

Providence Council Hears Reports, Citizens' Complaints

Providence City Council met Monday evening with council members Jimmy Crowell, Mark Turner, Shannon Layton and Jeff Marshall present to hear department reports and questions from citizens.

Following the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, officer Cameron Shelton gave the police department report for April. Shelton told the council that the department worked 177 calls for service, wrote 18 citations and 34 warnings along with several assists to other agencies.

Travis Turner announced that the public works department is ready to "slow roll" the new trash cans to residents. The first phase of the distribution process will be to deliver containers to individuals who have called and requested a new trash bin. The second phase will be to deliver containers to those who "need" a bin that is compatible with the new trash pick-up system and in the final phase customers who need multiple cans.

Mayor Tom Glover noted that city residents are asked to place all trash bags in containers rather than placing bags on the curb. The new truck has an arm that lifts the cans and tilts them into the truck and then sets them

back at the curb. That arm does not pick up loose bags or other items not placed in an authorized container. Placing bags into the proper containers will help keep animals from disturbing the bags and the wind from spreading loose trash. Residents may request a new trash container by calling the city office.

In his report for EMS and the fire department, Lee Jenkins noted that employees completed 63 hours of training, made 62 ambulance runs and worked ten fires.

In his updates to the council, Glover reported that Code Enforcement officer Charles Syers and attorney Bobby Murray recently attended a training session related to code enforcement. He added that Murray is working on a code enforcement ordinance for the city.

Glover also told the council that Murray is working with the Kentucky League of Cities to obtain sample ambulance district ordinance, so the city can establish an ambulance district to help offset the cost of a new ambulance.

Jimmy Crowell raised questions about the status of the city's surplus properties. Glover noted that the city has about 63 properties. The mayor suggested compiling a list of properties

owned by the city and determine whether to sell them at auction by sealed bids or in another manner. Glover said the city will begin working on that issue.

Crowell also asked that the city consider giving employees a raise. The mayor noted that clerk Tiffany Conrad is presently working on the FY 2026-27 budget and will present information regarding the budget in June.

In the public appeals portion of the meeting resident Ken Stuart raised questions about a number of city taxes. Stuart first questioned the need for a new ambulance that will be paid for through the establishment of an ambulance taxing district. Stuart's question about the need was answered by councilman Mark Turner who noted that the city's present ambulances have many miles on them and are older. In past meetings the council has discussed the fact that at least one ambulance is unreliable and repair costs continue to rise. Stuart answered that he has an old motorcycle "but I still ride it." Turner countered, "You're not transporting patients." At their last meeting, the council voted to establish an ambulance district and approve a 10 cents per \$100 assessment ambulance tax.

Stuart then turned his questions to the need for a tourism tax which he said is tied to the golf course. He noted in his comments that the golf course is now self-sufficient so the tax isn't being used for that. Glover responded that the tourism tax is used to support many community events including work on the ball fields, the community's July 4 celebration, the fall festival, Christmas activities and other events.

Stuart also questioned the need for the liquor tax saying it was initially set to help draw restaurants to the area. He expressed his displeasure with selling liquor at the golf course. He also added that he has spoken with the PVA, adding "we shouldn't have to raise taxes." Stuart then turned his attention back to the ambulance tax telling the council that based on the properties he owns, the ambulance tax will increase his taxes by about \$300, adding that with re-evaluations every four years, a person is likely to see an increase with each new property valuation.

Noting that the city has "pot holes out the butt," indicating the city should focus on those types of issues, Glover responded, "it's pretty easy to point out the negatives, but if you want

something, you have to be able to pay for it. We (the council) have been elected to do what is best for the city." Stuart questioned Glover's "election" but the mayor explained that he was appointed by the council and stayed firm in his response that the council is doing what it can to continue to improve city services and the community as a whole before thanking Stuart for his input and ending the discussion.

Questions from other citizens rose over electric bills and terminology regarding "catch up" with meter readings. Glover asked that they bring their bill to the city and he will sit down with them and determine what the issues are. He also responded to questions regarding trash pick-up before the meeting adjourned, encouraging a resident to add her name to the list of individuals who want a new trash container.

Glover concluded the discussions saying he can't address the questions raised without seeing the bills and learning more about the issues but he will look into the questions raised.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26, with the next regular meeting scheduled for June 1.

Water Board Meets In Short Session

A Webster County Water District customer met with the WCWD board during a regular session Thursday to discuss a loss of water pressure at his home. Landon Brown, who lives on the west side of the county near KY 270 told the board that while is water pressure is good at times, other times the pressure drops to zero. He asked the board to help find a resolution to the issue.

Water superintendent Trevor Baldwin reported that he has already put a recorder on the meter which indicates the pressure dropped five or six times between April 28 and May 5. He noted that the district has "flip-flopped values to try to resolve the issue," and employees continue to watch the issue daily to be sure the right valve is being used. Baldwin said, "Hopefully the problem is taken care of" with the change in valves. Baldwin also told the board that the pump station near Hearin tank need work because it has been out of operation for quite some time due to a lightening strike." At issue in making repairs is the age of the equipment and finding parts that are compatible with the system. Baldwin continues to look for someone to make the repairs.

During Thursday's meeting, the board also reviewed the April water operations report which reflects 28,550,57 gallons of water produced

and 25,552,840 gallons sold. To date, the district has sold about 3.5 million gallons less water in 2026 than during the same period in 2025.

Baldwin reported that the filter remediation project began May 11, and the out of service time for replacing one filter took six days, a longer time than initially anticipated. But, Baldwin said he can tell a significant difference in the filter than has been replaced. He anticipates the work to replace two other filters will take a few more weeks.

In other business, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution to rescind the North Hopkins contract and revert back to the original contract with that water district.

