactful years in that role, I stepped down to launch my first campaign for U.S. Congress, running in Texas' 32nd District.

During that campaign, I built strong relationships and a resilient political network, particularly in District 4. So, when Congressman John Ratcliffe was appointed Director of National Intelligence, many encouraged me to enter the special election to fill his seat. While I did not win, both campaigns successfully laid a solid foundation for continued public service.

In 2021, I moved to McLendon-Chisholm and was quickly approached by members of this very community to get involved in local government. I joined City Council in January 2022, and it has been an honor, privilege, and pleasure to serve.

I'm a proud father to a 17-year-old son and a man of simple, grounded routines. On any given day, you might find me running the roads of Sonoma Verde, training or swimming at 24 Hour Fitness, enjoying a film at Cinemark Rockwall 14, or unwinding with a good bourbon and cigar on my back patio. Though deeply engaged in public life, I'm a homebody rooted in God, family, and service.

BEGINNING:

Many of you may not know that Mr. McNeal and I were, at one time, very close friends. We shared meals in each other's homes, supported one another personally, and genuinely considered each other brothers. So naturally, you may be asking: *What happened?* What caused such a deep divide between two individuals who once stood shoulder to shoulder? The turning point came shortly after I was elected to City Council. Before officially being sworn in, Mr. McNeal approached me and asked for my endorsement to become Mayor Pro Tem. Based on our relationship and trust, I agreed at the time.

However, after taking my seat and engaging more fully with the Council, I observed patterns concerning Mr. McNeal's conduct. Specifically, his communication with fellow council members often lacked the respect, collaboration, and professionalism expected of someone in a leadership role. His interactions with Councilwomen Mrs. Lorna Kipphut and Mrs. Trudy Woessner particularly troubled me. There was a noticeable unwillingness to engage in constructive dialogue or work toward consensus—essential for any governing body.

Alongside Mrs. Kipphut, Mrs. Woessner, Mr. Tucker, and then-Mayor Mr. Keith Short, we collectively assessed that Mr. McNeal was still adjusting to the demands of his role. We hoped that, with time, he would grow into a more effective and collaborative team member. We also extended grace, understanding that he was navigating personal challenges during that period. If any part of this assessment seems inconsistent with your perception, I encourage you to speak directly with Mrs. Kipphut, Mrs. Woessner, Mr. Tucker, or Mr. Short. Ask them about the working environment during that time—on the dais, executive sessions, emails, and text communications.

Mr. Short and I, as those closest to Mr. McNeal, repeatedly made efforts to address these concerns with him directly. We spoke with him candidly about the conduct we witnessed—conduct that, unfortunately, reflected a pattern of poor judgment and disrespectful behavior in key decision-making moments. It ultimately reached a point where I felt compelled to withdraw my support. I informed Mr. McNeal that I could no longer, in good conscience, endorse or support his pursuit of the Mayor Pro Tem position. This has not been easy. But my responsibility,

first and foremost, is to the integrity and effectiveness of our local government.

MAYOR PRO TEM(TARGETED):

When Ms. Adrienne Balkum was appointed mayor pro tem, she stepped into that role with dedication, integrity, and a clear focus on serving this city. But from the very beginning of her tenure, Mr. Bryan McNeal met her with open hostility.

It became clear to me and others on council that Mr. McNeal's disappointment in not being selected for that position fueled an ongoing pattern of antagonism. What began as subtle criticism soon escalated into repeated verbal attacks, publicly in council meetings and privately behind closed doors.

One of the more troubling incidents occurred in August 2023. During a city council meeting, Mr. McNeal abandoned our adopted procedures, **violating Robert's Rules of Order**, by reading an unauthorized letter targeting Ms. Balkum's role in our city's water issue with RCH Water Supply. What's more concerning is that just a week prior, Mr. McNeal had told me and then-Mayor Keith Short that he had

evidence suggesting Ms. Balkum had acted outside her authority. We agreed to meet so he could present that evidence. But that meeting never happened. He canceled. Instead, he made accusations in a public forum without ever explaining the facts he claimed to have. To this day, no such evidence has been provided.

Later that evening, Ms. Balkum expressed her frustration in an executive session, and she had every right to. Mr. McNeal looked over at me and asked if I would interrupt her. I told him no because, in my opinion, the public disrespect he showed her warranted the private rebuke she gave him. That's not politics. That's the principle.

Unfortunately, his behavior didn't stop there. It continued, targeting not only Ms. Balkum but also Mayor Keith Short. And even now, nearly a year after they left office, both are still being attacked on social media and blamed for the city's shortcomings. Ask yourselves why? Why are former officials, no longer in leadership roles, still being scapegoated for our city's lack of progress and vision?

