

Intersection  
From Front

Taylor reported that work on the project had recently slowed due to the discovery of a drainage issue along the roadway’s median. The super-elevated section of the road, where water naturally drains to the west, prompted concerns over future hydro-planing risks. After discussions with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, an updated drainage plan was approved on Friday, May 10. The solution involves the addition of a comprehensive storm sewer system in the median, including seven drainage structures and

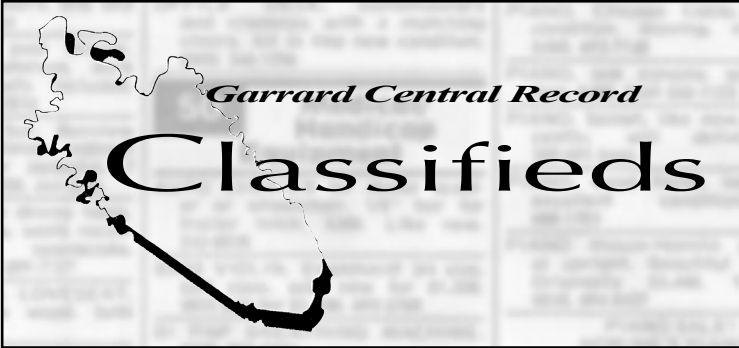
nearly 1,000 feet of 15-inch storm sewer pipe. The revised scope of work will cause a delay in traffic reconfiguration, which was initially scheduled for May 8. Taylor now anticipates remobilization of construction crews after Memorial Day, with traffic disruptions to begin in early June. Once the traffic shift occurs, all vehicles will be rerouted to the outer lanes, and no left turns will be permitted at the Rogers Road and Old Lexington Road intersection. The traffic detour is expected to last around three and a half weeks, significantly longer than the originally planned week-and-a-half closure.

To ensure safety during the transition, additional traffic control measures are being implemented, including intensified barrel placement and signage. Taylor also mentioned coordination with local law enforcement for nighttime monitoring using patrol vehicles equipped with emergency lighting. Elleman emphasized the importance of communicating alternate routes to the public, including directing drivers to Kentucky Route 152 and High Bridge as detour options. He also noted that the delay coincides with the end of the school year, reducing potential disruption for school transportation ser-

vices. In response to questions from the Fiscal Court, Taylor detailed the construction layout. The project includes the construction of a new south-bound acceleration and turn lane near the RCUT’s U-turn area. Northbound improvements will terminate at an existing entrance across from Rogers Road. The old alignment of Old Lexington Road will be permanently closed once the new roadway section is opened. Taylor also provided additional updates on road maintenance across Garrard County. He noted that Kentucky Route 563 from KY 1971 to KY 39, also known as Wolf Trail,

is expected to be paved by mid-May, with shoulder work continuing into the following week. This will complete all projects currently funded under Fiscal Year 2025 agreements. In a broader update, Taylor confirmed that resurfacing projects on KY 52 and US 27 had been rebid after the original bids exceeded budget expectations. Both projects are now being combined into a single contract encompassing nearly 10 miles of roadway. KY 52 improvements will run from the Boyle-Garrard County line to Old Danville Road, and US 27 paving will stretch from KY 34 to Sugar Creek Road. If awarded within

acceptable budget limits, work is expected to proceed in the next fiscal year. Magistrates and Judge Elleman closed the discussion by voicing their continued interest in ensuring state funding for additional paving projects, including Sugar Creek Road and others yet to be finalized. The Fiscal Court expressed its appreciation to Taylor and the Allen Company for their ongoing efforts and transparency in keeping the community informed throughout the construction process.



PUBLIC NOTICE			
The second reading and adoption of the Garrard County proposed budget ordinance for fiscal year 2025-2026 is scheduled to be held at the courthouse on May 27, 2025 at 4 p.m.			
BUDGET SUMMARY			
AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.			
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF GARRARD COUNTY, KENTUCKY			
WHEREAS, the proposed budget was tentatively approved by the fiscal court on the 28th day of April 2025 and approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Officer on the 7th day of May, 2025.			
SECTION ONE. The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.			
GENERAL FUND			
MAJOR CODE	NAME		BUDGET
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT		1,770,538.00
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY		2,425,078.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION		151,471.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES		6,000.00
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE		46,000.00
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS		300,100.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES		13,050.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS		6,147,261.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS - EMPLOYERS SHARE		1,104,075.00
TOTAL GENERAL			11,963,573.00
ROAD FUND			
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY		150.00
6100	ROADS		2,019,200.00
7700	LEASES		42,809.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS		867,070.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS - EMPLOYERS SHARE		138,900.00
TOTAL ROAD			3,068,129.00
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FUND			
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT		10,000.00
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY		28,000.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES		5,000
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS		103,000.00
TOTAL L.G.E.A.			146,000.00
SOLID WASTE FUNDS			
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION		119,740.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS		194,560.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS - EMPLOYERS SHARE		2,050.00
TOTAL SOLID WASTE			316,350.00
OPIOID FUNDS			
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES		2,500.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS		409,500.00
TOTAL OPIOID			412,000.00
CLERK STORAGE FUNDS			
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT		125,500.00
TOTAL STORAGE FUNDS			125,500.00
VETERANS MEMORIAL			
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE		24,000.00
TOTAL VETERANS MEMORIAL			24,000.00
CSEPP FUND			
5100	PROPERTY TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY		365,300.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS - EMPLOYERS SHARE		38,500.00
TOTAL CSEPP			403,800.00
ALCOHOL BUSINESS FUNDS			
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT		53,500.00
TOTAL ALCOHOL BUSINESS FUND			53,500.00
TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS			
	NAME		BUDGET
	GENERAL FUND		11,963,573.00
	ROAD FUND		3,068,129.00
	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FUND		146,000.00
	SOLID WASTE FUND		316,350.00
	OPIOID FUND		412,000.00
	CLERK STORAGE FUND		125,500.00
	VETERANS MEMORIAL		24,000.00
	CSEPP FUND		403,800.00
	ALCOHOL BUSINESS FUND		53,500.00
TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS			16,512,852.00
SECTION ONE. The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposed indicated.			
SECTION TWO. This ordinance shall be published in Garrard Central Record newspaper by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.			
SECTION THREE. This ordinance become effective upon passage and publication.			
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY			
All interested persons and organizations in Garrard County are hereby notified that a copy of the county's proposed budget in full is available for public inspection at the Office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.			
(5-15-11c)			

