

Dry Ridge conducts first reading of 2025 ad valorem taxes

BY **DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL**
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

All members were present for the Sept. 15 meeting of the Dry Ridge City Council. On the agenda were first ordinance readings and notice of a special meeting.

ORDINANCES
· Council conducted the first reading of “Ordinance #917-2025 concerning “ad valorem tax rate for FY 2025-2026 all real and personal property.” The proposed tax rate is \$0.208 per \$100.00 assessed valuation for real property and \$0.175 per \$100.00 assessed valuation for personal property.
· Council conducted the first reading of “Ordinance #918-2025 tax rate for

all motor vehicle and watercraft for calendar year 2025-2026.” Rates proposed are to be \$0.175 per \$100.00 assessed valuation.
According to City Attorney Jack Gatlin, who read the ordinances, both rates will be “slightly lower” than those of 2024-2025.
The second reading of the ordinances took place at a special meeting of the Dry Ridge City Council on Wednesday, Sept.17. Both were approved.
DEPARTMENT REPORTS
· Fire Department: According to Fire Chief Allen Cammack, the Dry Ridge Fire Department responded to 57 calls, 24 within City Limits and 33 outside for a year-to-date (YTD) total of 437.

Emergency Management Services made 252 runs amounting to 2,115 YTD. Cammack said both YTD’s were up from the same period in 2024.
· Police Department: According to Officer Matt Hicks, the Dry Ridge Police Department has received a \$3,000 grant for “ballistic helmets for [DRPD] officers.”
He said they have put in for another \$10,000 to \$11,000 grant for “ballistic shields.”
Hicks also noted the new pickup truck police vehicle has all electronics finished and is in the process of having graphics applied. He said it should be in service by Friday, Sept. 19.
· Maintenance Department: Little noted that with the help of equipment from Williamstown, streets have been swept. Cold patching has been

complete. As well, shrubbery around the city that was obstructing views has been removed using county equipment.
· Water Department: Four meters have been replaced.
· Parks Department: Little exclaimed, “Wow, what an event!” concerning the Party in the Park. He said they estimated around 4,000 people attended throughout the day. He will submit a breakdown of costs and other information at the next regular meeting.
· Code Enforcement: Profile information for businesses in the city has been updated. This information has been remitted to Kentucky State Police (KSP) so they have contact information should there be a need.

· Planning and Zoning: There will be a city meeting on Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. for the following possible new applications:
-Truck wash to be added to the truck stop behind Walmart
-Outdoor seating for the new Peppers restaurant on Fashion Ridge Road
-A 10’ x 60’ building behind Dollar General Store on Warsaw
-Short Term Rental (STR), which would bring the total in the city to 52, if approved
The next regular meeting of the Dry Ridge City Council will be held on Monday Oct. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Dry Ridge City Building, 31 Broadway. For questions or more information, contact the City at (859) 824-3335.

THREE

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the installation of the screens, something with which an engineering firm can assist.

ACTIONS
•The first reading of Ordinance 2025-13 Amending the City of Williamstown Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in accordance to KRS 67.084 was conducted.
Henson said he recently got an invitation to enroll in the National Flood Insurance Program and consulted City Attorney Luke Morgan to research it and see whether the city needed to do that. Morgan was advised by someone at the Kentucky League of Cities that Williamstown definitely needed to participate, as it affects homeowners in the case of catastrophic flooding. Henson said homeowners could not collect from FEMA, which administers the flood insurance program, if the city is not enrolled.
He said Morgan recommended passage of the ordinance to adhere with regulations in order for Williamstown to be able to join the program.
Henson pointed out that the new ordinance prohibits “mobile homes from being built in the one percent flood zone district.”

Before conducting the first reading, Morgan said the original ordinance dates to 2010. “Most of the changes in this are updates to floodplain information,” he clarified.
•Henson asked for a resolution authorizing joining agreements regarding opioid lawsuits. One of which, the new Purdue/Sackler Opioid Set-

tlement, he became aware only recently.
The city has already received funds from previous settlements (roughly \$80,000). The money is in the general fund and must be accounted for.
Morgan recommended participation in the settlements. Many are multi-billion dollar class action lawsuits involving a variety of plaintiffs who have had to bear the high cost of dealing with the opioid crisis. He mentioned getting notice of yet another settlement that very day, Alvogen.
“I just want to make sure we that have the proper engagement letters and all of these agreements in place with these various firms ... representing people across the country,” Morgan stated.
He further explained that funds received from opioid settlements usually must be earmarked for certain things relating to the opioid crisis, such as first responders and drug rehabilitation programs; funds

may not just be put into the general fund.
Councilmembers had several questions but ultimately approved Resolution 2025-06 Executing the City of Williamstown’s participation agreement of the Purdue/Sackler Opioid Settlement.
A public hearing was held Friday, Sept. 19, at noon regarding the property tax rate for next year. Henson said the tax rate for both real and person property will remain the same as this year.
Immediately after the public hearing, at 12:15 p.m., there was a special council meeting to conduct the first reading of the tax rate ordinance.
Real property will be taxed at .371 for each \$100 assessed value; personal property will be taxed at .490 for each \$100 assessed value.
The next regular meeting will be Monday, Oct. 6, at 6 p.m. at the City Building, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown.



Jayson Payne is sworn in as Williamstown’s zoning administrator. From left: Payne, City Clerk Crystal Fryman and Mayor David Henson

Betsy Smith

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<https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/2025-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications.html> for more details or directions.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications will be available for Grant County’s CAIP to assist farmers in completing on-farm improvements.

Application Period:
September 25 – October 24, 2025
No applications will be accepted after October 24, 2025

Application Availability:
Grant County Extension Office
105 Baton Rouge Road
Williamstown, KY 41097

For More Information:
Contact Chris Ammerman at 859-824-3355 or email ammerman@uky.edu.

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Honoring Our
Armed Forces

On November 6th, the Grant County News will be publishing a tribute to all of the men and women who have fought to preserve our freedom through service in the United States’ armed forces.

Deadline: noon Thursday, October 16

In Memory Of Cpl. Lowell Thomas
U.S. Army 1952-1954

IMPORTANT!
As some service members or their families may not wish to be included, we ask that you enter only for family members or close friends/associates. Submissions may be emailed to bsmith@cynthianademocrat.com with the subject line “Grant County Armed Forces Dedication” or mailed to Grant County Armed Forces Dedication, Cynthiana Democrat, 101 East Pike Street, Cynthiana, KY 41031. All mailed submissions must be received by Oct. 16. If you would like your photo returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Name and phone number of person submitting:		To submit by email: bsmith@cynthianademocrat.com with the subject line: Grant County Armed Forces Dedication or mail to: Cynthiana Democrat Att: Grant County Armed Forces Dedication 101 East Pike St., Cynthiana, Ky. 41031 before October 16, 2025 The Grant County News Veterans Special will be published on November 6th, 2025
☐ In Honor	☐ In Memory	
FOR THE GRANT COUNTY NEWS		
Name		
Rank		
Branch of Service		
Dates of Service		
Other info (20 words or less)		

If you are a veteran and you have a story to share from your time in service and would like to see it published in the veterans special please contact Betsy Smith at bsmith@cynthianademocrat.com or call 859-824-3343 ext. 5 by October 9.

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