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Council hears audit report at long May monthly meeting

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City council holds April regular meeting

Albany City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 6, with all council members present.

Although only a few items of business were actually voted on, they did continue discussion of ongoing water projects and related issues, and heard a positive financial report.

The council first approved minutes from its previous meeting on a motion by Councilman Tim Norris.

One of the few actions taken during the meeting was the approval of the second and final reading of the Fire Recovery ordinance, an issue that had been discussed and reviewed by the council for several months.

Councilman Reed Sloan made the motion to approve final reading of the ordinance, which passed by unanimous vote.

The Fire Recovery ordinance basically allows for the Albany Fire Department to do its billing to insurance companies for applicable runs in-house, rather than contracting with an outside company to manage such billing.

The program aims to help the fire department recover the cost of runs made involving such things as auto accidents, etc., that are covered by a person's insurance carrier.

The council also held first reading on the city's proposed 2025-26 fiscal year budget with no votes being required on first reading. Second and final reading of the budget will be held in June after council members have time to review the budget and propose any changes.

Later in the meeting, Julie Denney gave the city's monthly financial report, briefly discussing the new budget, but also informing the council that as of March 31, the city was under budget in all departments, which is a good indication for the city's financial outlook.

It was also noted that the new budget included funding that would fix and not just 'band-aid' repairs to the lift station at the corner of East Cumberland and Hospital Streets.

That particular lift station has cost the city thousands of dollars in repair work over the past few decades.

Councilman Eric Smith then presented an issue to the council involving whether or not the city had a policy pertaining to (water) meters being given away to someone else.

Smith said in some situations a meter would be given to another person and that meter would be moved to another property, noting that the meter "belonged to the city."

The councilman further said he had no problem with someone moving a meter from one location on their property to another, but not in allowing one to be moved to an entirely different property without an installation charge levied.

Some council members felt such situations should be handled on a case by case basis.

However, following discussion on the matter, City Attorney Jeff Hoover advised there needed to be a uniform policy in place, with the city getting a cost estimate on such things as road boars, parts and labor, etc. from the water department and present that situation where meters are moved from one property to another are deemed as a new installation.

Councilman Smith also asked about the three water tanks, noting they continued to all be full, but "running over."

Although all the tanks being full is a good thing, Mayor James Bray had noted earlier in the meeting that a company was in the process of making repairs to the shut-off valves that shuts the water flow off automatically.

During the repair work, which was expected to be complete within a few days, the tank flow was being shut off manually.

The mayor, in his monthly report to the council, also said the water department had discovered and repaired 43 water leaks--thanks in large part to new water loss detection equipment--and installed several new meter boxes over the past month.

The mayor also urged all residents, as a way to save water and keep water use reduction and costs down, to report any water leaks they may be aware of. He said they could call city hall at anytime, 606-387-6011, or visit the city's web page to report leaks.

Mayor Bray also said again, "we desperately need a new water treatment facility," adding there is an upcoming meeting in Frankfort that would involve the city engineers to discuss a possible new funding program that may assist in helping finance such a plant.

Albany Police Chief Mark Bell then

See COUNCIL, page 4



Water line break, could have been caused by earthquake

A main water line burst Saturday, spraying water some 15 feet or more in the air on Spring Street behind First & Farmers National Bank.

Albany Mayor James Bray said the water distribution crew started working to repair the major water leak around 11:35 a.m., shortly after it was called into dispatch.

The leak took more than eight hours to repair and water was restored to the line around 8 p.m. Saturday night, May 10.

"We are pleased to announce that the water main is fixed and needs no further repairs," Bray said. "The affected water main line was an old cast iron line with a two inch hole in it. It could have burst due to it being an old line or possibly the tremors from the earthquake."

An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.1 was reported 15 miles from Maryville, Tennessee, on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 8:04 a.m. Reports indicate tremors were felt in Clinton County.

Industrial Development Authority holds meeting

The Clinton County Industrial Development Authority (CCIDA) Board held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 8, with five of seven board members present.

The bulk of the 40-minute session involved a discussion for grant opportunities with officials from the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

The 11 a.m. meeting, which was held via Zoom, was called to order by board Chairman Randy Jones, with the board first approving minutes from its March regular meeting.

Andy Lutter and Kylee Palmer, both representatives for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development (KCED) discussed with board members about upcoming grant opportunities for the CCIDA.

The representatives discussed ways to seek funding to enhance economic development in the county.

The group will discuss more available options at the next IDA board session.

IDA Executive Director April Speck then reviewed claims and bills, with board member Barney Latham making a motion to approve, seconded by Shane Smith, and the motion passed unanimously.

Under new business, Speck informed the board that Thomas Spalding, CCIDA bookkeeper, has taken another position and is no longer with the CPA firm, thus a new CPA firm is taking over the CCIDA account.

On a motion by Kim Stockton, the board then entered into an approximate 10-minute closed session for a loan review, with no action being taken upon returning to open session.

There were no county or city updates presented to the board at last week's meeting, nor old business brought forth. Also there was no open discussion from the public presented.

The next regular meeting of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) will be held July 10 at 11 a.m. via Zoom.



This week's edition of the Clinton County News is wrapped in the Graduation Section to honor the

Class of 2025.

Congratulations C.C.H.S. graduates!

ARRESTED

Law enforcement officers from the area continue to battle the local war on drugs, and criminal activity in general, which resulted in the following recent arrests:



Richard Ferguson

Richard Ferguson, 58, of Albany, was arrested and charged with criminal possession of a forged instrument in the second degree. He was lodged in the Clinton County Jail and arrested by the Clinton County Sheriff's Department.

Readers are reminded that suspects charged and arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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