

# VIDEO

FROM PAGE C1

Taylor said when an incarcerated defendant is in-person for a hearing, "I can ask (them) a question, and they can ask questions to me."

Taylor said the court policy is only to bring incarcerated defendants to court for "extraordinary circumstance."

Taylor said the ability of attorneys and defendants to consult during hearings is important. "If that's not enough to qualify as an 'extraordinary circumstance,' what is?" Taylor said.

Bringing inmates to court requires them being moved by court security, which is part of the Daviess County Sheriff's Office. Courthouse security is one of the mandated duties of sheriff's offices. Courthouse security officers also have to be present at the Detention Center for video court hearings.

Sheriff Brad Youngman said the office has seen an increase in both video hearings and in transports of inmates to court for in-person hearings.

In 2023, the sheriff's office did 288 transports of defendants who were both in the Daviess jail and were incarcerated in other counties. Deputies and court security spent 971 hours on transports in 2023.

Last year, deputies and court security made 422 transports, spending 1,409 hours transporting defendants to and from court hearings.

"We have set a new record over the last two years on transports," Youngman said. "It does keep us very busy, but it's one of our constitutional jobs."

Youngman said both transporting inmates and doing hearings by video require the presence of sheriff's office personnel.

"When we do video court at the detention center, I have to send security officers, just like it's a courtroom," Youngman said.

Prisoner transports "require more of our resources" than video hearings from jail, Youngman said.

Youngman said the sheriff's office will do whatever the courts order. "Whatever they decide, we have a job to do and that's what we'll do," he said.

Lt. Phil Ashby, of the sheriff's offices court security staff, said transporting inmates for in-person hearings is "a security issue," and said the security staff can be stretched at times providing security in the courtrooms and at the judicial center's security checkpoint.

"It takes 15 (officers) to keep everything running when we have all the

courts running," Ashby said. At times, the judicial center will hold hearings in seven courtrooms — two in Circuit Court, three in District Court and two in Family Court — Ashby said.

"We move quite a few prisoners as it is," Ashby said. Defendants are brought over for certain hearings at the order of a judge.

"If I had to transport more people, I'd need more transporters, and I'd still have to run video court," Ashby said.

Daviess Circuit Judge David Payne said the courts are mandated to do arraignments, which are first appearances in Circuit Court on criminal cases, by video.

"Video has a lot of advantages in a lot of ways," Payne said, while also saying he's not as big of an advocate for video hearings as some other judges across the state.

"It costs the taxpayers a lot of money to send a van to jail every day" to transport inmates, Payne said. "From a safety standpoint, video arraignments aren't so bad. A lot of routine stuff is pretty much done by video."

Technical issues do occur. On Thursday, Payne said the audio stopped working at points during some video hearings in his courtroom. When a lawyer needs an incarcerated defendant in the courtroom, Payne said he will accommodate the request.

"If you're going to have a contested hearing, a lengthy hearing, it's good to have a defendant and lawyer sitting next to each other," Payne said.

Payne, who was a district judge for years before being elected circuit judge, said attorneys will often request juvenile defendants appear in person, which requires a defendant be transported. Male juveniles are housed in Bowling Green and females are housed in Ashland.

A court security officer will meet a transport from Ashland in Elizabethtown to complete the transport to Owensboro.

Payne said, "I don't want to put the cost on the taxpayer (for a transport) when that juvenile can appear on the computer screen for free" for regular hearings.

Payne said he will grant requests for a defendant to appear in person when it's necessary, but said bringing inmates to the judicial center does create security issues.

"If you have a room full of prisoners, you have to have a room full of deputies," Payne said.

Daviess Circuit Judge Tom Castlen said, "There are significant issues

when it comes to transporting a lot of (inmates). There are heightened security issues. I guess we have to do a cost/benefit analysis when it comes to transporting people to the courthouse."

Jackson said inmates were transported daily to the judicial center for hearings "for decades" before the pandemic and the advent of video in circuit court.

"I can think of only one instance when someone almost got away, and one or two fights," Jackson said.

Castlen said the courts do order inmates transported if a lawyer thinks a jailed client needs to be in the courtroom.

"I don't know any time we haven't accommodated that request," Castlen said. "If a defendant needs to be here for entering a guilty plea, an evidentiary hearing or to enter testimony, we always have them here."

Castlen said video hearings in Payne's courtroom can be delayed if video hearings in Castlen's courtroom run long, but said that happens occasionally.

