

# Hawesville Set to Complete Past Audits to Unlock Funding; New Subdivision Announced

By Jennifer Wimmer

The Hawesville City Council met on Tuesday evening, June 10th, and Mayor Rob McCormick made the announcement that much needed funding will soon be freed up with the finalization of past audits. He and his team have been working very diligently on resolving these past audits throughout his tenure as mayor thus far, and are now on the verge of completing them.

“We should have monies released in July for all of our back monies owed to us from the state,” McCormick said. “I’m very excited about that...June 20th is the date we’ve been given that the 2023 audit will be complete. Everything else is done.”

After the ‘23 audit is finalized, it is their understanding that the city’s vendor number will be released within 3 weeks from that potential date of June 20.

“That means that the state’s water bills will all be paid to us, and all our KLEFPF (Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund — DOCJT) money that our chief has earned and we’ve paid, will be paid back to us,” he said, “and this goes all the way back to 2018. Some of the money has to be spent to get the ‘23 audit completed, and hopefully we’re able to put more back...I had a meeting with Representative Lewis (Scott), and our state senator, the honorable Gary Boswell. House Bill 555 was a bill that was going to forgive small cities from ever having to do an audit, and I stressed to them that I do not agree with that. They agreed with me. So, House Bill 555 was revised and what it gave the smaller cities like us, is an 18-month extension to complete our audits, once we’re caught up. March 2026 is when our 2025 audit is due. Another thing I talked to them about was I felt like they should put together a house bill for cities like ours that step into a situation like we stepped into, that if we’re showing continual progress, there should be at some point in that a possible waiver. They both agreed that would be a nice bill to be written. They are going to take it to the legislators and talk about that. They’re wanting to schedule a trip for some of us to get up to Frankfort in front of the legislative body and present what we are looking for. Mr. Lewis stated these things that we have done in the past month, like showing that Hawesville and Lewisport are willing to work together, are very much favorable for us to get these things done that we’re asking. That’s not going to help us right now but, in the future, it may help other cities that were in the same position.”

**New Subdivision**  
He continued with another topic that has exciting prospects for the City of Hawesville and its future growth. “I will have more next month on the new subdivision that is going in. We don’t have all the details on that yet. There are 22 lots,” McCormick informed. “The houses are going to range from \$300K and above. There are 3 cottages, and a venue. I spoke with Mr. Johnson (Ricky) yesterday, with CTR Homes, and he is going to put a meeting room at the end of the venue because he has already a commitment from a couple of clients in town to take two of the cottages year-round, whether they are in them or not. So, we will be seeing an extra tax revenue. It

is going to be probably greater than \$3M in taxable housing. It won’t happen overnight. We all know that. Jake and I discussed it, and we discussed back and forth, and made it clear that he is responsible for any and all landscaping, roads, it will be an HOA (Homeowners Association). He wanted to put 2 flush hydrants in. We met yesterday and agreed. I gave him two options - two flush hydrants with flush meters on top of them, and we’ll send you the bill of the water usage because we’re getting ready to start purchasing water in the future, or you loop into Darwin George (Street), which completes the loop of water, and then we wouldn’t have to do any flushing. That is not in contract. It’s just an agreement we made. I told him to have it drawn up, I will present it to you all, and then we’ll make that decision if that’s what we agree to...These will be two-lane streets, and it’s got cul-de-sacs; It’s a beautiful layout.”

**Audit Presentation**  
A Certified Public Accountant from Tichenor & Associates delivered an overview of the completed 2021 audit via a virtual consultation.