As citizens and leaders, we must reflect on that. The real question isn't about personalities; it's about accountability, respect for the office,

and the tone we set for our children, our neighbors, and the future of McLendon-Chisholm.

MAYOR’S TENURE:

On March 23, 2024, during the Veteran’s Outpost Gala—an event at which I had the honor of serving as emcee—Mr. McNeal approached me. As I was preparing for the evening’s program, he asked if we could meet for lunch. I respectfully declined, expressing my uninterest in such a meeting. Mr. McNeal responded with visible frustration, culminating in an outburst of disrespectful and inappropriate language directed at me.

Beginning just days after he officially took office on May 8, 2024, and continuing through March 31, 2025, I’ve received numerous emails from Mr. McNeal aimed at disparaging my personal and professional character and integrity. In real-time, these emails were shared with the current City Council. For public members seeking transparency, copies can be requested through an open records request for all correspondence between Mr. McNeal and myself. I also have copies available for anyone who wishes to review them.

Additionally, on October 22, 2024, an incident occurred between Mr. McNeal and me after an executive session. Out of respect for the ongoing nature of the investigation, I addressed this matter publicly in a limited press statement released on April 5, 2025.

These situations, while unfortunate, underscore the importance of understanding how our city government functions and the responsibilities each role carries within that framework. The challenges we face as leaders are not simply about personal conduct but also about the health and integrity of the institutions we represent.

With that in mind, I believe it's essential that we, as a community, take a moment to understand the structure of our local government—what each role entails, what it does not, and how these offices must work together to serve the people of McLendon-Chisholm with respect, accountability, and purpose.

McLendon Chisholm operates under what's known as a council-manager form of government. In this structure:

- The City Administrator and city staff are professional public servants, who manages the city's day-to-day operations.

- The Mayor and City Council serve as your elected representatives, guiding Policy, setting direction, and holding the vision for our city's future.

Let's begin with the Mayor. The Mayor is not a ruler and not a unilateral decision-maker. The Mayor is a representative leader entrusted to guide, unify, and represent the city, not to govern alone.

Here is what the Mayor does:

- Presides over City Council meetings, ensuring order, respectful dialogue, and adherence to procedural rules.
- Serves as the city's public face, representing us at ceremonial, intergovernmental, and community events.
- Holds veto power on ordinances or resolutions passed by the Council. But let me be clear—this is not the final authority. The Council can override a mayoral veto with a two-thirds majority vote, reaffirming our system of checks and balances.
- Provides visionary input, offering insight and helping guide Policy through influence, not control.

- Models professionalism, respect, and ethical stewardship, setting the tone for how the City Council and staff work together.

Here is what the Mayor does not do:

- The Mayor does not vote on City Council matters, except in the rare case of a tie.
- The Mayor does not manage city staff, determine salaries, or oversee daily operations. Those responsibilities belong to the City Administrator.
 - Restricting city administrator from talking to council about water related issues.
- The Mayor does not act independently on behalf of the city without the Council's consent or consensus.
 - Traveling out of the area, on tax payer's dollar, without the consensus of the council.

So, no, the Mayor is not simply a ceremonial figure. But neither is the Mayor, an executive with unchecked authority. This role is designed to lead by example, not by command.

Now let's talk about your City Council. In McLendon Chisholm, the City Council is the legislative and policy-making body. These are the individuals you have elected to be your voice—to represent your interests and shape the policies that impact our daily lives.

Council Members are responsible for the following:

- **Legislation and Policy Making:** The Council introduces, debates, and votes on the ordinances, policies, and initiatives that guide the city. Everything from zoning and development to public safety and infrastructure begins here.
- **Budget Oversight:** Council Members review and approve the city's annual budget to ensure that tax dollars are spent efficiently, transparently, and by the community's needs:
 - While City Staff are responsible for managing the city's finances on a day-to-day basis, the City Council provides the direction and oversight for how those funds are to be allocated and spent. That balance ensures both professional execution and accountability. That said, for any elected official, especially the mayor, to spend three times more than

the authorized amount less than a single year is unacceptable. It is a clear violation of fiscal responsibility and an abuse of taxpayer trust. Our residents deserve transparency, accountability, and stewardship.... not unchecked spending with no regard for process or budgetary limits. Public funds are not personal resources. They are a trust, entrusted to us by you, the people.... and must be handled with the highest level of integrity.