"It would be helpful if we had two video rooms at the jail, so our (hearing) schedules wouldn't frustrate one another," Castlen said.

Jailer Art Maglinger said funds were invested to put in a camera system in a large classroom for video hearings. Maglinger said he hasn't received any complaints about issues related to video hearings in some time.

Regarding a second room for video hearings, Maglinger said if additional funds are available for video equipment for a second hearing room, "we might have the space to do it."

Heather Blackburn, an attorney in the public defender law office, said video hearings do have issues, but said the layout of the Holbrook Judicial Center makes holding a large number of inmates difficult.

"I think the fact that your client isn't standing next to you during hearings is problematic, or can be, if there are technical issues," Blackburn said. "But I do understand the sheriff's office's concern."

The judicial center, "wasn't built to accommodate the number of prisoners we have on a given day," Blackburn said.

Jackson and Blackburn said having inmates in person for all hearings would be ideal.

"If there's a way to do that safely, that's preferable," Blackburn said. "If not, we've adapted, but it's imperfect."

James Mayse, 270-691-7303, jmayse@messenger-inquirer.com

# Breezy walk

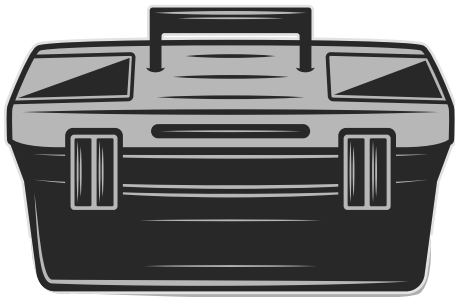


Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | avarren@messenger-inquirer.com  
Nancy Kamuf braves the single-digit wind chill as she walks on Thursday to exercise on the walking trail as an American flag waves in the background at Moreland Park.

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- Jackie Timpane, St. Ann St. 9/30/22  
I was so pleased that not only was Mr. Ebling able to get our roof replaced through insurance, but had our decking replaced at no extra charge. Love our new roof done in 1 day. - Stephanie Yate, Ridgewood Drive, 9/22/22  
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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
2025-2026 ACTION PLAN  
2025-2029  
CONSOLIDATED PLAN HEARING  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Owensboro Citizen's Advisory Committee for Community Development will hold a Special Called Meeting / Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. at Owensboro City Hall, 101 East 4th Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42303 in the Commission Chambers on fourth floor. City staff will address the preparation of the FY 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan and the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan. The meeting will also be livestreamed on Facebook @ CityofOwensboro and www.owensboro.org.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING 7400 & 7420 US HIGHWAY 231  
A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Board of Adjustment by Mid America Grain Solutions, LLC for a Variance in order to eliminate 663-linear-feet of the required 6-foot-high solid wall or fence where adjoining the farm to the west, as shown on the submitted site plan. The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Board of Adjustment on March 6, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.  
RUTH ANN MASON  
SECRETARY  
LEWIS JEAN  
CHAIR

The purpose of the Special Called Meeting / Public Hearing is to approve minutes; receive a progress report on 2020-2024 Community Development activities and action plans; present proposed activities for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan and host an open forum for public comment concerning housing and community development needs regarding the plans. Verbal and written citizen comments will be considered. Please submit comments to abby.shelton@owensboro.org. The full agenda is posted below and at https://www.owensboro.org/page/community-development.

Citizen's Advisory Committee for Community Development  
Special Called Meeting / First Public Hearing  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 4:30 P.M.  
Owensboro City Hall  
101 E. 4th Street - Commission Chambers  
Owensboro, KY 42303

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING REGARDING 2600 FEDERICA STREET  
A request has been filed with the Owensboro Metropolitan Board of Adjustment by Seven Springs Land Company, LLC for a Variance in order to reduce the roadway buffer along Frederica Street from 60-feet from the centerline of the road to 34-feet from the centerline of the road.  
The above proposal is to be considered at a meeting of the Owensboro Metropolitan Board of Adjustment on March 6, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Auditorium of City Hall, 101 E. 4th St., Owensboro, KY.  
RUTH ANN MASON  
SECRETARY  
LEWIS JEAN  
CHAIR

1. Approval of minutes from April 10, 2024 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting
2. Present a report on the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plans and subsequent Annual Action Plans
3. Present proposed activities for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan
4. Open forum for public comment concerning housing and Community Development needs and proposed projects in Owensboro for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and the 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan
5. Adjournment

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