

Board of Commissioners meets

BY DEVON WILLIAMS
NEWS REPORTER

On Tuesday, June 17, the City of Cynthiana Board of Commissioners held their second regular meeting of the month.

After the standard call to order and invocation, Mayor Isaac Dailey opened the floor to visitor Raymond Huellemeier to voice his concerns about a possible property annexation.

"We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed rezoning of 14 and a half acres from A1 to R2 to expand the White Oaks Subdivision Estates," opened Huellemeier. "As adjacent landowners, we believe this development would negatively impact public safety, infrastructure, property values and the environment."

Huellemeier noted the existence of what he referred to as an unusually high

concentration of sink holes in the area that's under consideration for annexation. He read aloud his letter to the editor for the Cynthiana Democrat and voiced in detail his concerns in an allotted 10 minute time-frame.

"I thank you for your time and for your service," Huellemeier ended.

"We currently are awaiting approval from the Fiscal Court on the zoning change, it will come before them before it comes to us ... we don't currently have that on the agenda for tonight but will make sure it is publicized when we will have the first reading and it will require a second reading before a decision," answered Mayor Dailey.

"I hope the information I shared hits home," Huellemeier added. "I think it is important that we consider safety in addition to tax dollars and more homes and everything like that. There's

much better property in Harrison County than there is right here."

- Mayor Dailey motioned to approve minutes from the June 3, 2025 meeting, which carried.

- Municipal Order 2025-1 Amending Sick Leave Donation was approved.

- Commission conducted the first reading of Ordinance #1672 amending the budget for fiscal year-end 2025.

- The first reading of Ordinance #1673 adopting budget for fiscal year 2026 was conducted.

- The first reading of Ordinance #1674 annexing property owned by Harrison Memorial Hospital was conducted.

Reports
- Mayor Dailey updated everyone on his list of meetings that he's attended in recent days. Also, in regards to the upcoming code enforcement meeting, he

noted that he will be accepting applications for those interested in applying for a code enforcement board position.

He also noted that the city will be getting a new gas supply line at the start of 2026. It will run under the Licking River. Mayor Dailey also noted that he learned that our City of Cynthiana Water Department is number one on a funding grant.

- Mayor Dailey read in Commissioner Mattmiller's stead the finance report for Public Property and Finance. He made a motion to pay the bills – \$61,261.01 in general fund, \$107,950.66 in the water and sewer fund. The motion carried.

Cash in the bank, general fund is \$259,366.18, water and sewer fund is \$347,695.05 and municipal road aid fund is \$83,873.25.

- Taylor Peoples, Commissioner of Police Safety motioned to authorize to accept

Stephen Muntz resignation effective June 30, 2025, which carried.

Peoples then motioned to authorize to offer employment to an individual as a full-time police officer recruit contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment requirements, which carried.

Next he motioned to authorize to use DEA Asset Forfeiture Equitable Sharing Funds in the amount of \$340 to pay Smitty Tint for services on the K9 cruiser.

Another motion was made, this to authorize signature of CCR grant award, \$125,000 for expanded outreach with Social Work Program, which carried.

A motion was made to advertise internally for full-time Police Officer/School Resource Officer until position filled, which carried.

Peoples then held a short discussion regarding sick time donation for Officer Branham,

discussed at the previous meeting.

Peoples closed with a short discussion on the new "no-parking" signage on Clifton Road, stating that he met with a majority of Clifton Road residents to speak with them directly on how they felt on the matter.

- Commissioner of Fire Safety and Emergency Services Roger Slade motioned to accept immediate resignation for firefighter Brendan Allen, effective immediately, which carried.

Slade also made a motion to authorize \$0.50 pay increase for Stephanie Neace for TAC Officer duties, which carried.

- David Conner, the commissioner of public utilities and works, gave a short report.

On Friday, June 20, a special meeting was held at the City Clerk's Office where second readings of the three ordinances listed above were conducted.

Harrison County Fiscal Court

BY DEVON WILLIAMS
NEWS REPORTER

On Tuesday, June 10, the Harrison County Fiscal Court held their first meeting of the summer month.

After the standard opening roll-call, pledge and approval of prior meeting minutes, the meeting began.

With no old business to discuss, Judge Jason Marshall went straight into new business.

