

The Beattyville Enterprise

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April 17, 2025 Vol. 141 No. 34

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HAPPY Easter

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Parking in Front of the Courthouse, Boubon & Moonshine Fest Postponement, and the Cruise-In Dates Change were Some of the Topics in the April Beattyville City Council Meeting

The Beattyville City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 14, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Scott Jackson. The Roll Call was done by Sally Gilbert, City Clerk. All council members were present. Councilman Sam Cockerham offered the Invocation prayer. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jackson welcomed the visitors.

Paul Nesbitt from Nesbitt Engineering gave his monthly update to the council. “The WPA Building Remodeling — we have done some work on this previously and we have put a theoretical floor plan that you could put a bed and breakfast or something there. What we are working with now is trying to get the structure taken care of. There are a lot of things going on there. We appreciate you all giving us the ability to work on it. The Police Building Remodeling I noticed based on KRADD’s Report has been renamed and that is good. It is now to be called the “Mercantile Hub.” I will need to change my report. When I say we are seeking funding, most of that is KRADD’s work. The Waste Water Treatment Plant - we (KRADD and I) have applied for funds and we are making a little headway on that one. Ky. 587 Utility Relocation - where they are straightening that road out, you are going to be getting about 1,200 linear feet of new water line that will be replacing the old water pipe which is leaking. They have told us for six months that they are starting next month but I haven’t seen them out there, so I don’t know. I am just reporting what they say to me. The Water System Improvements are still in planning and everything is underway on that. There is also an ARC Grant that has to be processed before we can access all the other money and KRADD is working on that as well. The Water Tank Rehab — the Environmental is still done on that now so we need to get together with RD and start the checklist items that we need to take care of so we can access those funds. On FEMA, I know that anything the city needs, Jon is available to take care of it. The Crystal Creek Trailhead was awarded \$233,000.00 and the Outlook was a combination of an outlook and a sidewalk. This would be next to River Drive. The idea is that from the Overlook there will be sidewalks leading back into town. We appreciate getting to work with you.”

Michael Smith from KRADD gave his update and said that Paul touched a good portion of it but there are a few things. “Paul mentioned the Mercantile Hub. We have procured them for that project. We will be putting the AMLER Grant Application in for that sometime before May. The funding is kind of up in the air on that one. We are waiting on the checklist from RD on the Tank Rehab. We might be able to get in touch with them to speed that up a little. We got the LEPP Application in for the tasers for Beattyville Police Department. That is under review and there is no timeline on this. We are also putting in an AM-LER Grant for the Crystal Creek Trailhead. We are trying to round up the funds for that. The Water Treatment Plant Phase 2, going up to Zachariah — I went out that way and took some pictures today. There are some historic properties out that way. I will submit those to the Heritage Council and get through the Environmental on that. It could be a slow grind but hopefully not. I don’t really have anything else but if you have any questions, I will answer them the best I can.”

A motion was made and carried to approve the 2nd reading

of the budget amendment. There were no changes made since the first reading. A motion was made and carried to approve the June 30, 2024 Audit. Mayor Jackson said that it is a little late but the flood and fire was the hold up. Sally said that if the council members had any questions, she would be happy to answer them.

The mayor asked the council about purchasing a Skid Steer for the city. He stated that it would make cleanup at the park and on the streets so much easier and they would not have to find someone that one every time they needed it. The skid steer that we are looking at is \$69,500.00 and it is brand new. After some discussion, a motion was made and carried to approve the purchase of the skid steer from Kubota’s in Campton, Ky. There was some discussion again about getting a bucket truck for the city. Mayor Jackson informed the council that Jackson Energy is supposed to be having an auction sometime soon and we will see what they have. We will have to make a down payment on this skid steer and make payments on the rest of it.

“There has been no real distinction on what we could or could not spend the Opioid Settlement Funds on. Cody has been working with the Attorney General’s Office and Sally and I have been working with JD Chaney (over the League of Cities). Mr. Chaney put us in touch with Chris Johnson. At the Resurrection Home there is a program called Grandmothers helping Grandmothers. We were told that we could give them an allotment of what they should do and they would provide us a budget of how the money is being spent. This is a great opportunity,” said Mayor Jackson. Councilwoman Glenna Cummins asked the mayor how active is that group? The mayor responded, “they are as active as they can be with the limited funds that they have. They could be more active with some teaching and stuff with some help.” Councilman Mitch Cornelious said, “I would like for anybody that we are giving this money to, to come in here, talk to us about it and tell us what their program is about.” “What else can we do with it,” asked Glenna. The mayor stated that they could purchase Narcan. “I would like to know how the Resurrection Home is addressing that,” asked Glenna. “There will be a set of programs helping the kids that grandmothers are raising and to keep them on the straight path. I can get them to come down,” said the mayor. Cody Sparks, Beattyville Police Chief, told the council “the money is for Opioid Use Disorder. The money was set aside for this after the Oxycontin epidemic hit Kentucky. Enforcement is one thing that it can not be spent on. Prevention, D.A.R.E. and stuff like that, you can spend it on them. The Resurrection Home specifically mentions in their pamphlet that they are working with the Opioid Use Disorder and this is what they are looking for in this program. I think more kids are affected by Opioid Use Disorders.” Glenna said, “I think it would be more than just the grandparents. Couldn’t we do something with the schools to prevent it?” The mayor said that he is sure they could if they can come up with a plan on how they are going to spend it. This program could last for two or three years. Councilman Ronnie Stamper asked if this was a one time thing or could they get the money over time? The mayor said it would be over in more than one year. They would also need to show us where their money is being spent. This was tabled until next month. “There is not a time frame on the money,” said Cody.

