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KY Heritage Council Attends City Council Meeting

The Beattyville City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 2026. Mayor Scott Jackson called the meeting to order. Sally Gilbert took attendance of the council members. Council members Savannah Mays and Mitch Cornelius were absent. Councilman Sam Cockerham led the Opening Invocation.

Katie Wilburn of Kentucky Heritage Council spoke to the council about the Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program. This is a state program that is administered in Frankfort. "Today, I hope you all can walk away knowing who's eligible, what this tax credit is, how it might benefit Beattyville and your community and how to submit an application and be successful", stated Wilburn.

Rehabilitation is a federally defined term which means to celebrate the unique features of each distinct building. Rehabilitation looks different for every single property because every property has its own set of historic features. The Tax Credit is a dollar for dollar credit toward income taxes owed. Wilburn stated, "If you have lived or worked on a historic building, you know the cost of repairs and maintaining the building come at a higher cost than maybe new construction. This program seeks to help balance it and give an incentive back to the property owner. The program can help with minor to major repairs. The property must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Beattyville's Downtown is now a National Historic District. Some properties in this area are eligible for this program. There are two programs: the federal and the state. The federal program first and it has a narrow point of view. The state program came about in 2005 and it mirrors the federal program but it allows for greater flexibility. The state program offers 30% of your qualifying expenses back for personal residences. All other building types including tax exempt owned properties, places of worship, churches can qualify for 20% state. The state and federal can be tag teamed on top of each other for income producing properties where the owner has state and federal tax liability.

Wilburn stated the city may be interested in pursuing a rehabilitation tax credit on the WPA Building. The state has a cap of 24 months to get the project completed and can be done in phases. However, individuals must get one phase done before they may move on to the next. The whole project must be reviewed by KY Heritage Council's office and ensure that it is compatible with the historic building. After a tax credit is awarded, there is a three year monitoring period for the state program and five years for the federal. This is in place to make sure that taxpayers' dollars are not being awarded to folks that turn

around and undo all the work that they have just been approved for.

Paul Nesbitt from Nesbitt Engineering gave his monthly update stating the following, "We don't have a whole to report. Things are continuing on. We are waiting on the WPA Building. We just need to know what to do and where to go. The same for the Police Building. The WasteWater Treatment Improvement Project - we have been working on it. They have got the Release of Funds and we are real close. We are going to have an electrical engineer and a process engineer meeting with Travis to go through and give him what he wants."

Nesbitt stated the 587 Utility Construction is now complete. The Phase 2 Water System - Nesbitt is currently getting shop drawings (every piece of equipment that the contractor buys, he gives the manufacturer's literature and Nesbitt will have to review it to make sure that it meets the intent of the project). Phase 3 is underway. The Water Tank Rehab - Nesbitt is currently waiting on RD to tell them what to do next and are working with the AD District to get the funding released for Crystal Creek and Beattyville Outlook. Nesbitt did a preliminary layout of the Bald Rock Fork Road for a waterline extension.

The Division of Water sent the mayor part of the writing saying that the city needs to develop at the water treatment plant a Ground Water Protection Plan and a Best Management Practice for construction activities. That is something that Nesbitt will put together for the city. Mayor Jackson stated, "a lot of these subdivisions are being built right now. They are not following the guidelines of the state. We are not going to be setting any more meters until they get the okay from the Division of Water. It is a process that they have to go through and they have left it out."

Michael Smith from KRADD gave his report stating the following, "CDBG Grants open up on April 1st. Jennifer knows more about this than I do. It is a first come, first served this year. I am working on two AMLER Grants or you right now. They are Crystal Creek and the Three Forks Mercantile Hub. I will be reaching out to you later this month to wrap those up. They are not due until May but I want to get them done early. The Waste Water Treatment Plant Rehab - we got Release of Funds as of February 12, 2026."

A motion was made and carried to approve the first reading of the Annexation Request that Douglas Brandenburg requested last month. A second reading will be done next month.

A motion was made and carried to approve a Resolution to "Show Support of US Troops" yellow ribbon project.

A motion was made and carried to donate \$100 (the same as last year) to Project Prom.

Teresa Mays from the Main Street & Economic Development gave her report. She passed out a list that consisted of things listed that they have been working on. On March

Red River Gorge Coffee Shop: A Dream Brewed Close to Home

By: Jessica Iacono - Publisher

For Anna Moore, coffee has always been more than just a morning pick-me-up — it's been a passion that started back in high school. Today, that passion has turned into a small business that allows her to serve her community while staying close to what matters most: her family.

Moore, a member of the LCMHS Class of 2022 and the daughter of Natasha and Bo Moore, opened the Red River Gorge Coffee Shop in August 2025 with a simple but meaningful goal. After working as a barista in high school and discovering her love for coffee culture, she dreamed of owning a place of her own — one where she could still be present as a mother.

"I wanted something that filled my cup as a person while still allowing me to be a mom," Moore said.

That dream has become reality. Moore runs the shop while raising her two young sons, Richard, 2, and Elijah, 4 months with the support of her life partner Brendan. The family-centered approach is reflected in the welcoming environment Moore has created.

The Red River Gorge Coffee Shop offers a variety of fresh coffee drinks along with breakfast and lunch sandwiches. The business also provides catering services and hosts small events on its deck space, giving the community a place to gather. Moore says creating a kid-friendly atmosphere is especially important to her. The shop regularly hosts themed events designed to bring families together.

Throughout the year, customers can look forward to monthly themed activities. During the holiday season, the shop hosted a popular "Cookies with Santa" event. Around Valentine's Day, guests enjoyed a coffee and flower bouquet event, and Moore is currently planning a St. Patrick's Day kids craft night.

In addition to seasonal events, the shop also hosts special gatherings like painting classes, providing a creative outlet for both adults and children.

Customers can contact the Red River Gorge Coffee Shop through Facebook Messenger or by calling 859-893-9810, and her hours are Monday from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. With a love for coffee, a heart for community, and a business built around family; Moore's coffee shop is quickly becoming a welcoming stop for locals and visitors alike.



4th they submitted an AARP Community Challenge Grant requesting \$15,000 for improvements along the Main Street Mile walking route, including mile markers, benches along the walk and crosswalk striping to improve walkability and safety. Those will be awarded sometime in June. The mayor and Mays met with Bob Perkins on March 4th about the KRADD Community Econ Development Planning Grant (funded through Brownfields) that includes funding that would hire a planner that could come in and help the city with a strategic plan to look at long term redevelopment for downtown and specific properties as well.

The first 2026 monthly Cruise In will be Saturday, April 4th at Town Square and start around 5pm on Saturday.

Due to computer issues, no police report was given from Sparks.

Ferrell Wise stated that they had received 86 calls since the last meeting for water, garbage and sewer. They have completed 78 of the work orders. The mayor said that some of the work orders are from people wanting water hooked up but they have not provided the necessary permits from the plumber.

Sally Gilbert stated that tax money will be coming in again in April. A motion was made and carried to accept the Financial Report.

Mayor Jackson informed the council that they had found and purchased a bucket truck and that all they had been looking at cost between \$14,000 and \$22,000. Jackson stated the city only paid \$5,200 for theirs.



Beattyville Main Street