First-off, Judge Marshall made a motion to consider approval to advertise for bids for site work and utilities to complete the Recreation Center project. A representative of Judy Construction Company, Clinton Jones, was in attendance and voiced a grievance with this in regards to their accepted 2024 bid. Judge Marshall explained that due to federal money being involved, it was mandated that the next part of the project go through a bidding process.

Jones stated that "it needs to be in this meeting that any prior pricing and/or information or drawings provided by either Judy Construction Company is a proprietary design and shall not be shared to the public."

After discussion and explanation on the mandated

bidding process, the motion carried.

Next up was a consideration of approval to renew Janitorial Service contract with Sandra Cash for cleaning of County Offices and Justice Center for one year at same rate of pay, which carried.

A motion was made to consider approval to authorize signing of the Inmate Housing Agreement with Bourbon County Nicholas County Regional Jail Authority, which carried.

As a matter of record, Judge Marshall noted that Chris Harris resigned as part-time Parks & Recreation laborer effective April 30, 2025.

As another matter of record, Judge Marshall noted Jessica Carmon resigned as part-time Animal Shelter Manager effective May 30, 2025.

A motion to consider approval to move Audree Prather from part-time animal shelter kennel worker to full-time kennel worker effective June 2, 2025, at \$12 an hour, carried.

Motion to consider approval to hire James Logan Harris at \$10 an hour as part time Parks & Recreation laborer effective June 6, 2025 carried.

Finally, Judge Marshall motioned to consider approval to advertise for bids for installation of fencing sur-

rounding the Justice Center parking lot, which carried.

Committee reports
The Road Committee reported that Harrison County's tree-trimming, pot-hole patching and ditch work is all underway. Judge Marshall noted that everything has been looking good so far despite rain.

The Shropshire Committee reported 42 intakes, 15 adoptions, 15 rescues, three animals returned to owners, 42 animals in and 23 animals out.

Farm and Facilities Committee reported that it's "raining out there just like it is everywhere else." More work is being done on the new center and it's moving along, weather permitting.

Parks and Recreation Committee reported that all summer sports are 70% done and that the splash pad has been in good attendance when weather has cooperated.

With the Treasurer's Report, a motion was made to pay bills, which carried. Transfers were then approved with a carried motion.

The County Attorney Report had a 2nd reading of Ordinance #370 Series 2025 – Speed Limit on Leesburg Farms Lane set to 25 mph.



Hollis King/Theatre for a New Audience via AP

This photo provided by Theatre for a New Audience shows Taylor Mac in "Prosperous Fools," written by Taylor Mac and directed by Darko Tresnjak.

Taylor Mac's 'Prosperous Fools' skewers wealthy philanthropists in a biting satire

BY JAMES POLLARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Taylor Mac does not set out to bite the hand that feeds in a new play satirizing cultural philanthropy. The MacArthur “genius grant” recipient claims to be “just trying to get some lipstick on it.”

Set at a not-for-profit dance company's gala, "Prosperous Fools" invites questions about the moral value of philanthropy in a society denounced by the comedy as “feudal.” A boorish patron goes mad trying vainly to wield his lacking creative capital and thus confirms the choreographer's fears of selling out to a sleazy oligarch who represents everything his art opposes. The show, written by Mac and directed by Darko Tresnjak, runs through June 29 at Brooklyn's Polonsky Shakespeare Center.

“I’m not trying to hurt anybody. I’m trying to get people to think differently about the world,” said Mac, whose gender pronoun is “judy.”

“I just wish that all of the great philanthropists of America, and the world, would lead with, ‘This is a temporary solution until we can figure out how to make a government of the people, for the people, by the people.’” Mac added. “Instead of, ‘This is the solution: I should have all the money and then I get to decide how the world works.’”

Don't let present day parallels distract you. The fundraiser's honored donor enters atop a fire-breathing bald eagle in a black graphic tee, blazer and cap much like Elon Musk's signature White House getup. He later dons the long red tie popular in MAGA world. But the resemblance doesn't mean Mac is meditating solely on recent events such as President Donald Trump's billionaire-filled administration and tightening grip over cultural pillars including the Kennedy Center.

The script reflects personal frustrations with philanthropy's uneven power dynamics navigated throughout a 30-year career spent in what Mac

described as “a million handshaking ceremonies,” first as a cater-waiter and eventually as one of the celebrated honorees who donates performances to help fundraise.