Councilman Mitch Cornelious talked about the parking in front of the courthouse again. He asked if anyone had any ideas on how to fix it. Some of the ideas passed around were to eliminate a couple of the parking spots and make it parallel parking, which would eliminate several spots. There was even one suggestion of making it a



one way street all the way around the courthouse. This was tabled again until next month so that the council had more time to look into what can be done.

A Resolution and Contract for an ARC Grant for the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 was presented to the council. The Resolution needed approval from all council members. All members voted yes. A motion was made and carried to approve the Contract between the City of Beattyville and KRADD. A motion was also made and carried to approve the Municipal Aid Co-op Program Resolution. We have been in this program for years and it has to do with the roads. We used this to blacktop some roads last year. Bob Perkins had sent a Draw Request on the Brownfield Grant. Mr. Perkins could not be here due to having to be in Somerset. “The biggest thing right now is they took all the walls out and they took out one that was load bearing. They had to go back in and reinforce it. A civil engineer thought they would be alright but a structural engineer found floor damage that had to be fixed. Getting the roof supported first is more important right now than getting new windows. We have put the windows on the back burner until we get the structural parts fixed,” said Mayor Jackson.

The question was asked about what was going to be put over where the mural is now. Teresa Mays said that Jennifer is working to get a contractor to come and look and put in a pull up door immediately when the wall is removed. The Draw Request was for \$107,000.00. This is for the abatement part and it is about 80% done. A motion was made and carried to approve the Draw Request.

A Draw Request for Sewer Screen Project which is funded through the Water Act and has been going on for a year or more and is for \$86,536.00. A motion was made and carried to approve the Draw Request. A motion was made and carried to approve the prior meeting minutes.

Teresa Mays gave the Main Street & Economic Development Report. “We had to reschedule our River Side Run. This is a fundraiser that will help our middle/high school track team. It will now be on Saturday, May 10, 2025. You can still go online and register for the run.

We have been looking and we have decided to have our Cruise-Ins on the 4th Saturday of each month. This gives our people time to get their cars wiped down and ready for the Cruise-Ins. The Thursday Live at Lunch Series, we tried this last year and we really enjoyed it (the ones that were able to come). We are going to start this back in May. If it goes well, we will go on into June.

Next is our Bourbon and Moonshine Festival for 2025. We have decided to postpone that. We are not certain but we could postpone that until next year. We are not certain about it right now.

Typically, during the Bourbon and Moonshine Festival, Backroads of Appalachia and Whitley County Motorcycle Group have a ride called “Shiners for Shriners.” It is a fundraiser for the local Shrine Club. They asked that we go ahead and work with them and let them have this event because they have bikers that come every year to support this. We are going to work with them and have it on Saturday, June 14th. We will register the bikes and cars at Town Square and that is where the kick off will be. Then, they will do their Red River Gorge Moonshine Trail Loop. That is the only event that will be at Town Square that day.

The last thing on our calendar of events is a Main Street Mingle & Music. Once most of our businesses have reopened, we would just like to do a celebration on Town Square to appreciate them and their dedication to being on Main Street and their resiliency for coming back after all that they had to face. We will do that this summer sometime.” A motion was made and carried to approve the use of the Town Square for the events.

Mays went on to say that she had included a copy of a letter that was addressed to the mayor and city council from her and the Main Street Board. It is just their views on the



Mayor Scott Jackson Beattyville City Council City of Beattyville Employees

SBA Loans and FEMA Property Buyouts Offered at Happy Top Recovery Center Discussed in April Fiscal Court Meeting

On April 10th, 2025 the LC Fiscal Court held their regular monthly meeting with all magistrates in attendance.

Solid Waste receipts for March 2025 totaled approximately \$52k (+). LC Solid Waste currently/at time of meeting has two trucks down with transmission issues.

LC Ambulance had 110 billable runs for March 2025.

There is currently a voluntary FEMA buyout program for businesses or building owners and homeowners in the county/city in flood plains. For more info please contact or visit the recovery center which is currently at Happy Top or LC Judge Exec. Office. The center at Happy Top is open 9am to 7pm.

