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THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

Williamstown City Clerk's Office still awaiting audit

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

The Williamstown City Council held a regular meeting Monday, April 7, conducting several lengthy discussions and, amidst confusion over whether or not the original was conducted properly, revisiting a resolution issuing charges of willful neglect against Mayor Mark Christopher and setting a public hearing date. Councilmember John Coleman was not present.

RESOLUTION 2025-02

Christopher stated he was not sure why the repetition of the reading of the resolution, which originally took place at a specially called meeting Tuesday, April 1, was necessary. Councilmember Kim Crupper clarified that the reading was not done properly because it was not on the special meeting's agenda on April 1.

"We want to make sure it's read and on the record official-

ly, so if there was any ambiguity in the last meeting-and apparently there was-we want to read it and state it and vote on it," added Councilmember Dave Henson.

The April 1 meeting was adjourned by the mayor after Councilmember John Coleman read the resolution but before roll call was taken.

"So what happened Tuesday kind of violated the rule a little bit, I guess?" Christopher wondered.

Christopher asked for a ten minute recess to confer with his lawyer. After reconvening, the mayor asked Henson to read the resolution.

Henson conducted the reading of Resolution 2025-05, which concerns charges of willful neglect against Christopher pursuant to KRS 83A.040(9).

The statute referred to reads: "Except in cities of the first class, any elected officer, in case of misconduct, inca-

capacity, or willful neglect in the performance of the duties of his or her office, may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the members of the legislative body exclusive of any member to be removed, who shall not vote in the deliberation of his or her removal. No elected officer shall be removed without having been given the right to a full public hearing. The officer, if removed, shall have the right to appeal to the Circuit Court of the county and the appeal shall be on the record. No officer so removed shall be eligible to fill the office vacated before the expiration of the term to which originally elected."

Henson continued, "Whereas to afford Mayor Mark Christopher with sufficient opportunity to prepare for his public hearing, the Williamstown City Council hereby presents Mark Christopher with the following list of

charges to be considered at the public hearing for which removal is sought."

The charges of misconduct include:

"1. Mark Christopher acted with willful neglect in the performance of his duties of his office when he refused to provide Williamstown City Council with information about financial obligations and problems encountered by the City of Williamstown.

"2. Mayor Christopher acted with willful neglect in the performance of his duties of his office when he permitted overtime payments to be made to persons ineligible for overtime payments and without consulting or informing the Williamstown City Council."

The public hearing will be April 21, 2025, at 9 a.m. at the Judicial Center, 224 South Main Street, Williamstown.

A motion for the resolution was made and passed unanimously.

AUDIT OF CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

An update on the audit process by Christopher raised questions as to why no action had been taken in hiring a firm to untangle the mess in the city clerk's office.

Christopher reported calling the state auditor's office March 21 to ask for their help in conducting the audit which, he said, would likely cost the city nothing.

He also sent a letter to Gov. Andy Beshear in hopes of speeding up the process.

No definite answer has been received, although Christopher said the request is being reviewed.

He maintains the state should do the audit, not a CPA, because a CPA would typically look only at numbers and the state's auditor would be trying to identify potential criminal activity. "This is the important

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Williamstown Independent Schools Williamstown fifth graders Josie King, Paisley Pelfrey Yazell, Bailey Lester and Ellison Holland walk solemnly beside the sentinel during the April 7 wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Williamstown 5th graders participate in wreath-laying ceremony

Last week Williamstown Elementary fifth grade students made their annual trek to the nation's capital during spring break.

While in Washington, Williamstown students also visited Ford's Theatre, the U.S. Capitol, the Grant Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Library of Congress and many other sites.

It has been a tradition for four of the students to participate in the wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

This year, on Monday, April 7, that honor went to four young ladies: Josie King, Paisley Pelfrey Yazell, Bailey Lester and Ellison Holland.

Grant County Little League celebrates opening day in style

Grant County Park was alive with kids and families on Saturday, April 12. The sunny day began with a pair of Easter egg hunts in the morning followed by a huge opening day celebration to kick off the Grant County Little League season.

Between wrangling food, dozens of vendors, a petting zoo, a parade, a visit from the Cincinnati Reds' mascot and live music, opening day celebration organizer Chris Jump outdid himself. Work on the celebration began last August, he said.

This year was made even more special by the arrival of the first game ball in an AirEvac helicopter that landed right on the field!

This year there are around 330 kids participating in Grant County Little League, according to Jump, which is up from last year.



Melissa Muse

Chase Beagle waits on the ball to be delivered to the pitcher's mound via AirEvac on Grant County Little League Opening Day on April 12. **More Photos on Page A3.**

If you're in the mood for fun, come out to the park and as they take part in the great some good, old-fashioned cheer these youngsters on American pasttime.



Melissa Muse

Ayla Moser and Jace Moser sport bunny ears as they hunt for eggs at Grant County Park last Saturday.

Easter egg hunters invade Grant County Park

Grant County Parks and Recreation hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12. It was a bit chilly, but the sun cooperated, flooding Grant County Park with its cheering rays after a cold, grey week.

Little ones had a great time racing around hunting eggs in the sunshine as their families cheered them on.



Melissa Muse

Madelynne Apatang is the perfect picture of happiness as she dashes to find the next Easter egg.



Melissa Muse

School mates Lilly Stroehle and Kailynn Weaver were excited to run into each other at the Easter Egg Hunt at Grant County Park on April 12.

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