

GEORGETOWN CITY COUNCIL

City councilmembers consider data center ban

By Jack Thomas
Georgetown News-Graphic
jthomas@news-graphic.com

City Council requested more information about Woodford County’s recent ban on data center developments to consider if and how the City may be able to implement something similar at its meeting Monday, Sept. 14. No action was taken regarding data centers during the meeting.

Councilmember Tammy Lusby Mitchell spurred the data center conversation Monday, alluding to Woodford County’s decision to ban data center development in the County less than two weeks ago.

“I’m interested in how they were able to find something that would pass muster, and to see if perhaps we think that it does actually, or if it will be challenged,” Lusby Mitchell said. “I would love for us as a council to be able to look at what they passed around that.”

Georgetown is currently blanketed under Scott County Fiscal Court’s data center moratorium, which bans the consideration of data

center developments throughout the County until the end of 2026. While Fiscal Court is currently in the process of drafting a data center ordinance, which came before Georgetown-Scott County Planning Commission (GSCPC) at a special-called meeting Thursday, Sept. 18, after press time, the City has not yet moved forward with its own data center ordinance.

Nationally, “a lot of places” are moving forward with data center regulations as opposed to outright bans, GSCPC Senior Planner Elise Ketz said Monday, an approach taken locally on other controversial development types including solar farms and those under “adult-oriented” uses.

“The way that the language of the ordinance is kind of written at this point in time is a more regulate over an outright ban type of approach, and then just be very specific and very intentional about what that language looks like,” Ketz said. “Having very specific noise standards, having very specific setback standards, lot size stan-

dards, percent of prime farmland standards—all these kinds of things craft this ordinance, which we believe is a stronger approach, potentially, than a ban.”

“I don’t think we need to copy Fiscal Court’s (data center ordinance). I think Georgetown proper can come up with their own planning and zoning regulation that may be different from the county.”

Willow Hambrick
Councilmember

Councilmember Willow Hambrick requested more information about the impacts of regulating versus banning in the form of a pros-and-cons list.

“In my mind, I don’t want any data centers at all, so how can we make the regulations strong enough so that we would not have any of that happen if some places are able to actually ban it with legal muster?” Hambrick said. “To me, why not? I agree with Tammy—I don’t think we need to copy Fiscal Court’s (data center ordinance). I think Georgetown proper can come up

with their own planning and zoning regulation that may be different from the county.”

An outright ban would prevent any “gray area” for GSCPC, Councilmember Todd Stone said, referencing the commission’s ability to grant variances when a project does not meet all standards. Councilmember Kim Menke stressed the importance of defining all aspects of data center development if Council was to move forward with a ban so that they are “clear on what it is that we’re banning,” he said.

“When we say data centers, everybody automatically jumps to these mega-sites and those kinds of things,” Menke said. “If you’re following any of the activity, there are very small, dedicated

data centers that are small, that are built into existing manufacturing or other systems that take care of Amazon and those kinds of things. So there are different types.

“... Obviously, if you’ve got something the size of Toyota, that’s going to be pretty easy to say, ‘Well, do you want that or not? Well, maybe not.’ But if you’ve got this small area that these smaller data centers that are self-contained inside buildings that have the latest and greatest technology and energy generation and cooling technology and those kinds of things, where you don’t have a lot of the issues that you do with these large data centers, then maybe that’s something worth evaluating to see whether or not they make sense in your

community or not. It just depends.”

The working ordinance draft for data center regulations in the County places the developments in the I-2 heavy industrial zone, Ketz said. Proposed data centers would have to go through a number of hearings and votes before construction could begin.

“You’d have to do a rezoning process, which is a public hearing; It would ultimately come before you guys,” she said. “If it’s not in city limits, which it is potentially unlikely to be, you’d be looking at an annexation hearing as well.”

“From that point, if it makes it through the zoning map amendment and your guys’ forum, you’ll be looking at a development plan process as well as a conditional use permit for that district, so it’s treated with a lot of caution, with a lot of public engagement throughout that process. You’re looking at two different boards from our office always coming back to you guys. ... It’s a very engaged process, a lot of public comment, a lot of public involvement and that type of thing.”