LC Coroner reports 3 overdose deaths in the county thus far this year, with autopsies reports showing excessive amounts of fentanyl and methamphetamine.

Noted for record that Magistrates and County Judge have received bank balances/financial reports as of March 31, 2025 and a copy of claims adjustments from the March 2025 meeting, list of claims for April 2025.

Noted for record, a

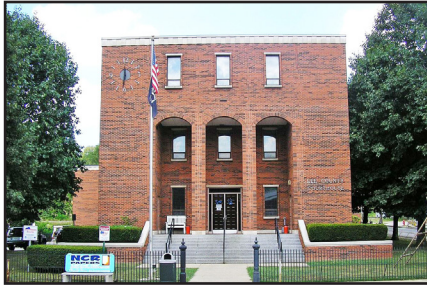
copy of the FY 2026 Lee County Jail Budget has been provided to the Court.

Jason Ross Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience – Small Business Association was present at the meeting to discuss and explain the SBA loans they are offering to the county residents while they are currently operating out of the recovery center at Happy Top. These loans are ideal for those who do not qualify for FEMA grants or cannot afford the interest on a bank loan.

Ross stated they not only provide assistance to small businesses but also to homeowners and non profits. Ross stated they do not offer grants but offer long term, low interest disaster recovery loans.

Loans for property damages can go as high as \$500k for homeowners and \$100k for renters. Business loans can range up to 2 million. The 1st year’s interest is 0%. There is no cost to apply and you have the right to refuse the loan after it is offered.

Backroads Appalachia and State Rep. Tim Truett was present at the meeting to discuss Senate Bill 63. This bill which passed,



will allow registered special purpose vehicles to be street legal in Kentucky, under guidelines and certain circumstances. This will exclude all terrain vehicles that are used for agricultural purposes.

The fiscal court approved a \$1000 donation to the Senior Citizens Center.

The court approved Sheriff Joe Lucas’ 1st quarter 2025 Budget Quarterly report.

The court approved County Clerk Kim Noe’s 1st quarter 2025 Budget Quarterly report.

The court approved Lee County Sheriff Joe Lucas application and resolution for LEPP grant funds for 12 new tasters and cartridges for department use.

The court approved the second reading of Ordinance #2025-001 approving financing a Road Fund loan from Kaco in the amount of \$475,000 and contingent upon necessity.

The court approved the rental lease agreement between Lee County Fiscal Court and Livelihoods.

Knowledge Exchange Network a one-year lease for the office space (formerly occupied by 911 center) at Happy Top Community Center @ \$570.00 monthly. This includes the internet.

The court approved Kenneth Lewis transfer to 911 Certified Dispatch Operator Effective 3/27/25 @ \$14.00 hourly wage. Kenneth will remain EMT for Lee County Ambulance.

The court approved Lee County Animal Control Officer Emery Crawford \$1.00 pay increase effective March 27, 2025 making his hourly wage \$14.00.

The court approved Lee County Search & Rescue to obtain USDA Grant application for a UTV vehicle to assist in all terrain recovery. Fiscal Court obligating 1% match.

By: Kara Thorpe - Editor

flood mitigation study and the discussion of FEMA buyouts.

If you have any questions please reach out to Teresa Mays or the board. FEMA is up at Happy Top starting today from 9am till 7pm if you were impacted by this flood and need assistance.

Cody Sparks gave his reports for February and March. In February, the police department answered 89 complaints, issued 36 citations, made 13 arrests, and worked 2 collisions. In March, we answered 136 complaints, issued 61 citations, made 23 arrests and worked 6 collisions. They had to send the visor lights back that they had for our new Durango. So it is waiting on more equipment but everything else is done. That is the USDA Grant vehicle.

Ferrell Wise gave the monthly report for the Public Works De-

partment. He stated that they had 100 work orders called in. 80 of these were water and garbage and 20 were sewer. 76 of these have been completed as of now — 63 water and garbage and 13 were sewer.

A motion was made and carried to approve the Financial Report. The question was asked what was being done about people parking the wrong way on the street. Cody said that he is writing tickets because an accident happened on Main Street when someone was parked facing the wrong way. There was also a question posed about what would happen to the Commercial Tax Base as well as the water and electric if the FEMA buyouts happen. Another question was raised about vendors,

not yard sellers, needing a license. “It is not fair to places like the Farmers Market who pay rent. This is not something new because we have discussed it before. It should be fair for our people that are paying. The food trucks are paying so it is only right that the other vendors pay as well,” said Mitch. Teresa said, “we are paying rent and all of the fees and licenses that we are supposed to. It is not fair that some people are not paying. This is for all mobile vendors.” This was tabled until the next meeting for further discussion. Payroll Taxes were discussed as well.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting.

By: Lisa Robinson - Editor