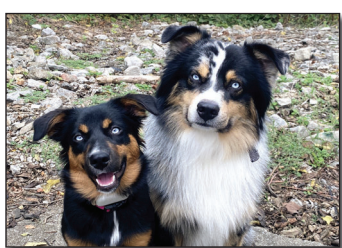


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City Council sets public hearing for occupational tax



Photo by Joe Hager | The Messenger
Officer Jonah Voelker being sworn in.

Joe Hager
Messenger Staff

The City Council of Brandenburg held its regular meeting for the month of June on Monday evenings. Mayor Pace announced anyone there to speak on the occupational tax ordinance would be able to do so on June 23 at 6:00 PM when a special meeting will be held to get input concerning the ordinance. The Council did agree that the tax rate of 1/3% would be the rate that would be used in the reading of the ordinance at that time.

A public hearing for the Local Government Economic Assistance Fund concerning the fiscal year's budget was declared open to public comment, but no speakers came forward to address this issue.

Jordan Wilson, Grant Writer for Meade County, addressed the Council and informed them he would be re-applying for grant money to address restoration work on the boat ramp downtown. The grant being sought is \$150,000. Also included is an application for repair work on a riverbank that appears to be sliding into the river downtown. There is also a city water well that is in danger in this process. About half a million dollars is needed for materials to help prevent the slide. The Army Corp of Engineers has been involved during the past year.

Mayor Pace thanked the community for their support of the T.J. Hughes fundraiser to help an injured City worker get through two recent surgeries. It is hoped he will be able to return to work before

the end of the year.

Alex Richardson spoke to the Council concerning the budget and noted the budget for 2020 was \$937,700. This year's budget was \$1,550,000, a 65% increase according to him. He suggested using extra waterworks funds to pay bills related to waterworks that had traditionally been paid from the general fund. Mayor Pace stated he was speaking with the auditor about this matter.

Kimberly Barr from Maple Grove Apartments spoke to the Council about concerns residents there had about conditions with which they were dealing concerning the lack of maintenance of the property. There are 56 apartments in the complex and she was asking for City support to get the apartment owners to recognize and improve conditions. It is a HUD property. The mayor said he would ask the city fire inspector Chris Crawford to investigate the matter.

A Lafayette Street resident once again spoke to the Council about the narrowness of the street and the disruptive vehicles that were utilizing it as 7 new homes were starting to be built. She asked to extend the street to a point where vehicles could get out of Lafayette Street at another junction.

The State Senate has passed a bill that would allow the use of certain All-Terrain Vehicles on public streets and roads if the owners meet certain specifications. The vehicles would have to be able to travel at 20 miles per hour speed, be titled by the state, have a license plate, and several other specifications. Certain

Meade County School Board sets conditions for growth in June meeting



Photo by Stephen Spohn | The Messenger
Dr. Martin and the Board of Education members honored the Meade County High School Baseball Team on the Regional Championship win.

Stephen Spohn
Messenger Staff

On Tuesday, June 11th, the Meade County Board of Education convened their June monthly meeting at Stuart Pepper Middle School at 6 pm. The Board of Education consists of Superintendent of Meade County Schools Dr. Mark Martin, Board Chairperson Steve Orr, Vice-chairman Dana Flaherty, Sandy Smith, Alison Vowels-Allen, and Nathan Beavin. As per custom, the meeting began with a prayer offered by Meade County Ministerial Association member, Pastor Bob Boster, from Payneville Baptist Church. Following Pastor Boster's blessing over the meeting, Dr. Martin played a video highlighting a "Year in Review" for the school district produced by central office technology and commu-

nications director, Amy Berry. Berry, along with transportation director, Glen Wilson, are set to retire this month following over 30 years of service each.

Following the video presentation, Dr. Martin then displayed a quick video of the Meade County High School (MCHS) Baseball Team celebrating their Regional Championship win. This served as a brief introduction to the "Good News in the Greenwave Nation" portion of the meeting. Dr. Martin congratulated the team on their success, saying, "This is one of the hardest championships to win. We have a very competitive high school region. To watch your journey throughout the season, all the adversity you persevered through, that was one of the best high school sporting events I had ever been to." Dr. Martin, along

with Board Chairman Steve Orr, called forth each player individually to present them with a certificate and then the group posed for a photo with all the board members. The baseball team's previous regional championships were in 1993 and 2012.

