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City council wants public hearing to consider impeaching mayor



PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ
Pictured from left are City Attorney Larry Bryson, Mayor Randall Weddle, Acting City Clerk Ashley Taylor, and Councilperson Anthony Ortega. There was a disagreement between parties regarding the voting requirements when charges are raised against the mayor.

Resolution presented during Monday meeting alleges multiple violations by Weddle



PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ
Mayor Weddle questioned why the council failed to open an investigation prior to the charges.

By Madison Nantz
Staff Writer
What began as an effort to formally charge London Mayor Ran-

dall Weddle with misconduct devolved into a heated and inconclusive City Council meeting — with the legality of the vote and wheth-

er the resolution will move forward remaining unclear. The resolution, presented during the council's Monday meeting, alleged mul-

tiples violations by Weddle. The discussed resolution proposed holding a public hearing on August 20 to consider removing the mayor from office for misconduct and willful neglect. Council Member Anthony Ortega moved to amend the regular meeting's agenda to include the proposal, which was read aloud by Acting City Clerk Ashley Taylor and ultimately approved. The charges against Weddle include the following allegations:
— Hired and paid individuals for city positions not formally established or approved by the City Council, violating KRS 83A.0703
— Removed and appointed members of the London Housing Authority in violation of KRS 80.090 and

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Housing Authority employees retain attorney amid dispute with mayor, mayor responds

By Madison Nantz
Staff Writer
Two Housing Authority employees have retained an attorney in response to what he describes as unlawful actions by London Mayor Randall Weddle, according to a letter sent to city officials.

In the July 29 letter, sent to The Sentinel-Echo by one of the HA employees, attorney Brandon Voelker alleges Weddle directed staff to disregard HUD regulations, threatened their employment and used law enforcement to pressure them during an eviction matter.

Weddle rejected that version of events. "When it says that Mayor Weddle came over with the police, that is a blatant lie," he said. "The police were there on a drug-related call. I got a

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Former officer's attorney accuses city officials of harassment, mishandling information

By Madison Nantz
Staff Writer
An attorney representing a former London Police Officer sent a letter to city officials Friday, accusing the department and city leadership of harassment and mishandling of private information. The letter, dated August 1 and released on the social media blog Crime with Bobby, was sent by attorney Brandon Voelker and comes just three days after a separate letter regarding his representation of two employees of the Housing Authority. Both are addressed to City Attorney Larry Bryson, City Council Attorney Conrad Cessna, and Jeff Mando with the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). In this latest letter, Voelker claims former London Police Officer Jared Hale was mistreated on the job and forced to leave his position after several issues including inappropriate conduct by now-retired Captain Travis Couch and the release of a recorded phone call between Hale and Judge-Executive David Westerfield. According to Voelker, the issues began in February

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Vehicular homicide case headed to grand jury

By Madison Nantz and Macee Swafford
Staff Writers
A three-vehicle crash on American Greeting Card Road Friday resulted in one fatality, multiple injuries and the arrest of one driver on a vehicular homicide charge that is now set to be heard by a Laurel County grand jury. Probable cause was found Tuesday in Laurel District Court to send the case against 55-year-old Kimberly Hedrick of London to the grand jury. According to a release from the Laurel County Sheriff's Office, the crash occurred around 12 midnight Friday morning, approximately 11 miles south of London. A Chevrolet Tahoe driven by Hedrick, was traveling southbound when it crossed the centerline — striking a northbound Chevrolet Aveo head on and critically injuring its driver, Benita Vickers, 55, of Corbin.



KIMBERLY HEDRICK

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