GEORGETOWN250/SCOTT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOTO COURTESY OF GSC MUSEUM

Treasure hunting through history

From 1837 to 1911, the Particular Baptist Church of Georgetown occupied the corner of E. Main and N. Mulberry Streets. The church pictured was built in 1856. The congregation had dwindled to seven by 1911 and they sold the property to the federal government. Four years later a post office opened for business and remained in operation until it moved in 1998. Now the Georgetown & Scott County Museum occupies the spot.

Georgetown250 and the Georgetown Scott County Planning Commission is sponsoring a treasure hunt during the month of September. Prizes will be awarded in October to people who correctly identify historic buildings and their existing business occupants by using photographs, clues, and maps. Contest booklets can be picked up at the Scott County Library or the Georgetown Scott County Planning Commission.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth “Betty” Masters Hester

Elizabeth “Betty” Masters Hester, 97, widow of Robert Woods Hester Sr., passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026. Born in Irvine, Kentucky, she was the daughter of the late Albert Franklin and Stella Goe Masters.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky, where she earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Betty began a lifelong career in education. An English and French teacher, she taught in Fayette County Public Schools, Burgin Independent School, and at the University of Kentucky. Betty loved to travel, and she and her late husband traveled throughout Europe and Russia. She also volunteered with the Navajo Nation. A member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Betty enjoyed

reading, studying theology and philosophy, and spending time at the lake. Most of all, she cherished the time she spent with her family. Known for her positivity and quick wit, Betty lived a full and wonderful life. She is survived by her children, Carrie Johnson and Robert (Betty) Hester, Jr.; grandchildren, Sarah Johnson Price, Christopher (Tara) Johnson, Lauren (Josh) Lynch, and Michael (Grace) Hester; seven great-grandchildren; and her brother, Bill Masters.

In addition to her parents and her childhood sweetheart, Bobby, to whom she was married for 65 years, she was preceded in death by her siblings, Albert Franklin Masters, Jr., Halmire Masters, Eloise Mackey, and Norma Holbrook. Ms. Hester’s entire family would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Martha Wells and “the girls” for the love and care they gave to Gran.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026, at the Episcopal Church

of the Holy Trinity, conducted by The Rev. Karen Booth. Burial will follow at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21 at Johnson’s Funeral Home in Georgetown. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, 209 S. Broadway, Georgetown, KY, or Burgin Christian Church, PO Drawer D, Burgin, KY 40310. www.johnsonsfuneralhome.com.

Leanna Jo Covington

Leanna Jo Covington, 79, died at home on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026.

Visitation and Services for Leanna will be on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at Tucker, Yocum & Wilson Funeral Home from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Celebration of Life will begin at 12 p.m.

Friends and family may share their memories, photos, and condolences on Leanna’s tribute wall at www.TuckerYocumWilson.com.

Medicare open enrollment begins Oct. 15

Special to the News-Graphic

Every year, Medicare’s open enrollment period is October 15 - December 7. Medicare Advantage and drug plans can make changes each year—things like cost, coverage, and what providers and pharmacies are in their networks. October 15 to December 7 is when all people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plans and prescrip-

tion drug coverage for the following year to better meet their needs.

People in a Medicare Advantage or prescription drug plan should always review the materials their plans send them, like the “Evidence of Coverage” (EOC) and “Annual Notice of Change” (ANOC). If their plans are changing, they should make sure their plans will still meet their needs for the following year. If they’re satisfied that their current plans will meet their needs for next year and it’s still being offered, they don’t need to do anything. These materials should be

mailed out prior to October 1 of each year.

Your Medicare SHIP Program can provide comparison assistance at no charge to you. Medicare SHIP does NOT sell or endorse any insurance company. We are here to help you make informed decisions regarding your Medicare needs. Additionally, our program can screen you for money-saving benefits to help with lowering your medication and Medicare premium cost among helping with other monthly expenses.

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