

Corbin City Manager talks annexation, changes at Arena, more at Rotary meeting

■ By Trevor Sherman

Corbin City Manager Scott Williamson served as the special guest speaker at last week's meeting of the Corbin Rotary Club at David's Steakhouse. During his presentation, he offered an update on efforts to annex properties into the city and spoke about recent changes at the Corbin Arena among other topics.

Williamson informed Rotary Club members at the meeting that the Go Time convenience store located just off of I-75 Exit 29 in north Corbin is now officially a part of the city, and they are actively paying city taxes. He said his assumption is that store owners will be applying for a license to sell alcoholic beverages at that location soon, if they have not done so already.

Williamson then shared some details about the recently passed city ordinance that will bring approximately 30 acres of neighboring property into the city as well. This property includes the site of the former King's Truck Stop. A map of the property and the full text of the ordinance can be seen in the May 7 print edition of the News Journal.

"I think they have some big plans," Williamson said. "I have talked to the owners on several occasion. They approached us about wanting to be in the city, and we have done everything that we can to make sure that we are ready to receive the rest of their required information."

In other news related to annexation developments, Williamson said that Wal-Mart has applied and that the city is now waiting on some additional documentation.

Aldi has also expressed interest in being annexed into the city, Williamson said adding that he has met with regional management concerning the matter.

Recent audit discussed, as well as changes at the Corbin Arena

Another main point of Williamson's presentation to the Rotary Club was to offer an update on recent happenings at the Corbin Arena. He began by informing club members that the city was recently given an "A" grade by auditors in every departments with the Arena being the only exception.

A detailed report on the audit findings was included inside the April 23 print edition of the News Journal, and can now be accessed online at www.thenewsjournal.net, but as Williamson explained, efforts have been ongoing since June of last year to correct any discrepancies and return the facility to compliance with the city overseeing operations, as opposed to it operating as a separate entity.

"We brought the Arena finances into City Hall last June," Williamson said. "We have been examining every contract, and making approvals on every purchase over \$200."

Williamson said that he believes the city has "turned a



corner" when it comes to straightening out the finances at the Arena, although he did admit that there continues to be room for improvement.

"With our reorganization, we brought it [the Arena/ Arena operations] into City Hall and made it what it was supposed to be in the first place — another department of the city," Williamson added. "They are now playing by the same rules and have the same requirements as the public works department, the fire department, or the police department."

Williamson said that navigating the changes at the Arena has been a group effort, but he pointed out a few committee members specifically for their work in recent months. Those individuals were City Clerk Tori Brock, Deputy City Clerk Heather Bargo, and Financial Administrative Assistant Rhonda Moore.

Williamson also mentioned that longtime Box Office Manager Chelsie Chambers was recently named by the Corbin City Commission as the interim director at the Arena, also commending her for her recent efforts.

Williamson commented on the overall success of several recent shows at the Corbin Arena, and said that more exciting announcements are expected in the near future. In terms of upcoming shows that have already been announced, he said that the Saturday, Sept. 27, show featuring popular comedian Leanne Morgan has been so well received that promoters have decided to add a second performance that same day. For information on remaining ticket availability, visit [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

Potential road work update, plus more

Prior to wrapping up his presentation, Williamson fielded a few questions from Rotary Club members. When asked about the current prospects for improvements to be made to Kentucky Avenue (US 25W South) in downtown Corbin, he said that he and Mayor Suzie Razmus are continuing to engage in conversations with regional and state-level transportation officials regarding the matter.

Williamson reminded club members about the city's application for the SS4A (Safe Streets for All) transportation grant about one year ago, adding that "those things just take time."

"It's in terrible condition," Williamson said of the roadway adding that it would take more than just new asphalt to remedy the situation due to the multiple aging drainage conduits that run underneath the roadway.

"We're pushing as hard as we can," Williamson assured.

In response to a question regarding potential plans for the old motel property located on top of the hill near I-75 Exit 25 in south Corbin, Williamson informed that there has been an ongoing effort to locate the owners of the property, which is currently not incorporated in the city. Once the owners are located, he said that discussions can hopefully take place on possibilities for the future.