City Hall  
From Front

formal action. “This would be for City Hall, something we had discussed prior to try to downsize our footprint a little bit and make better use of some funds in some different areas,” Gaffney stated, pointing to documentation provided in the council members’ meeting packets. The proposed sale is part of a long-term consideration to consolidate municipal operations and lower the costs associated with maintaining older, underutilized buildings. The City Hall building, which serves as the central hub for Lancaster’s administrative and legislative activities, will be made available for purchase through a sealed bid process. The structure will be sold “as-is,” meaning the city will not make any improvements or renovations before the transfer of ownership. Councilman Micah Wade sought clarification on whether the same procedures used for previous property disposals would be applied in this case. Mayor Gaffney affirmed that the city would adhere to

standard protocols but with a broader marketing approach. “The advertisement [will run] longer, and of course we would hit all the newspapers... probably get with the different real estate companies and Bluegrass Realtors Association,” he said. The city intends to “cast a wide net” in seeking potential buyers, aiming to draw interest beyond Lancaster’s immediate borders. A central concern raised during the discussion was the operational continuity of city government if the building sells swiftly. Mayor Gaffney outlined a contingency plan that would temporarily relocate city offices and council meeting spaces. “Currently, if say we sold it tomorrow, my current scenario would be to house the offices in the police department,” he said. He also noted that alternative meeting venues have already been secured, including the community room on the town square and the boardroom at the Garrard Economic Center (GEC) building. These facilities would serve as interim locations for council meetings and public sessions.

Gaffney underscored the importance of maintaining visibility and accessibility for council functions during the transition. “There’s been an open invitation as far as if we need access for council members... [these options] keep our council members more in the community,” he said. He further stated that the city would assess the bid responses before committing to any long-term decisions regarding future office space. Councilperson Michelle Ballew expressed support for moving forward, signaling that the council was ready to act. With no further questions or objections raised, a motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded, and passed unanimously by voice vote. The city will now proceed with drafting the official bid documentation and setting a timeline for submissions. The bid process will remain open until July 3, with a deadline of 4:00 p.m. on that day. Late submissions will not be accepted. The property, which spans over 20,000 square feet, is also under lease through June 2026. According to the city, the existing lease includes

an option to extend beyond the expiration date, a factor potential buyers are expected to consider in their evaluations and offers. Interested parties can obtain bid documents in person at 308 W Maple Avenue or request them via email. Completed sealed bids may be submitted either by mail or in person to the office of Mayor Michael Gaffney at the same address. For further information, the City of Lancaster advises prospective bidders to contact City Hall directly at (859) 792-2241. The city has also issued a standard disclaimer stating that it reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids for any reason. Until the sale is finalized, the building will remain operational, and city services will continue uninterrupted. This marks a notable shift in Lancaster’s administrative strategy, with local leaders seeking more efficient use of public space and resources. The outcome of the sale process and the city’s next steps will be closely watched by residents and stakeholders invested in the future of local governance.

