



**REPAIRS IN THE HEAT** – The City of Hickman Public Works recently completed repairs on a ruptured water line at the intersection of Clinton and Tennessee Streets. Despite the heat, the crew had access to water to help keep them cool. The repair work took approximately two hours to complete. (Photo courtesy of Hickman City & Fulton County, KY News & Events)

## Fulton Commission addresses property complaints, drafts a budget, sets new water rates

**Megan Dame**

The Fulton City Commission met Monday evening at City Hall, covered a wide range of municipal issues and set the course for upcoming projects and fiscal policies.

Once the meeting had been opened in prayer and with the Pledge of Allegiance, the roll was called with Fulton Mayor David Prater, vice mayor Jeff Vaughn, city manager Mike Gunn, city attorney Allison Whitledge, commissioners Darcy Linn, Elaine Forrester and Kevin Kelley were present, along with

city clerk Laura Byrd, police chief Allen Poole, Fire chief Steven Lang, public works director Steven Wisner, code enforcement officer Nathan Lamb and Fulton resident Misty Baywood.

Baywood appeared before the city commission requesting help and guidance in dealing with her recurring complaint against a tenant and the landowner of a property next to her own at 409 Eddings St.

Baywood has been attending city commission meetings for several summers to complain about the property at 407 Eddings

St., owned by Fulton resident, Sam Hancock and occupied by tenant Jonathan Tillman.

Several commissioners and city officials have seen the property and agree that it is a problem. By the end of mowing season last fall, great strides had been made by the tenant to clean up the property, but as the current summer months have progressed, the property has returned to its unkempt state, arguably worse condition, to Baywood.

Commissioners empathized but reiterated the

## Sheriff's 2023 taxes audit released

State Auditor Allison Ball recently released the audit of the sheriff's settlement – 2023 taxes for Fulton County Sheriff Chad Parker. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the sheriff's settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited, and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's settlement is prepared on the regulatory basis, which is described in the auditor's opinion letter. Regulatory basis reporting for the sheriff's settlement is an acceptable reporting methodology, and this reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff settlements in Kentucky.

The sheriff's financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

**Finding: The sheriff's office lacks adequate segregation of duties**

The sheriff's office lacks an adequate segregation of duties over accounting and reporting of tax collections.

The bookkeeper's primary responsibilities include

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See **AUDIT**, page 6

## FISD focused on future as 2025-26 school year approaches

**Megan Dame**

At the June 17 meeting of the Fulton Independent School Board, Superintendent Terry Sullivan, vice chair Carol Bransford, board members Christy Pettigrew, Janet Gossum and Karen Dean were present, with board chair Austin Ferrell attending via Zoom.

Also attending were Fulton High School Principal Heath Cartwright, Human Resources Director Betty Bartimus, Supervisor of Instruction Amber Kinney and finance officer Chris Morris.

After opening the meeting with prayer and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Superintendent Sullivan confirmed there were no public comments and noted that the previous meeting's minutes had been approved. The agenda for the current meeting was approved with an amendment that added the Superintendent's report as it had been accidentally omitted.

Principal Cartwright provided a detailed report, beginning with the completion of high school transcripts, which have been submitted to colleges and universities. He also shared updates on recent student activities, highlighting those enrolled in summer programs, particularly in the fields of forensic science and criminal justice.

Cartwright discussed plans for a family union or banquet dinner to prepare families for the upcoming school year. The event will serve as an opportunity to review student transcripts, explain educational pathways, and clarify options such as dual credit and scholarship opportunities. He emphasized that the district's smaller size allows for a more personalized, customer-service-oriented approach to supporting students and their families.

Director Sullivan reported ongoing facility up-

grades across the district. These include painting and cleaning projects in several areas, notably the school theater. Plans are also in place to remodel bathroom facilities by replacing outdated fixtures and tiles, which will improve both aesthetics and energy efficiency.

Sullivan noted the completion of HVAC projects,

which are expected to yield significant savings on heating and cooling costs. On staffing, he expressed optimism, reporting that the district is in a strong position with only two vacancies remaining.

A key topic of discussion was the implementation of Senate Bill 181, a new state

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Fulton Independent School's Food Service Director Ashley Teasley was recently the recipient of a grant worth up to \$50,000 in Winston Foodservice Equipment. (Photo submitted)


## Fulton Independent School recipient of School Nutrition Foundation Grant

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) has named Ashley Teasley, Food Service Director for Fulton Independent School in Kentucky, the recipient of one of two grants worth up to \$50,000 in Winston Foodservice Equipment. The grant is among 2025 SNF Equipment Grants available to help school meal programs overcome staffing, budget or operational challenges. The additional funding supports programs working to expand fresh and scratch-made menu options, increase efficiencies and enhance the cafeteria experience to nourish students' school

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**STATE CHAMPIONS** – Twin Cities Raiders recently won 2025 Dixie Majors 19 and under Tennessee State Championship. Pictured are, front row, left to right, team members Brodie McDaniel, Hayden Burks, Xander Johnsey, Troy Joslin, Dylan Davis, Colby Ary; back row, Coach Brandon Degnegarrd, Corey White, Case Perry, Dylan Brauer, Tyler Southerland, Nick Turnbow, Collin Gray, Ashton Robbins, Anderson Cary, Coach Brad Dame, and Coach Darwin Coleson. Not pictured are Blane Fisher, Carver Cates, Kaedyn Haynes, Haydn Davis, Drake Little, Payton Watts, Ross McDaniel and Coach Jared Johnston. (Photo submitted)



SOUTHERN STATE

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201 Central Ave., South Fulton,

731-271-2068


WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wed.: Meatloaf Lunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., \$1 Wings (after 5 p.m.), Xtreme Bar Bingo 7 p.m.

Thurs.: Chicken & Dressing Lunch, Pub Poll at 6:30 p.m.

Fri.: Fried Chicken Lunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Karaoke with Kelly 7 - 11 p.m.

Sat.: Live Music from Kelso Mojo, 8 - 11 p.m.; Sun.: Brunch 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



KELSO MOJO