



# The Winchester Sun



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## Downtown business owners speak during work session

BY MATT CIZEK

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On Tuesday, August 19, the Winchester City Commission held its regular 4:30 p.m. meeting.

At the meeting, the topic of the Main Street High Side project was a primary focus.

Specifically, many downtown business owners came forth to address thoughts and, at times,

concerns to local City Commissioners.

Having accepted submissions beforehand of areas business owners would like to talk about, the meeting largely focused on five topics: contractor oversight, accountability & infrastructure; TIF (Tax Increment Financing) fund transparency & access; code enforcement consistency & fairness; downtown reopening plan; and long-term downtown

government collaboration, respect & inclusion.

City Manager Bruce Manley responded to the five topics with a variety of statements.

"I think it's important to understand that this project is a Kentucky Transportation Academy KYTC Project. They are the ultimate decision makers on all aspects of the work," he said. "The Allen Company has been awarded the bid and given us the

authority to oversee the project on a day-to-day basis...additionally, Palmer Engineering has been assigned an on-site inspector for the project, and the City of Winchester and Palmer provide advice and support as needed."

An official document sent to City Clerk Joy Curtis was critical of both Palmer Engineering and The Allen Company, stating that the companies had not consistently adhered to the scope or

requirements outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

As a result, issues such as lack of communication had created instability for many of the businesses, and quality concerns were evident.

However, some business owners - including Mason on Main's Mason Rhodus - expressed more support for the businesses.

See **BUSINESS**, on 2

## Wild goat chase in Winchester



The Winchester Police Department was in hot pursuit last Friday—of a goat. The furry fugitive was eventually apprehended with help of a civilian and turned over to the Clark County Animal Shelter. (Photos courtesy of Winchester PD Facebook page)

## GRC football falls in season opener

BY MATT CIZEK

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Betting odds were high entering Friday night's contest that the Cards would emerge victorious in their season opener.

Unfortunately for GRC fans, it wasn't true for the football team reigning from George Rogers Clark High School on Boonesboro Road.

Traveling to Georgetown, the Cards competed early before falling in convincing fashion 42-6 to the Scott County High School Cardinals.

"That's a good football team we played. We made some minor mistakes, and they [took] advantage," he said. "We got to clean that up and be ready for next week."

Before the game, as many filed into the stadium for an always highly-anticipated season opener, celebrations and honors were already being paid.

GRC defensive back Evan Davenport and Scott County lineman Max McNeel were each gifted \$250 for the Good Works Scholarship with Bluegrass Orthopaedics, while both Chirico and Scott County Head Coach Jim McKee wore a dress shirt and tie to honor late Belfry Head Coach Philip Haywood, the all-time winningest Kentucky high school football coach who died in an automobile accident in January.

See **GRC**, on 2

## City Commission recognizes Elkins, provides project update

BY MATT CIZEK

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The Winchester City Commission met on Tuesday, August 19.

Several items were on the agenda - including honors and updates to projects.

Among them was one honoring Republican State Senator Greg Elkins.

Elkins, a Clark County native and longtime businessman, won the 28th District seat in the Kentucky Senate during a special election in 2023.

At Tuesday's meeting, he received the Kentucky League of Cities' Friend of Cities Award.

"There's not a better person you could have...representing you all," stated Gracie Kelly, Director of Government Affairs at Kentucky League of Cities. "He is loyal. He's

a friend, and [with] every single issue that comes up...if he thinks it impacts local government...he [contacts] me...that is a true gift."

According to the website of the Kentucky General Assembly at Legislator-Profile.aspx, Elkins - who is a member of numerous committees and caucuses - served as a sponsor on numerous bills during both the 2024 and 2025 regular sessions.

Particularly, he was a primary sponsor of bills involving school bus safety and school boards, contracts for the improvement of real estate, motor vehicles and railroad operations, and more.

He has also sponsored various Senate Resolutions, including one honoring George Rogers Clark High School's JROTC for their victory at the 2024 U.S. Army Cadet Junior ROTC Raider Challenge.

J.D. Chaney, CEO and Executive Director, provided some thoughts.

"It's always a good reason to be able to come to a city to honor the legislative work of a legislator," he said. "Our Board of Directors selects a handful of legislators who step up and stand out on legislative issues, especially for local government and city governments...so it's not the easiest award to achieve."

Elkins also responded.

"What Winchester needs isn't necessarily what Paducah needs or what Lexington needs," he said. "It means a lot to me to support our local governments."

In other news, Clark County Circuit Court Clerk Tony Kirk was present and gave an update regarding construction of a new courthouse.

See **COMMISSION**, on 2



Surrounded by members of the City Commission and staff from Kentucky League of Cities, senator Greg Elkins accepts the organization's Friend of Cities Award. (Photo by Matt Cizek)

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