

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Citizens To Express Outrage Over Proposed 228% Tax Hike During Tonight's Public Hearing**

ROCKWALL, TX, AUGUST, 25, 2015 — Citizens of McLendon-Chisholm, a suburb of Rockwall, are expected to voice their outrage over the proposed 333% budget increase, which would result in a 228% tax hike, that is being proposed by the Mayor & City Council at 6:30pm tonight, during the second of two public hearings to be held at Chisholm Baptist Church, located at 1388 TX-205, in Rockwall.

Chief among their concerns is the fact that, without notice to citizens, the city council approved a \$600 thousand increase over the initial one-and-a-half-million dollar declared budget for the construction cost of a new city hall building, on which citizens were denied the right to vote. The Council has confirmed that, at a minimum, a 60 percent rate increase is guaranteed, which is to cover the bond-debt for that building.

This follows other actions of the Mayor & Council that includes depleting the city's capital reserves to purchase ten acres of land at a time when the two councilmen that opposed the purchase were absent on vacation.

A recent revelation that, by a vote of 3 to 2, the Council had approved \$12 thousand to hire a consultant with an "inside the Beltway pedigree" to help write & produce two mailers to promote the increase, when the city's entire annual communication's budget has been just \$1,500, has added to the outrage. Citizens are prepared to shed light on a litany of half-truths & deceit included in these letters, signed by the Mayor.

A group calling themselves "Citizens for Representative Government of McLendon-Chisholm" [CFRGMC] are preparing to lead a tax-rollback campaign as current law establishes that a city can't collect more than an additional 8 percent in property taxes on pre-existing properties without opening themselves to the possibility of an election to lower the tax rate — to roll it back.

CFRGMC organizer, Robert Steinhagen, said "the past actions of these officials followed by their willful effort to deceive the people in a letter that was more fiction than fact demonstrates why we cannot trust anything they may say about why a tax increase over the bond-debt is necessary."

CFRGMC already has an online petition for citizens to tell the Council that if they approve a tax rate that exceeds \$0.16, they will sign a petition for an election to be held to rollback the excess increase.

For additional information contact Robert Steinhagen at 214-316-2458 or email him at [robertsteinhagen@cfrgmc.org](mailto:robertsteinhagen@cfrgmc.org).

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