Baldwin also explained an electronic valve issue at the plant, noting that a valve on the influence side is not working properly and can't be shut off. The value, according to Baldwin, needs to be replaced. He is working with four companies to replace the valve which is 27 years old. National Water, the company replacing the filters is also trying to help find a replacement valve.

Before Thursday's meeting adjourned Baldwin asked the board to consider meeting at the water plant in Onton for their June 11 meeting. The board agreed. That meeting will be a special called meeting due to the change in location.

Former WC Bus Driver Indicted On Multiple Counts

A Webster County grand jury has returned twenty-four indictments against a former Webster County School bus driver who is alleged to have been under the influence of alcohol/drugs while transporting school children on April 3, on a school field trip. In addition to school children, adults were also among the passengers on the bus at the time of the incident.

Cody Lyne Wilson, 36, of Providence was indicted on 22 counts

of wanton endangerment, one count of commercial driver license under influence of alcohol .04 percent to .08 percent/controlled substance and one count of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, first offense, aggravating circumstances.

Wilson remains in Webster County Jail under a \$10,000 bond. A WCPS meeting agenda shows Wilson resigned from his position effective April 16.

Clay Council Reviews First Reading Of Budget

The Clay City Council met in a special called session on May 11, with all members except Mike Grigg and Kelly Ware present.

After approving the April minutes, the council approved the clerk's report and accounts payable.

The only business to come before the council was the approval of the city's fiscal year 2026-27 budget. The budget includes a number of line item purchases for the Clay Fire Department which has requested a new

washing machine and new hoses for each truck. The public works department has requested a trench box, sewer plant upgrades and an addition to the back of the building. Other items included in the budget are a new roof on the municipal office and a salary increase for employees.

On a motion by Kyler Floys and a second by Rocky Williams, the council unanimously approved the first reading of the FY26-27 budget.

Five Interesting Facts About Memorial Day

Memorial Day is celebrated at the end of May each year to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. Memorial Day, the origins of which can be traced to the aftermath of the American Civil War, holds deep historical significance, and the following are five interesting facts about the holiday.

1. The holiday began as Decoration Day. Before the official establishment of Memorial Day, communities began holding spring tributes to fallen soldiers, decorating soldiers' graves with flowers to pay respects. In 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for northern Civil War veterans, officially proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day. War.gov says that graves at Arlington National Cemetery continued to be adorned in the same fashion they were back in the 1860s.

2. Memorial Day became an official holiday in 1968. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Memorial Day into law on June 28, 1968, officially marking Memorial Day as a national holiday. However, two years prior, he signed a proclamation officially declaring Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. The town was the first to honor fallen soldiers, and has been featuring a

formal, community-wide event since May 5, 1866.

3. Blooming flowers have a place in Memorial Day history. Historians believe that the original choice of May 30 for Decoration Day was not due to any specific battle. Rather, it was a day when no particular conflict had taken place and was the time of year when flowers would be in full bloom. So on May 30 there would be plenty of flowers across the country to decorate soldiers' graves.

4. All fallen veterans were eventually honored on Memorial Day. Many early Memorial Day iterations honored those who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, however, the Memorial Day holiday was expanded to honor all American military personnel who died during any war.

5. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act changed when Memorial Day is commemorated. Memorial Day once was commemorated on May 30 regardless of the day of the week. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, moving Memorial Day to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. This change went into effect in 1971.

Scholarship Winners *Continued from Page 1*

- Kamryn Hayes—Kyle Overby Memorial
- Maddox Hibbs--Lista McCully Memorial
- Sadie Cowan—Lofton Hazelwood Ag Memorial Scholarship
- Jessica Urrita—MCA Diversity Scholarship
- Sadie Cowan and Valerie Pocasangre—Mrs. FW Nichols
- Maddox Hibbs—Providence/Webster County Chamber of Commerce
- Kimberly Shelton--Sebree Auxiliary Post 243 Scholarship
- Aiden Alstadt—Sebree Christian Outreach Mission
- Hunter Redfern—Terry Rakestraw Memorial/WC Conservation
- Reagan Corbett—Virgil and Dorothy Waggener
- Lillian Sims and Brylee Whitledge—WC Bar Association
- Chloe Lovelace—WC Education Association
- Mylee Whitledge, Brylee Whitledge, Ella Rakestraw—WC Farm Bureau
- Hunter Redfern—WC Outstanding Student
- Karson Saalwaechter—Webster County Cattleman

- James Higdon, Kamryn Hayes and Lucienne Bezuidenhout-Webster County Retired Teachers funded by United Community Bank
- Alyssa Marsh—WVAA
- Hadley Duckworth, Kelsey Hanor and Andrew Pleskach—Melton Foundation Technical Scholarship
- Camden Melton and Delaney Kelley—FBLA
- Kelsey Hanor—Landon Grigg Memorial
- Tanner Davis—WC Mock Trial
- Julissa Alaro Ramirez, Audrey Billings, Elijah Buckman, Reagan Corbett, Taylor Dame, Kendall Daulton, Liam Farris, Avery Guill, Kelsey Hanor, Kameryn Hayes and James Higdon, Delaney Kelley, Hunter McDowell, Mylee McDowell, Camden Melton, Brandon Mitchell, Mayci Moore, Valerie Pocasangre, Ella Rakestraw, Hunter Redfern, Katherine Rivas Rivera, Taylor Roberts, Raynei Roy, Kiyonna Scott, Kimberly Shelton, Delaney Shumate, Braghen Sloat, Chloe Soukup, Eli Stone, Jessica Errutia Cruz, Hunter Weisser, Ella White, Brylee Whitledge and Mylee Whitledge—Melton Foundation Scholarship