

THE STURGIS NEWS

Delivering
For
Sturgis
and
Union County

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Braves Headed To State Championship



MEMBERS OF THE Union County Braves football team are pictured here after receiving the Class AAA semi-state trophy last Friday night. Union County defeated Belfry, 43-21 to advance to the Class AAA championship this Saturday, December 7, 11:00 A.M., CST, at Kroger Field in Lexington, Kentucky. (Photo by Audrey Brewer)



UNION COUNTY'S JARREN Johnson is pictured above as he followed a wall of blockers during first half action in the state semi-final game last Friday night against Belfry. The Braves offense scored six touchdowns -- four of them by Johnson -- in their 43-21 win over the Pirates. Johnson is a candidate for 2024 Mr. Football in Kentucky.

Annual Christmas Parade Will Be December 14th

The annual Sturgis Christmas Parade is planned for December 14 at 5:00 p.m. The parade will make its way along Adams Street with colorful floats, antique cars and trucks, and other vehicles. Santa Claus is expected to be a special guest at the parade along with elves. The community is encouraged to support this event and enjoy some of the early festivities of the holiday season.

Union Fiscal Court Hears Updates; Adopts Resolution

Union County Fiscal Court met in a lengthy session on November 26, hearing updates on projects, requests for projects and holding a discussion on the county's energy audit. Phil Crumpton, a law enforcement liaison with the Kentucky Association of Counties, addressed the court regarding the service KACo provides to the counties and encouraged the court to take advantage of those services. Merrit Bates Thomas, a representative from Green River District Health Department, also addressed the court, asking that the proclaim November Diabetes Awareness Month in Union County. Bates-Thom as pointed out the number of individuals who face the hardships caused by diabetes and noted that it is a serious issue. The court heard the reading of and approved a proclamation regarding the disease. Also addressing the court were Kim Humphrey and Bill Adleman of RiverView Coal. The duo reported that RiverView Coal Union County paid \$1,837,642.03 in taxes to the county I 2024. Adleman, the coal company's general manager, reported that RiverView had 926 employees with 481 of those at portal one and 245 at portal two. The prep plant has 76 employees and the old Highland operation has 124 employees. Adleman noted that the company is producing million of tons of coal annually and continues to ship both domestically and to customers around the world. Judge Executive Adam O'Nan noted that the county appreciates RiverView's investment in Union County and the many partnerships the company has with other entities in Union County. Also addressing the court was constable Sam McLeod. McLeod gave a brief update on the responsibilities of constables and noted that he serves papers for the court, two law firms and several rental property owners. While he does not have police powers, he does often assist at accidents and other events in the county. McLeod asked the court for permission to put either amber or green lights on his vehicle to alert the public that he

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Sturgis Council Approves Option For Site Of Proposed Wells

The Sturgis City Council met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Billy Adams presiding and all council members present. City Clerk Sandra Germane and City Attorney Vickie Davis were also in attendance. Prior to the start of the business session, Union County Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan issued the oath of office to Mayor Adams, who will begin the final two years of an unexpired terms on January 1, 2025. Following a review of the minutes from the November meeting, the members heard a short report concerning the city's finances. All city accounts are operating with a plus balance; however, the cost of water due to leaks and other losses is causing a strain on the water account. According to council member Hunter Davis, who has done considerable research on the city's water options, the cost to purchase water and the high water loss -- which last month was 58% -- is placing the city in an almost untenable position. Perhaps the most important decision made by the council on Monday night was to enter an option to purchase agreement with Jeffery Sands Company. According to Mayor Adams, that agreement is an option to purchase 3.9 acres of land near the city's water plant. The cost of that 3.9 acres is \$10,000. Davis explained the option to purchase gives the city the opportunity drill a test well at the site. The cost of that drilling is estimated at \$31,700. The purpose of the drilling is to determine the depth of the aquifer with the plan being for the city to begin its own water production in the future. Davis explained the requirements for treatment and personnel needed for ground (well) water versus surface (river) water are different, and the option to return to producing water is a viable one for the City of Sturgis. He emphasized the water from the test well would have to undergo testing to determine both quality and quantity, and the type of treatment needed would determine the construction or renovation of a water treatment plant. A survey will also be needed to determine the exact location of the 3.9 acres tract. When asked about a time frame for the possibility of Sturgis beginning to produce water, Davis responded, "Two to three years."

In other business, Mayor Adams presented each council member with a state code enforcement book. He told members that code enforcement needs to be a priority in the coming year. Council members approved resolutions for the Department of Local Government for the 2020, 2021, and 2022 audits. If accepted by DLG, the city will not be required to have audits for those years, but will provide documenting financial statements for the period. The deadline for those financial documents is the second quarter of 2026. The city will still be required to have audits for 2023 and 2024; however, until all of the financial information is completed, those audits cannot be done. Work is taking place daily to gather the needed financial documentation to meet all the necessary requirements. Mayor Adams opened sealed bids for vehicles which were declared surplus at the November meeting. For individuals -- Rickie Jones, Jerry Hayes, Rhonda Gray, and Justin Collins -- submitted bids for one or all of the vehicles. Council members John Deibler and Dennis Odom were given the bids, and after comparing the bids, they will present a recommendation to Mayor Adams for the sale of the surplus items. Council members held first reading of amendments to the city's ABC ordinance.

According to Mayor Adams, "We are trying to clean up the ordinance." He noted there are several areas of the ordinance in need of change. The council will meet in a called session next Monday, December 9, 3:00 P.M., to have second reading of those amendments. Council members approved an interlocal agreement with the Union County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement services in the city. That agreement is expected to be presented at the Union County Fiscal Court meeting on Tuesday, December 10. The mayor told members the water line work for the Grangertown project is completed. There is still concrete work to be completed. To date, that project has cost \$72,593.73, and according to Mayor Adams, another \$12,000 to \$15,000 in expenses is expected before completion. Council members also authorized Mayor Adams and the city clerk to transfer revenue from the gas account to the water account, as needed. The mayor cited the need for the transfer in order to make sure the monthly bill from the Union County Water District is paid before the due date. According to Ms. Germane, the current bill from

the water district is almost \$42,000. Two vehicles which were to be considered for surplus were removed from the agenda. Officials will meet with members of the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department to determine if the department has a need for a 2013 Ford Taurus, which was formerly used as a police cruiser. A F-250 Ford flat bed truck will be kept by the city at this time. The monthly fire report showed an active roster of 30 members who had 465 hours of training last month. In addition to responding on 53 calls, 12 department members attended live fire training with the Kentucky Fire Commission; the local department hosted state fire training; members held with meter reading; and members assisted with routine maintenance and cleaning at the wastewater treatment plant. The annual awards banquet for the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department will be Saturday, December 14, 6:30 P.M. No further business was addressed, and the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Sturgis City Council will be Monday, January 6, 6:00 P.M.