

# JUDGE

FROM **PAGE A2**

He said they also met with Vice Chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Mike Turner, who “produced a 39-page paper” on data centers, and Buddy Riser, “who was the Chairman of the Economic Development operation in Loudoun County ... that gives over 100 speeches a year nationally and internationally on data centers.”

Voegele said they also met with a homeowner whose house was “100 yards or so” from a data center development that has been in construction for seven years, though “they didn’t have any complaint, they said, about what was going on there.”

“We certainly didn’t leave as experts on data centers, but we’ve grown significantly and have a much firmer footing than we had when this subject first came up a couple of months ago,” Voegele concluded.

In other news, the court also had the first reading of their budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which will

span from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Chief Financial Officer Stan Clark said that the about \$71 million budget went “through the finance committee ... [and is] balanced to the point that we are pulling money out of reserves for a couple of capital projects”

Clark and Voegele further highlighted the following about the budget, which will have its second reading in about four weeks:

- The largest expense is personnel, including benefits and health insurance, which is consistent with keeping county employee pay competitive, the increase in health care costs and the state retirement rate deduction.
- The most notable expense expansion is the continuing growth of the police budget and, with the opening of the courthouse, the Oldham County’s Sheriff’s Office will be providing security
- About \$10 million set aside for the new police headquarters, which is a partial amount to be paid after architects return in a few weeks with a scaled down version closer to

\$18 million in total cost, as requested by county government.

- About \$1.6 million for the Oldham Reserve sewer project, which Voegele said has had more interest since the additional Interstate 71 exit and other road improvements started.
- About \$900,000 for 10 new police vehicles, Voegele said, as well as funding for more Flock cameras and other police equipment.

The court also also approved:

- A contract with Vaughn Pettit Legal Group to handle an appeal in regards to the classification of “private utility” for the OC Data Center application by an individual who County Attorney D. Berry Baxter has a conflict of interest with.
- A resolution allowing the application for a grant from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, which expects at least \$75,728.96, for the county to reimburse the parents of parochial school students for transportation costs — effective May 6, 2025.
- An investment policy statement, giving Stock Yards Bank more auton-

omy, within the regulations of Kentucky Revised Statutes, to make certain investment choices as to ensure opportunities are not missed.

- The Hidden Valley Road bank stabilization project to address erosion approaching the roadway — approved eight to one, Magistrate Brent Likins opposed.
- The AT&T Participation Agreement to purchase a briefcase-sized command post to allow mobile access to the Oldham County Dispatch system, with the one-time cost of \$35,100.
- The approximately \$1.1 million bid from Libs Paving for the Rollington Road roadway and drainage improvement project.
- An Oldham County Dispatch LanguageLine contract, which will allow dispatchers quicker access to translators and ultimately save money as it has been paid per use previously.
- The \$4,000 Waste Tire Grant to pay for the disposal of tires, which is being approved ahead of time because Oldham County Solid Waste Management has exceeded the

grant funds for the first time this year.

- The hiring of Matthew Proctor at the Oldham County Recycling Center, effective May 7.
- The hiring of Martin Alvarez at Oldham County Parks and Recreation, effective May 7.
- The hiring of Derek Kirby at Oldham County Maintenance, effective May 7.

- The promotions of Anthony Cheatham and David Haskins at Oldham County Animal Control, effective May 7.

The court also heard the following:

- The first reading of an administrative code amendment adding language that would transfer the responsibility of maintenance of county grounds from the Parks Department to the Roads Department.
- An update on the Drug Task Force from Baxter, for which a director job description has been created and, following positive conversations, is awaiting written confirmation that Opioid Abatement funds can be used. Upon approval, a meeting will be held with the judge executives

of Gallatin and Owen counties, who had previously said that they could only participate if Opioid Abatement funds were permitted to be used. Then, after Attorney General approval, participating counties will be approached for funding and the first meeting of the board of directors will be held — hopefully within the next 60 days.