Water Rates  
From Front

second reading. Councilperson Michelle Ballew questioned whether the July 1 implementation date was finalized, suggesting that the council should have formally agreed upon the timeline. Mayor Gaffney responded that the date is set on the tariff sheet, and changing it would require issuing new tariff sheets and undergoing further procedural steps. Councilman Brandon McGlone sought two assurances from the mayor before he was willing to cast a vote in favor of the increase: that no water funds are used outside the department and that future rate decreases would be considered if the system becomes solvent. Mayor Gaffney affirmed the first assurance, citing auditor confirmation that water funds were used exclusively within the department. As for future reductions, he committed only to conducting rate studies every two to three years, noting that any changes would depend on the findings of those studies

and the city’s financial health. Councilman Danny Waters voiced strong skepticism about the motivations of consultants conducting rate studies, implying that their financial incentives often lead to recommendations for increases. He raised concerns that water and sewer rates typically rise in tandem, leading to compounded burdens for residents. Waters read aloud his recent bills to highlight noticeable increases in sewer charges alongside modest water usage, arguing that in practice, rate hikes affect both utilities. Mayor Gaffney and other council members clarified that sewer charges are calculated based on water usage, not the water bill amount. As such, unless the sewer rate itself increases, any rise in a resident’s sewer charge reflects increased water consumption, not a direct consequence of the water rate hike. Nonetheless, Waters maintained that the two are closely tied in public perception and financial impact. The issue of depreciation funding—setting aside money for infrastructure maintenance

and replacement—was another focal point. Councilman McGlone emphasized the importance of treating the water department like a business, highlighting the need to fund depreciation to avoid future debt or reliance on general funds. Waters countered that previous votes on funding depreciation were not clearly documented and called for minutes to verify past decisions. Customer service and billing transparency also featured prominently. Ballew and McGlone advocated for adjusting payment due dates to better align with Social Security disbursement schedules, potentially moving the due date from the 10th to the 15th of each month. Mayor Gaffney acknowledged the concern and noted the city is working on initiatives to improve billing clarity, including publishing tariff sheet data on monthly bills and identifying high-usage anomalies that may signal leaks or other issues. Despite calls from Councilpersons Ballew and Waters to delay or reconsider the increase, the council

cil proceeded to a vote. Councilmembers McGlone, Marshall Norton, and Micah Wade voted in favor of the increase. Ballew and Waters voted against it. With the second reading approved, the next step involves filing the updated tariff sheet with the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSE). Once filed, the PSE will conduct a formal review and respond with any necessary follow-up before final implementation. The council’s decision marks a significant development in Lancaster’s ongoing efforts to manage its water utility finances amid rising operational costs and infrastructure demands. However, the narrow margin of approval and heated debate suggest that rate policies will remain a contentious issue in the months ahead. Under the new rate structure, increases of another 12.5 percent will be on the horizon in July of 2026 and July of 2027 as well - resulting in a total increase of 37.5 percent within the next 26 months from the current rate.

Lagoon  
From Front

expected to require little to no maintenance over its operational lifetime. However, just three years into use, the facility is experiencing issues with chemical buildup and ineffective sedimentation, which now necessitate intervention. “When we built the plant, we were told we probably wouldn’t have to ever clean it out,” Gaffney said. “But here we are, and inspectors are telling us that we need to do it sooner rather than later.” The lagoon contains residual chemicals from treatment processes, making it unsafe to allow any overflow to reach the surrounding environment. According to Gaffney, this makes the clean-out an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) matter, which mandates strict handling and disposal protocols. The

expected cost for the cleanup project is estimated to exceed \$50,000, triggering the legal requirement to issue an RFP to solicit competitive bids. “This isn’t a discretionary project,” Gaffney said. “It’s something we’re going to have to do. If we don’t and there’s a spill or overflow, we’re looking at potential fines and regulatory action.” Councilmembers discussed the frequency and causes behind the unexpected need for the cleanup. Councilperson Michelle Ballew questioned whether the issue might be the result of a malfunction or design flaw. Mayor Gaffney acknowledged that there may have been inaccuracies in the original engineering assessments but added that a definitive answer had yet to be provided by environmental inspectors or plant engineers. The conversation also touched on the financial impact of the project.

Councilman Marshall Norton raised concerns about funding availability, noting that the city’s water department already faces fiscal constraints. Gaffney responded that while no grant funding is currently available, the city maintains reserve funds in money market and certificate of deposit accounts primarily allocated for bond payment obligations. These reserves could be partially used, but may not fully cover the project cost. He also mentioned the possibility of identifying short-term or emergency funding options. Councilman Micah Wade suggested that if the cleanup becomes a recurring need, future monitoring methods should be implemented to manage the lagoon more effectively and avoid surprise maintenance costs. “Once it gets cleaned out, we’ll look into ways to monitor it more closely,” Gaffney

said, adding that space limitations at the facility prevent the use of multiple holding lagoons, a common method for more effective wastewater management. Ultimately, Councilman Norton moved to approve the issuance of the RFP, which was seconded and passed without opposition. City Attorney Jonathan Baker clarified that any workmanship on the project would only carry a one-year warranty under standard state or federal guidelines, and would not cover ongoing operational issues such as sediment or chemical accumulation. With the motion approved, the city will now move forward with soliciting proposals for the clean-out operation, a step Mayor Gaffney stressed is essential for regulatory compliance and environmental safety.

**Ted Cox**  
Editor/Publisher

Member Of

KPA  
KENTUCKY PRESS  
ASSOCIATION

Published Weekly

Periodical Postage Paid At  
Lancaster, KY 40444

Garrard

ESTABLISHED 1889

CENTRAL RECORD

USPS 098-160

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