“For June 30, 2021, the city had a decrease of \$134,378, and an overall balance of \$417,549, with \$40,207 for the governmental funds. As for business, the total net position was \$3,648,750, with a decrease of \$31,436 from the prior audit in 2019. The general fund balance was \$417,549, with a decrease of \$134,378, and the balance represents about 10 percent of the general fund revenues. Total capital assets for the city — the land, buildings and improvements, all totaled out to about \$2,539,082, as of June 30, 2021. The tables show the assets in comparison from fiscal year ‘21 to ‘19, for both governmental and business. The city had a decrease under governmental, due to depreciation with capital assets. For the business, that decreased very slightly. It goes over both the revenues and expenses for governmental and business for June 30, 2021 and 2019. The biggest contributor for revenue for the governmental is insurance tax premiums, with property taxes not far behind. For the business, a slight increase from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2021. The governmental expenditures decreased slightly from 2019. For the business type activities...the change in that was about \$54K for FY 2021, leaving that position total negative \$533,941, and a net position of \$3,648,750.”

McCormick asked, “None of these negatives are malice. It was just the bookkeeping? Like we talked about before (at the last audit presentation he gave at the April meeting).”

He answered, “Those negatives aren’t necessarily an issue with bookkeeping, it’s just items like with depreciation. So, it’s not a negative factor for you guys. That’s just how the books end up as you’re factoring in the depreciation...This table is for the proprietary funds, and goes over the operating revenues and expenses, and encapsulates where the most revenue came from alongside the expenses for the business aspect of the city. The next table covers the loans that the city had for FY ‘21. Those cover what the outstanding debt was, as of June 30, 2021, which totaled out to \$2,832,888. The

city’s capital assets with the governmental activities having \$192,000, and business having \$5,873,946, and total capital assets for the city at \$6,060,000.”

**Employee Insurance Discussion**

McCormick explained, “Our insurance for our employees was going to go up 12 percent this year. We had Brandon House here with us, looking into the insurance, and we dug into it for 2 or 3 hours. The insurance our employees were receiving was the best possible insurance anybody could ever get. There was only a \$750 deductible. So, I have to act in the fiduciary manner of the city. We looked, Jake, Amy (Roberts, City Clerk), Brandon, and I, and we went to a \$3,000 deductible. We called some of the facilities around, and that’s pretty much what people are being offered. I had a meeting with the team. You see our budget; We’re talking about a \$1.9M expenditure and only \$2.1M in revenue. The new plan will save us \$26,530.56 annually. The current plan costs the city, without the 12 percent increase, \$16,517. Our new reduced monthly premium will be \$14,306.22. All the men agreed they would rather go with a higher deductible than having to pay a percentage. We have talked about offering an HSA (Health Savings Account). I’ve also sent an email to Dr. Brockman (Complete Wellness) because they do offer more services, to see what his family plan and single plan would consist of. I’m looking at the possibility of buying that for all of our employees to where they would not have to pay anything. Mayor Gregory and I

did speak yesterday about the HSA again. It is a very good plan as well.”

**Ordinance #03-2024**

City Attorney Jamie Stephens provided a second reading of this ordinance adopting an amended budget for the fiscal year beginning 7-1-2024, and through 6-30-2025, and it was accepted and approved by the council.

**Ordinance #04-2025**

The second reading of this ordinance was completed and approved by the council. It outlined the city’s Annual Budget Proposal for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2025, and through June 30th, 2026.

“We’re on a very tight budget,” McCormick said. “Our expenditures, we’re looking at \$1,960,000, and revenues are only estimated at \$2,117,334.65. We all know these can change at any time.”

**Project Manager**

McCormick announced, “Jason Beville will be Bluegrass’s Project Manager over our storm water plant. Jason is very knowledgeable of the inner workings of everything we have, so I’m proud that we’ve got that. Jason will remain with DC+ (Digital Connections Plus) until the end of the month, as a 1099 employee. He’s already been working on the lift station pumps and some other items. On July 1, Jason will then take over, and we’re in the middle of negotiating a contract with him. Nobody understands our system like him, and I think Jason will be more than fair. He will have his own LLC, and carry his own insurance; Bluegrass Engineering is fine with that. On our repair, if a water tower meter, or a pump goes out, or things like that, he will [repair those]. The IT part of it will still be maintained by DC+ throughout

the year. At the end of June (end of the fiscal year), we’ll no longer have two monthly contracts with DC+. We’ll have one, and that covers the IT. All of the IT for administrative and for the water plant is one contract. The other contract is for the technical work, Jason on his own. Dean Schamore (DC+ Owner) and Jason came to an agreement that he has to give them the rest of the month. The work Jason has been doing for him was under contract, and that expires. We had already paid for hours that were due to DC+.”

