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Residents push back on proposed restaurant, lodging taxes in Russellville

BY CHRIS COOPER
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

A standing-room-only crowd packed Tuesday's Russellville City Council meeting to voice opposition to two proposed ordinances that would levy a 3% restaurant tax and establish a city tourism commission funded by a new transient lodging tax.

Because Tuesday's meeting served as the first reading of the ordinances, the council took no vote. A second reading and vote will be scheduled for a future meeting yet to be determined.

If approved, the measures would institute a 3% restaurant tax and create a municipal tourism commission empowered to impose a 3% transient occupancy tax on hotel rooms, cabins, lodging, campsites, recreational vehicle parks and any other places where accommodations are regularly furnished.

Numerous residents and business owners spoke against the proposals during the meeting, repeatedly arguing the taxes would create a financial hardship for local residents and businesses.

Several Russellville restaurant and hospitality workers warned the council that the taxes would directly hurt local residents.

Derek Skipworth, owner of Slappyz in Russellville, questioned why restaurants were being targeted and criticized a lack of public notice. Skipworth said he learned about the issue only a day before the meeting and noted that many more restaurant owners would have attended had they known.

Mandy Gaddie, manager of the Russellville Sonic, said that while Sonic is a national brand, its employees and customers are local residents. She told the council the tax would trickle down to her staff through reduced tips and fewer working hours if residents cut back on dining out.

Citizen Holly Bowman challenged the council's data, citing the Kentucky Annual Economic Report.

"Do we know how many people come to Russellville?" Bowman asked the council, adding that officials should have gathered those figures before introducing the ordinances. "Logan County has a

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Chris Cooper/News-Democrat & Leader

A large crowd came to the Russellville City Council meeting Tuesday evening; two ordinances were read regarding taxing restaurants within the city limit as well as creating a city tourism commission.

Celebrating Our Veterans



Denise Shoulders/News-Democrat & Leader

Veterans and their family members stand for the Pledge of Allegiance during American Legion Post 29's Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11. More photos on A6.

Adairville looks at repair liability in proposed water line acquisition

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

Adairville City Council members continued discussions regarding a potential agreement to acquire a water service line from the South Logan Water Association during their Nov. 9 meeting, instructing Mayor Donna Blake to negotiate terms before bringing a final deal back for approval.

First introduced during the council's October regular meeting, the proposed transfer involves a line serving eight customers located north of town and south of the North Branch of the Red River.

Blake informed the council that the manager of the Logan-Todd Regional Water Commission (LTRWC) recently asked if Adairville would assume ownership of the line if LTRWC paid the $24,000 purchase price requested by the South Logan

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12 Kentucky counties selected for post-election review

BY CHRIS COOPER
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

Logan County Clerk Stacy Watkins said she wasn't surprised that Logan County was randomly selected by Attorney General Russell Coleman on continued efforts to protect the integrity of Kentucky's elections.

In accordance with state law, General Coleman randomly selected 12 counties to undergo additional inquiry following the 2026 General Election,

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Logan schools weigh options after nickel tax rejection

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

Logan County school officials are re-evaluating facility priorities and exploring redistricting options after voters rejected a proposed property "nickel tax" during the Nov. 3 general election.

District residents voted 4,704 to 2,164 against the facility tax proposal, blocking both new local revenue and nearly $20 million in state matching funds intended for construction and major renovations.

Addressing the Logan County Board of Education during its November meeting Tuesday night, Superintendent Dan Costellow acknowledged the setback while pointing to the district's past resilience.

"It's certainly a disappointment about the election results, but as I told the principals, we've been in this situation before," Costellow said. "Right now, we're in a situation where we

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