- A public request from former Magistrate J. Albert Harrison, who submitted a complaint to the Ethics Commission in 2022 that later came before the Oldham Circuit Court, to publicly voice all topics prior to going into executive session and to better instruct the court members on the Open Meetings Act and Robert’s Rules of Order.
- A community thank you from Cindy Harbin on behalf of the Harmony Village and Oldham Acres neighborhoods for assistance after the recent flooding in the area.
- The resignation of Oldham County Police Officer Christopher Weires

The Oldham County Fiscal Court’s next meeting is scheduled for May 20 at 2 p.m.

# COUNCIL

FROM **PAGE A1**

Cedar Avenue and East Washington Street; and all of Springs Park.

The proposed boundary also extends on East Main Street to include the La Grange Railroad Museum, adding an additional stretch on Eddie Mundo Way to East Walnut Alley and East Walnut Alley to Cedar Avenue.

The entertainment center’s hours of operation are proposed to be from 1 p.m. to 12 a.m., “Sunday through Saturday,” the ordinance reads.

For consumers, the requirements would be to:

- Only use branded, non-reusable, 16-ounce clear cups provided upon purchase of an alcoholic beverage.
- Remain inside the boundary while in possession of an open alcoholic beverage.
- Only enter businesses with entertainment center permits, as denoted by a branded storefront sticker.
- Never bring any alcoholic beverage purchased outside the boundary into the entertainment center.

Participating businesses will have to obtain a specific Entertainment Destination Center permit from the City’s ABC Administrator in order to sell alcoholic beverages allowed freely in the boundary or to house persons in possession of the permitted alcoholic beverages. The permit is proposed to not require a fee, but businesses must pay for the required non-reusable cups.

Participating businesses also will have to:

- Post a visible, branded storefront sticker.
- Keep their city business current.
- Adhere to the entertainment center’s operational hours for the provision of alcoholic beverages to be carried or consumed outside of their business.
- Agree to indemnify the city and hold the city harmless for any incidents, injuries or losses incurred as a result of the holder operating within the entertainment center.
- Provide supplemental training to all servers and bartenders, which will include specific rules for the entertainment center.
- Terminate their permit upon transfer of ownership.

- Agree to forfeit their ABC license upon conviction of selling alcohol to minors.

Other proposed stipulations:

- Businesses or entities are permitted to sell alcohol from one or more non-permanent locations within the boundary as long as they hold the required license for each location and each location is “properly set up.”
- If permission is denied, suspended or revoked, the permit holder may file an appeal to the La Grange Board of Adjustments and Appeals within seven days of the notice.

The ordinance also says that the city will provide “safety measures” during operational hours, including “adequate security” and “control of roadways.”

In other news, the council voted down two resolutions against data centers in a four to three vote, with councilors Jason Taylor, Laura Taylor and Jason Kinser the only votes in favor — Councilor Lucy Ricketts abstaining due to absence.

The first resolution more generally regarded the proposed OC Data Center, mentioning negative impacts on traffic and “infrastructure capacity, including water and sewer systems,” before declaring opposition to the project, urging the Oldham County Fiscal Court to “withhold support or approval” and requesting the city be consulted about future projects of similar magnitude.

Mayor John Black first objected to the resolution because the project has been said to be “not served by sewers ... and it’s Oldham County Water that’s supposedly furnishing the supply of water,” not La Grange Utilities.

“The purpose of the ‘Whereas’ clause is to restate factual findings that have been established generally, not to just express opinions,” said City Attorney Beach Craigmyle. “If you just want to make this resolution that says ‘we think the traffic is going to be a mess and for that reason we oppose the project at its current location,’ that’s okay, but all this other stuff .. is just propaganda.”

Councilors Kenneth Powell and Trey Kamer said that, due to the council recently unanimously approving a 150-day moratorium to be sent to the

Planning Commission for review, the resolution was redundant as it is not legally binding and only acts as a declaration of opinion.