**City Manager Report**

Hawesville City Manager Jake Powers said, “We had a sewer inspection today. It went well. No marks or anything on that. We have some good news about the audits, moving forward. Other than that, we’ve just kind of had our heads down dealing with what has come up, and working on those audits. It’s been a progressive month.”

**Chief of Police Report**

Hawesville Chief of Police B.J. Burton reported, “Last month was graduation month, so we got out, and got some volunteers that were graduating who were trying to get their senior hours and different things in. Last month, we did six citations, and we did a lot of traffic stops, and courtesy notices. We answered eight calls for service, and that’s not counting property damages and other things we’ve had this month, and one accident.”

**Fire Department Report**

Hawesville Fire Chief Shane Richards was not present at the meeting. The monthly muster for Hawesville Volunteer Fire Department in May was: 13 EMS assists, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 5 fire

alarms, 1 brush fire, 1 residential structure fire, 1 tree down, 1 for wires down, 1 vehicle fire, 1 rescue response, and 1 water rescue.

The volunteer members fulfilled required training hours in Salvage/Overhaul and Loss Control for the month of May. A minimum of 8 hours training in this area are required for basic certifications, and instruct on properly overhauling a fire to ensure against rekindle and additional damage, as well as preventing unnecessary loss through control measures.

**Stay Weather Aware**

HVFD reminds the public to continue to stay aware, due to the amount of rain, severe storms, and tornado watches and warnings, and advised to: stay indoors during severe weather, report power outages to your power company, 911 is for emergencies only, and to please report obstructed roadways or possible power lines over the roadway by using the non-emergency phone number, (270) 927-1311.

**Junior Firefighter Program**

In May, Junior Firefighters also participated in Salvage/Overhaul and Loss Control trainings. The Junior Firefighter Program is open to youth ages 15-17. For more information, please email: hawesvillefire@gmail.com.

**HVFD Membership**

HVFD is ALWAYS looking for new members. For more information, please use the email address above, or send a message to the Hawesville Fire Department Facebook page, or comment on a post on the FB page, and a recruiter will reach back out to you as soon as possible.

The next Hawesville City Council meeting is scheduled for July 8th. at 6:30 p.m.



**Friday, July 4th**  
**Vastwood Park**  
**Fireworks Display**  
**9:00 pm**

Fireworks by **PYRO SHOWS**

Sponsored by **Hancock County Fiscal Court**



**Josh Merritt**  
**5:00pm-7:00pm**



**Radiatronic**  
**7:30pm-9:00pm**



**Sunny Daze**  
**J's Good Grub**  
**Los Amigos Mexican**  
**Snow Cones**  
**Hand Dipped Ice Cream**



**FREE INFLATABLES**  
**4:00pm-8:00pm**



**ONE WAY** **ONE WAY** **ONE WAY** **ONE WAY** **ONE WAY**

**Traffic will be ONE WAY through Vastwood Park beginning at 4:00 pm. Traffic will enter the park from HWY 60 and exit at Park Road/HWY 1847.**

**Rabbit Club Meeting Minutes for June 5th, 2025**  
**By Jane Kolonich**

The Hancock County 4-H Rabbit Club meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m., by J.D. Powers. J.D. Powers also led the pledges. Jane Kolonich called roll, and there were five club members present. We discussed that our total balance was \$495.66, and our next meeting would be June 26, 2025. The club made no new decisions. Lisa Hagman presented our club activity, which was about fur and wool showmanship. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

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