Mac's desperate portrayal of the artist at the center of “Prosperous Fools” only sharpens its skewering of wealthy philanthropists who take more than they give away. When the artist cries “But why couldn't I have a good oligarch?” and bemoans that “I should have stayed in the artistic integrity of obscurity,” it feels like a case of art imitating life.

Mainstream success came last decade for Mac. “A 24-Decade History of Popular Music” was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2017 and Mac's Broadway debut play “Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus” racked up seven Tony nominations in 2019.

“Prosperous Fools,” however, was written 12 years ago before much of the critical acclaim. Mac said “someone with power” commissioned a translation of French playwright Molière's “Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme,” which mocks a status-obsessed middle class social climber.

Mac isn't surprised the original commissioner didn't want the final product. Molière is hardly present. And the play essentially advocates for an end to the perpetuation of culture that only the affluent deem

worthy of funding.

Mac is also unsurprised it took over a decade to land another interested producer. The initial 40-person ballet troupe had to be shrunk to a more affordable ensemble of four dancers. Plus, its style, in Mac's judgment, is still rather “queer” for a “heteronormative” theater industry.

“And then the other reason is because I insult donors,” Mac said.

“I don't think I insult donors,” Mac added. “I ask donors to consider. And the theater is entrenched in making sure their donors feel good about themselves — not that their donors are in collaboration with us for us all to get to a place of better consciousness.”

The show's slapstick humor helps break down its fairly cerebral subject matter. In one of several moments of hilarity, the patron and his “philanthropoid” — the ballet's artistic director, whose primary concern is securing donations — sway around the stage oinking like pigs. Mac's artist delivers scathing and highbrow critiques while pretending to be “The Princess Bride” actor Wallace Shawn in a puppet costume. The gala's other honoree — a star singer called the “patron saint of philanthropy” who wears a gown adorned with impoverished children's faces — makes no bones about her lust for Shawn.

Early heat dome brings highest temperatures in Eastern US

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

NEW YORK — An intense and nearly historic weather pattern is cooking much of America under a dangerous heat dome this week with triple-digit temperatures in places that haven't been so hot in more than a decade.

The heat wave is especially threatening because it's hitting cities like Boston, New York and Philadelphia early in the summer when people haven't gotten their bodies adapted to the broiling conditions, several meteorologists said. The dome of high pressure that's parking over the eastern United States is trapping hot air from the Southwest that already made an uncomfortable stop in the Midwest.

A key measurement of the strength of the high pressure broke a record Monday and was the third-highest reading for any date, making for a “near historic” heat wave, said private meteorologist Ryan Maue, a former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief scientist. The worst of the heat was likely to peak for Northeastern cities on Tuesday, forecasters said.

“Like an air fryer, it's going to be hot,” Maue said. “This is a three-day stretch of dangerous heat that will test the mettle of city dwellers who are most vulnerable to oppressive heat waves.”

A heat dome occurs when a large area of high pressure in the upper atmosphere acts



Jeff Roberson/AP photo

Travis Law uses a portable fan as he tries to stay cool in Busch Stadium before the start of a baseball game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds on Saturday in St. Louis.

as a reservoir, trapping heat and humidity. A heat wave is the persistence of heat, usually three days or more, with unusually hot temperatures.

WHERE THE HEAT WILL BE WORST

Nearly three-quarters of the country's population — 245 million people — will swelter with 90 degrees Fahrenheit (about 32 Celsius) or higher temperatures on Monday, and 33 million people, almost 10% of the country, will feel blistering 100-degree heat (about 38 Celsius) on Tuesday, Maue said. The government's heat health website showed the highest level of heat risk in swaths from Chicago to Pittsburgh and North Carolina to New York.

Those triple-digit air temperatures — with the feels-

like index even worse because of humidity — are possible in places where it's unusual. New York hasn't seen 100 degrees since 2011 and Philadelphia, which is forecast to have consecutive triple-digit days, hasn't reached that mark since 2012, said Climate Central chief meteorologist Bernadette Woods Plackey.

In downtown Baltimore, temperatures climbed into the high 90s by early Monday afternoon, bringing dozens of people to cool off at St. Vincent de Paul's resource center. A few blocks away, the city's historic Broadway Market food hall closed early when the building's air conditioning broke.

The heat forced the cancellation of events in west Baltimore, said Eric Davis Sr., who spends most of his days working at a baseball field there.

GARAGE SALE
Community Yard Sale
Cody Road
Cynthiana, KY
July 5th 8am

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