THE MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

eons," Moren said. "Our hopes and dreams of having it gone by Daniel Boone are gone to the wayside." After councilman Tyler

Dunn inquired about any effect the delays could have on the money granted for the demolition, Moren replied "No, we're still good... as a matter of fact, we (will) probably have requests for proposals out the first of August."

In speaking of the new roadblocks to bringing down the building, Moren added, "It's bad, but not disastrously bad. It's just a time delay," as he addressed the council members who are frequently asked about the status of the building.

The City is a recipient of a \$1 million Brownfields grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to assist in the cleanup of the collapsing building. According to its website, the "EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield sites."

The site further described the specific use of the grant for Barbourville. "EPA has selected the City of Barbourville for a Brownfields Multipurpose Grant that will be funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Grant funds will be used to conduct two Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments, develop a brownfields inventory, and conduct cleanup planning and community engagement activities at the Parker Mercantile Building (116 Knox Street), the former Blackstone Hotel (103 Knox Street), and the Lawson Building (334 Court Square). Grant funds also will be used to clean up the Parker Mercantile Building. The

In other reports, Fire Chief Doug Dozier stated his department worked five vehicle accidents, two vehicle fires, assisted EMS 11 times, one brush fire and a downed power line.

target area for this project is the Downtown Business

District."

Police Chief Winston



fore the July 10 meeting began. Photo by Charles Myrick

Tye reports a busy month as well with 16 accidents, three of which with injuries, 15 cases with three being possession and six for trafficking, three assault cases, 142 citations for a total of 358 counts, 70 arrests, seven thefts and robberies, 282 traffic violations, and answered 380 calls for service.

Mayor David Thompson shared, on behalf of the Street Department, an ongoing concern with contractors hired by residents leaving debris by the street for city workers to collect, which is not a service provided for contracted work. The Street Department will pick up certain items from city homes. However, residents with questions concerning pick-up services should call the City Street Department at 606-546-4647.

Thompson went on to share that the Independence Day festivities on both Friday and Saturday went well, including the fireworks shows, concerts, and more. Notably, this year's fireworks were set off by Police Chief Winston Tye, using commercially available fireworks instead of paying thousands of dollars for a professional fireworks show. "I don't know how we're going to do it bigger next year, but we'll do something," Thompson said.

In other business, the council appointed J.M. Hall to a three-year term on the Knox County Tax Appeals Board to replace Steve Farmer, who has termed out. Hall will serve from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

The council reappointed Janelle McWilliams to another four-year term to the Board of Adjustments, serving through June 28, 2029.

The council went into executive session to

discuss bids for the new fire department building. After the executive session, five bids were awarded:

- HVAC Croley Heating and Air, \$41,865.00
- Interior Doors FBM. \$12,286.17
- Fans Marco Air -\$12,135.00
- · Bathroom Tile -Creative Interiors LLC - \$14,500.00
- Electrical L&M Electric - \$98,736.00

In other council news, following a long wait for carpet tile, which is due to ship on August 24, the new city hall building is nearing completion and is expected to be finished within the next month. An electric vehicle (E.V.) charger will also be installed in the City Hall parking lot.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Barbourville City Council is 6 p.m., Thursday, August 7, 2025.



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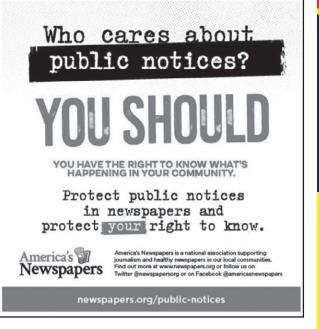
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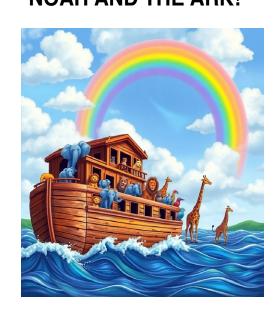
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