Finally, Williamson mentioned that there have been indications recently that bids will soon be let out for a road widening project on I-75 that will run from the Exit 29 overpass to around the 23-mile marker.

SHERMAN: Getting an education in nonprofits

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they hope will allow nonprofit managers to overcome current barriers and continue to provide vital services to those people they are intended to serve.

A packet that I picked up at the Corbin forum was titled "The Facts About Charitable Nonprofits, Federal Funding and Why It Matters to You." The six-pages included in the packet are filled with information, and offer an overview of several important topics, including Kentuckians who are most at-risk, the continued delivery of critical services, potential effects on employment and the economy, and ensuring that organizations providing services to the community remain accountable and transparent.

Again, there is a lot of information, but I will do my best to provide a snapshot of each individual topic.

When it comes to those who are affected by the work of nonprofits, or would be negatively affected if nonprofits ceased to operate as they do now, the KNN stresses that pretty much 100% of Kentucky residents are impacted by the work of charitable nonprofits in some form or fashion, whether it be directly or indirectly.

As for the nonprofit sector's ability to continue providing services in a variety of critical areas, the KNN is getting the word out that government sources account for 33% of annual revenue for nonprofits in Kentucky and that 66% of those nonprofits are now facing the potential loss of government funding. This would be bad news for the many thousands of citizens across the Commonwealth who are currently benefitting from the work being done by charitable nonprofit organizations.

In terms of employment and the economy, go back to some of the previous figures that I shared concerning the amount of people employed by nonprofits and how much money is paid out in the form of wages on a yearly basis. In addition to that, the KNN is highlighting the fact that, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Kentucky has the fifth-highest overall poverty rates in the country. Job loss anywhere is not good, but it could be especially catastrophic here, where so many are already dealing with a

severe lack of resources when compared to most other states.

Finally, the KNN is pointing out that charitable nonprofits must operate under strict government regulation and public scrutiny. Because of this, and other factors, they say that the idea of private philanthropy being able to fill the gap and ensure the continuation of various services is false, and will never work out as intended. Aside from the potential ethical risks, private donors would have to increase their giving by just over 280% in order to replace lost government funding. That's a 280% increase over the \$107 billion average that is already being given annually, by the way.

As you can see, there is a lot to look at here. There is a lot to consider, and a lot to chew on. For that reason, I am hopeful that I can follow up with Clore and some of the other folks who were present at the Corbin forum last week. I would love to hear more about some of the concerns that each individual organization is having right now, so stay tuned. We'll see what happens. In the meantime, learn more about the Kentucky Nonprofit Network by visiting them online at www.kynonprofits.org.

Very quickly before I wrap up... since we are discussing nonprofits, I wanted to mention that the News Journal is getting the opportunity to help out with a project that is going to spotlight a nonprofit organization that is doing great work in the local area. The project is being spearheaded by the Leadership Tri-County Class of 2025, and the winning organization will get some coverage here in our paper, as well as other publications in the tri-county area. Forcht Broadcasting is also offering some free airtime to help promote the chosen organization's good work. There is a nomination process currently underway where folks in the community can submit their ideas for which nonprofit they would like to see featured. More details can be found on our Facebook page, as well as the Facebook page for SAM 103.9 WWEL-FM in London. Thanks to Leadership Tri-County for putting this project together. We look forward to doing our part to help promote the chosen nonprofit!



ALLISON BALL AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Independent Auditor's Report

To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Pat White, Jr., Whitley County Judge/Executive
The Honorable William Elliott, Whitley County Sheriff
Members of the Whitley County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Whitley County Sheriff's Settlement - 2023 Taxes for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 - Regulatory Basis, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Whitley County Sheriff's financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 of the Whitley County Sheriff, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the taxes charged, credited, and paid of the Whitley County Sheriff, for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for Sheriffs' Tax Settlements*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Whitley County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Whitley County Sheriff on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Whitley County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not an absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Whitley County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Whitley County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 20, 2025, on our consideration of the Whitley County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Whitley County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball
Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

February 20, 2025

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

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