

THE STURGIS NEWS

Delivering
For
Sturgis
and
Union County

141ST YEAR

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STURGIS MAYOR BILLY Adams was recognized last week for achieving a Level III Master of City Governance. Adams has completed 87 hours of approved courses, one hour of ethics training, one hour of open meeting training and one hour of open records training for a total of 90 hours of class work in government leadership. The presentation was made during the Kentucky League of Cities conference.

UC Fiscal Court Sets Tax Rate; Approves Resolution

Union County Fiscal Court met in regular session September 22, approving property rates for two agencies, making hires for two county departments and passing a resolution for continued work on the courthouse.

After accepting the minutes of the previous meeting, magistrates rescinded a previously approved county motor vehicle tax rate due to an error at their last meeting. According to Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan, the county motor vehicle tax rate was read incorrectly at the last meeting and approved at 10 cents per hundred. On Tuesday, the court amended that rate to 11.3, the original rate. O’Nan stressed that this is not a tax increase. The motor vehicle tax rate remains the same as last year and was simply misread at the last court meeting. The tax for real and personal property is ten cents per

hundred.

Other tax rates approved on Tuesday include the library tax set at 5.3 for both real and personal property and 1.5 for motor vehicles. Magistrates also accepted the Union County Board of Education rate of 69.7 for real and personal property, 55.7 for motor vehicles and three percent for the utility tax.

In other business, Tara Hobgood was hired to fill a fulltime vacancy at UC Animal Control and Addison Hendrickson was hired as a fulltime cabin cleaner at Moffit Lake.

Magistrates also approved a HB 500 resolution for up to \$800,000 in single county coal severance money for Phase 3 of the indoor/outdoor courthouse remodel.

Before adjourning claims and transfers were approved by the court, and O’Nan announced that a fifth Tuesday meeting would not be held.

Morganfield City Council Meets, Discusses Regulation Of E-Bikes

Morganfield City Council met briefly in a special session Wednesday evening with an update on the e-bike ordinance the main topic of business.

After reviewing the minutes of two previous meetings and approving the bills and transfers, the council learned that work on a city ordinance concerning e-bikes continues to be worked on. Mayor Randy Greenwell told the council that a draft ordinance is being developed, but he noted that one of the main

issues will be enforcing any regulations the city puts in place regarding the bikes.

A number of residents have complained about children riding e-bikes and disregarding traffic signs and devices, and many have expressed concerns about the safety of the children on e-bikes. The council has received a copy of a draft ordinance and has the next few weeks to read over the ordinance and

present their ideas and expectations regarding regulating the use of e-bikes in Morganfield.

Council member Jeremy Collins told the council, “If you’re going to have rules, you have to have the police enforce it (the rules in place).” The council stressed that parents will have to help enforce any policies related to riding e-bikes in the city.

Before adjourning, the council reviewed the city’s monthly financials.

UC Board Of Education Recognizes Achievements

The Union County Board of Education met Monday night in a regular session with a number of students and employees begin recognized for their achievements. The board also approved an 18 item consent agenda and heard financial, SBDM and attendance reports.

The meeting opened with the presentation of recognition certificates being presented to students who attended the Governor’s Scholars program and the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) program. Cate Clements, Megan Trowbridge and Lilliana Butts attended Governor’s Scholar programs at various colleges over the summer where they received specialized instruction in an academic field of choice. Elizabeth Hancock and Paxton Morgan were attendees of the HOBY program which emphasizes leadership. UCHS principal Amy Nelson made the presentations.

Thirteen teachers who have completed the LETRS professional learning program were also recognized during the board meeting. Those individuals completed 160 hours of intense online training which they incorporated into their classroom instruction. They received certificates presented by the board.

Th district also announced five high school employees as recipients of Heart of a Brave awards. Grace Holloran, Neil Nobles, Trey White, Sarah Nobles and Tara Wright were recognized for their continued support of UCHS students and the school itself and their willingness to support program and always provide help to the school. Principal Amy Nelson read nomination information citing each individual’s contributions that show they have the Heart of a Brave.

Following the recognitions, Dr. Terra Hancock presented her monthly report which included a number of activities in which students have been involved. All in for Ag Education Week which included the annual 5th grade safety day, a grandparents event at UCHS included pep rally, and Sturgis and Uniontown elementary schools hosted Grandparent Bingo. Morganfield Elementary held a breakfast for grandparents.

The superintendent also praised the UCHS band for their hard work and for recently winning awards at the MSU Festival of Champions. She also announced that Union County has submitted 49 coal grant applications to the Cedar West KY Coal grant program and 88 UCHS students will take the district ACT. Other programs and activities include broadening UCMS club offerings, Numeracy Counts and National School Lunch Week which begins following fall break.

In her comments, Hancock noted that she is looking at joining SGO, a scholarship granting organization and reviewing litigation between school districts and social media as it relates to the mental health of students.

Michelle Hall shared the attendance report with the board. The average district attendance for the first month of school is 95.03 percent. Uniontown Elementary had the highest attendance average with 96.88 followed by Sturgis with 96.42 percent. Attendance at Morganfield Elementary is 94.9 percent, UCMS 94.17 percent; UCHS 93.7 percent; UCLA 87.5 percent; preschool 94.25 percent and Victory Tech 100 percent.

The SMBD report highlighted the high school’s Legacy Program which has students setting goals and initiatives that will help them leave their mark on the world. The theme follows the premise “If your’re going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can’t be erased.” Brave graduates are encouraged to be curious learners, critical thinkers, insightful contributors engaged citizens and characteristics of a Brave. Matty Lovell, Bentley Duckworth, Jack Clifton and Leila Simpson shared their platforms and how they are initiating program that will help others and engage individuals in a variety of activities that impact both the school and the community by getting the involved in activities, encouraging them to take part in activities, and helping them with their needs so they grow into contributing, well-informed members of society.

Student board member Leila Simpson also gave a monthly report to the board stressing activities that have been underway at the high school. She noted that a school spirit challenge has been held, a service project to collect books for younger students has been completed, the school has had a spirit battle between grade levels, held Ag in Education Week, written letters to local veterans, hosted three parent events helped with summer enrichment programs and distributed books to Sturgis Elementary students.,

During the public comment session, Melissa Bebout addressed the board concerning an incident that occurred last spring and has carried over to the fall semester. According to Bebout one of her grandchildren enrolled at a county school “had a knife pulled on her” by another student last spring. When then granddaughter returned to school for the fall semester the other students had returned to the school. Bebout expressed concern that the family was not notified that the alleged assailant would return to school. She noted that there have been three incidents with her grandchild and the other students.

Bebout raised questions as to why the district doesn’t have metal detectors in the schools and what can be done for her grandchild to feel safe. “I am invested in these kids, not just mine but others. “I don’t want others to wake up crying like by granddaughter does.” Bebout said. She noted that only one board member responded to an email she sent to them. Because the incident involves juveniles, there is very little information that can be released and names of victims and accused cannot be used. Information on the incident itself is not available to the public.

Following Bebout’s comments, the board approved an 18 item consent agenda that included monthly reports, and MOA for SROs with the sheriff’s department, an agreement with the Moral Instruction Lifewise program, approval of grant applications, reports , a service contract and a revised salary schedule for UCMS gate workers and career lab implementation. Other contracts and agreements were also listed on the consent agenda.

Monday night’s meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m. The board’s next work session is set for Thursday, October 22, at 5:00 p.m.