- **Constituent Representation:** Council Members serve as your direct connection to city government. They are expected to listen, respond, and advocate on behalf of the residents.
 - City survey data was shared with the Council on April 11, 2025. The final results will be presented in May. According to this data, only 226 residents participated in the survey—representing approximately **3.7%** of McLendon-Chisholm's population. That means **96.3% of our community has yet to be heard**. I offer that as a point of reflection as we interpret the data and consider its implications.

- Similarly, there appears to be a perception of overwhelming constituent support for Mayor McNeal. However, based on my review of public comments during official City Council meetings, my records indicate that approximately **30 to 35 individuals** have spoken favorably on his behalf. That accounts for roughly **0.58% of our city's population**. This means, again, **99.42% of voices remain unheard** in this forum.
- These numbers are not shared to dismiss anyone's participation or opinion but to encourage thoughtful consideration of **scale, perspective, and inclusivity** as we move forward in representing all residents of McLendon-Chisholm.
- Strategic Planning and Growth Management: As McLendon Chisholm grows, the Council is responsible for reviewing long-term planning efforts and development proposals and ensuring infrastructure meets demand.

- **Collaboration and Governance:** Effective governance requires teamwork. Council Members are expected to work closely with the Mayor and the City Administrator through respectful dialogue and shared vision.
 - City Administrator and staff told by the mayor to not discuss any water related issues with the council.
- **Appointments and Oversight:** The Council appoints members to boards, commissions, and advisory committees to ensure broader community participation in key decisions.
 - Tony Crawford and Bev Stibbens – Due Process
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Council Members are stewards of public trust. Their leadership must be grounded in integrity, ethical standards, and service to the public good.

City Council Members are not figureheads. They are the backbone of our city's decision-making process, and their strength lies in their ability to listen, learn, and legislate with purpose.

City Staff:

Lastly, let's recognize the critical role of our City Staff, led by the City Administrator. These professionals keep the city running—from public works and permitting to financial management and community engagement:

- City Staff carry out the policies adopted by the City Council.
- They manage daily operations, maintain records, prepare reports, and execute contracts.
- Most importantly, they do so with professionalism, neutrality, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

City Staff are not political, and they are not policymakers. They implement the decisions made by your elected officials with integrity and consistency.

Understanding these roles: of the Mayor, the Council, and the City Staff, helps ensure accountability and builds trust. Our city thrives when each branch of our local government operates within its purpose, with mutual respect and responsibility.

Accountability:

Let me be very clear: I care for Mr. McNeal deeply. He is my brother, and that bond remains even now. That very bond allowed him to walk away from the October 22nd incident with little more than a bruised ego.... My military veteran brothers and sisters know exactly what I mean. What we are addressing here today, and the series of events I have brought to light are rooted in a responsibility to uphold **accountability**. Because when we step into positions of public trust, relationships must never outweigh the obligation to lead with integrity and hold one another to the standards our community deserves.

As leaders, we are entrusted with the responsibility to hold one another accountable, just as we are held accountable ourselves. That duty is not rooted in ego or politics but in the principle of public service.

Throughout my time on this Council, I have both offered and received accountability from many of my colleagues—former Mayor Keith Short, former Mayor Pro Tem Adrienne Balkum, former Council Members Ms. Lorna Kipphut and Ms. Trudy Woessner, and my current colleagues Mr. Paul Day, Mr. Michael Easter, and Mr. Dan Tucker. At one point or another, we challenged each other to reflect on our words,

decisions, and responsibilities as representatives of the people of McLendon-Chisholm.

Some of those conversations were difficult—even contentious. But what has always anchored our work is a shared willingness to engage in honest dialogue, respect for the process, and a commitment to treat one another with dignity.... even when we disagreed.

Unfortunately, in my 28 months of serving on this Council, I have not seen Mr. McNeal's same willingness. Time and time again, he has shown an unwillingness—or perhaps an inability—to engage in the kind of mutual respect and collaboration that this role demands.

Accountability is a pillar of leadership. And it is our responsibility to demand it—no matter who is on the receiving end.

New Council:

May you lead with courage, selflessness, respect, and humility. You have been informed on some of the circumstances that has led to my belief of no confidence in Mr. McNeal. For the respect of time, I have left out the petty, immature actions of Mr. McNeal. But if you want

to know those as well, you know where to find me. I trust that each of you will weigh this matter not through politics but through the lens of principle.

As you move forward in your roles, remember.... your duty is not to serve only the loudest voices in the room but to govern with fairness, wisdom, and compassion for *all* the constituents of McLendon Chisholm.

The true strength of our city does not rest solely in policy or process—it resides in the character of those elected to lead it. Let that be the standard. Let that be your legacy.

Respectfully,

Floyd McLendon Jr., CC3