Moving on to the evening's agenda, the board reviewed the bids for the upcoming MCHS renovation and addition project set to start in July. Kenny Stanfield, lead architect with Sherman Carter Barnhart, who is a MCHS alumni and has also worked projects for the Meade County College and Career Center and the Stuart Pepper Middle School, briefed the board on the bids for contracting services for the general construction as well as alternative plans bids with preferred vendors. The board voted and Redlee Construction from Louisville was

officially awarded the contract. The substantial completion date for the project is July 1, 2028.

The next portion of the meeting discussed the project financing projected to be over \$50 million. This is accomplished through securing a payment bond that guarantees the contractor to be funded through the entire project. Dwight Salsbury of Ross, Sinclair & Associates advised the board on their most effective and efficient way to fund this project. The Lexington-based firm advises 127 of the 172 public school districts in Kentucky. To approve the funding of the project, the meeting held a brief recess to call to order a special meeting for the Meade County School District Finance Corporation to review

School Board
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Fiscal Court takes care of June business

Joe Hager
Messenger Staff

Following opening ceremonies Tuesday evening the Court was addressed by Kay Hamilton requesting the assistance of the Court in getting County water to some residents of Battletown. Those folks had been using water from a privately owned well, but that source was shut down when the owners moved away. County water is currently present in the area but has not been distributed to all residents. Kay has County water but is the last person on her way to have it. Jason Wilson, County grant writer, replied that he would work on that project when the number wanting water service is determined.

Judge Executive Kok briefly touched on the fact that plans are being made to build another Grainery since the original one was shut down when Nucor was built. Farmers in the County need a close facility at which to sell their grain. He also said the Court House would be closed

on June 19 for June-teenth and July 4 for Independence Day.

Monica Myles from the US Small Business Administration is currently working with FEMA to help restore some of the storm damaged homes and businesses. Loans are available up to \$500,000 to restore homes and up to \$100,000 to replace furniture and appliances. The interest rate is 2.75%. It should be noted that the damage incurred goes back to March 30, 2025. Small business loans are available up to \$2,000,000 with a 4.0% interest rate. The application deadline is July 25, 2025. A temporary FEMA office has been set up at the fairgrounds. The office has scheduled office hours for seven days per week.

The Court approved the appointment of Delmar Miller to the Battletown Fire Protection District and Ronnie Williams to the Payneville district.

Following a second reading of Ordinance 2025-04, a motion was made to approve the

coming fiscal year's budget. The general fund has a budget of \$28,314,250; with road funding set at \$4,248,000, the jail has a \$3,000,000 budget, local government offices set at \$2,449,500 and Solid Waste at \$2,150,000. The motion to approve it was passed.

An item of great interest was Ordinance 2025-06, the first reading concerning street legal special purpose vehicles. The State Senate bill allows some ATVs to have access to some roads and streets if they meet certain strict legal requirements. They must be licensed with a licensed driver, equipped with proper lighting, pass a sheriff's department inspection, and several more requirements. The first reading was approved.

Shawn Lane has met the financial standard to be accepted into the County Road system where it will undergo repairs, necessary grading and rock, culverts set and eventual chip and seal surface treatment over the next year. Road department chief

Jeff Padgett promised to have the road graded within the next two weeks, weather permitting.

The Court opened bids for both a dual axle and a single axle dump truck. The specifications from bids were to be reviewed to make certain they met the requirements specified.

A Planning and Zoning representative requested a zoning change from agricultural to residential for a property near Otter Creek. The new owner plans to build a housing project on the property. Several Fiscal Court members agreed with nearby property owners who constantly fight erosion from water running off that property. There are also 2 gas lines in the area where erosion could endanger. After much discussion and input from neighboring properties, the Court voted to table the ordinance until a special meeting of the Court could be held on June 22 at 7:00 PM.

The Court adjourned and went into executive session.

City Council
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