The second resolution mentioned the project’s “unique challenges related to land use compatibility, utility infrastructure, environmental impact, traffic, noise, water consumption and long term community planning” before declaring a 150-day moratorium on “applications, plans, permits, conditional use permits, or any other land use or development approval relating to data centers or hyperscale data centers.”

Despite Kinser saying that the resolution would “let developers know that there is a line they are going to have to cross,” Black and other councilors had similar objections of redundancy.

The council also had the following other first readings:

- Ordinance 9, Series 2025, which would amend ordinances 110.02 and 111.10 to add exemptions from license or permit requirements for individuals providing entertainment in an already-licensed event or establishment.
- Ordinance 3, Series 2025, adopting the city’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year — July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 — by estimating funds for operations of city government.
- Ordinance 4, Series 2025, adopting the city’s alcohol regulatory fees budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Ordinance 5, Series 2025, adopting the city’s annual city bus budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Ordinance 6, Series 2025, adopting the city’s annual stormwater MS4 budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Ordinance 7, Series 2025, adopting the city’s annual municipal road aid budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mayor John Black gave an overview of the city’s budget, highlighting the about 5% salary increase for city administration employees, \$150,000 allocated for improving playground equipment throughout the city, \$4 million allocated for Oldham Reserve’s sewers, \$472,000 for paving and \$745,000 for five new public works equipment.

The council also heard the following reports:

- Main Street Director Sarah Garrett reported

that Blue Hydrangea Tea was a success, with proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction going toward a donation to Ovarian Awareness of Kentucky. Also, The Rock Bottom Band will perform June 6 at Springs Park as the part of the Tracksides Tunes series and Artsfest will be held June 7 on Main Street.

- Josh Rahm from La Grange Utilities reported that the Oldham Reserve pump station is about 30% constructed, the sewer rehab project has been awarded and is planning to start in June, the court water rehab project will go out to bid soon and the First Street rehab project is in design
- La Grange Police Major Corey Adams

reported that April had 962 instances of police activity, Officer Mark Hoskins was promoted to Sergeant and officers Jady Wade and Allen Schneble were commended for their response to the Feb. 26 Dollar Tree robbery.

- Parks and Recreation Director Stephen Hall reported that the restrooms at Walsh Park and Wilborn Park have been opened for the season and the splash pad at Springs Park is ready to be activated May 23. Hall also reported that he turned in his resignation, his last day to be on May 16, and was commended for the work he has done for the city.
- Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Wenthert reported that City Cleanup

Day was a success, collecting 4,920 pounds of scrap metal, 30 bikes, about 70 tires and otherwise filling seven 30-ton dumpsters. During April there were three inoperable vehicles dealt with, an uptick in property maintenance issues, 41 courtesy notices issued for tall grass, 30 courtesy notices issued for parking violations, nine cases of rubbish in alleys or yards and 1,346 business licenses have been processed.

The next regularly-scheduled La Grange City Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 2, where a second reading will be held for the entertainment center. A special meeting has been scheduled for 6 p.m. on May 29.

## We Are Oldham County ❤️

### BBQ Cookout! Sponsored by



**May 16, 2025, 5PM - 7PM**  
**Oldham Plaza, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, La Grange**  
**RAIN OR SHINE!!!**

**All proceeds to benefit We Are Oldham County and our effort to stop data centers in OC!**



**Bring The Family & Come Hungry!**

**Everyone is Invited!**

**Enjoy Pork BBQ Hot Dogs, Sides, Cookies, Drinks, Kids Meals, and Support Your Community!**

**\$12 per adult, \$3 per child**

# DEATH

FROM **PAGE A1**

The woman was later identified as 55-year-old Gina L. Hawkins. According to a La

Grange Police media release, preliminary investigation indicates that there is no risk to public safety, though investigation is ongoing. The release also states that no addition-

al information will be released at this time. Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the La Grange Police Department at 502-225-0444, or online at lagrangepoliceky.org.