

UC Fiscal Court Open Bids; Hears Update On Storm Damage

Union County Fiscal Court met in a short session Monday morning opening road material bids, okaying a resolution and accepting the sheriff's 2024 tax settlement.

Bids for plastic and corrugated pipe, bituminous hot mix, and cold mix were opened and read to the court. Young's Rentals of Morganfield submitted bids for a variety of sizes of plastic pipe and bands. Energy Culvert of West Paducah submitted bids for plastic pipe and bands as well as corrugated steel pipe with bands and circular coated pipe.

The Rogers group was the only bidder on bituminous concrete hot mix, binder mix and stone for roadway shoulders, and Pavement Solutions of Milan, TN provided the only bid for cold mix.

After hearing the bids read, magistrates

opted to table taking action until the bids can be reviewed and a recommendation made.

Other business to come before the court included Sheriff Jason Thomas' 2024 property tax settlement. Thomas reported just over 99 percent of the county's property taxes have been collected. The court approved the settlement pending audit.

Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan presented a resolution that will allow Sheriff Thomas to apply for a COPS grant through the Department of Justice. Funds from that grant will help hire SROs for Union County Public Schools. The court approved authorization for Thomas to apply for the funds.

Advertisement dates were set for bids for radios. Those ads will be published June 4, 11, 18 and 25 and opened on June 10. The court also approved

advertising for a road crew/general laborer with CDL certification. Those ads will be published today, May 28 and June 4 with a recommendation of who will be hired on June 24.

EMA director gave a brief update on the county's work with FEMA regarding the tornado that struck a portion of the county on May 16. Baird reported that FEMA personnel are set up to talk with court residents about individual assistance. Local personnel have assessed much of the damage caused by the F-3 tornado, but they have also met with FEMA personnel and will be meeting with other damage assessment teams this week. "There's a lot to sort out," Baird told the court.

O'Nan noted in his comments regarding the storm that Union

County began upgrading their emergency response /disaster assets just days after Dawson Springs was devastated by a tornado two and a half years ago. He thanked the court for their support on buying needed equipment, revamping the county's disaster program and helping. "It made a real impact for how we handled the situation. It doesn't lessen the impact on people" but it has made us more efficient, he said.

The judge/executive called the response to the storm from volunteers and various county agencies "phenomenal."

Baird and each court member also commended residents and agencies for their help as well as the sheriff's department and road department personnel.

Before adjourning on Tuesday morning, the court voted to move the meeting date for their first meeting in June from Tuesday, June 10 to Monday, June 9, at 9:00 a.m.

Morganfield City Council Meets; Approves First Reading Of Budget

The Morganfield City Council met in regular session on Thursday, May 22 with Mayor Randy Greenwell presiding and five council members present. Council member Paul Monsour was absent from the session.

The council conducted several items of routine business, including the first reading of the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget; however, the meeting was not without controversy.

Following approval of the minutes from the meeting in April and the bills, claims, and transfers, the council approved the first reading of a \$19,498,587 budget for the next fiscal year. That budget will be approved on second reading at the June meeting.

The council also approved an engineering services contract for the U.S. 60 sidewalk project. Strand Engineering of Louisville, Kentucky submitted the only bid for the project. The specifications for the engineering will be sent to the Green River Area Development District, and officials there will send all pertinent information to the state for approval. That project is not expected to begin until sometime in 2026 with a project cost of \$1.2 million. The city has the funding in place for that work.

Mayor Greenwell told those present the work on the Phase III sewer renovation has been delayed because of the sinkhole development in Evansville, Indiana, which has caused several sewer issues there. The splash pad plans are ongoing, and work is continuing to get that project underway.

Council members review the monthly financial report and had to comments. Mayor Greenwell stated the city's financial position is positive at this time; however, rumors that the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy could be closing would result in a serious financial burden on the city. City and county residents are urged to contact both state and federal legislators voicing support for the Job Corps and asking for their continued support in providing finances for ECCJCA. Specifically, residents are asked to contact Senator Mitch McConnell and First District Representative James Comer in Washington, D.C. and State Senator Robby Mills and State Representative James Gooch, Jr. in Frankfort.

At the conclusion of the business session, Mayor Greenwell read

a statement regarding Morganfield Police Chief Geoffrey Deibler. The statement, which was prepared by the city's attorneys, read, "As many of you are aware, there are several rumors and allegations circulating regarding Chief Deibler and his employment status with the city. Despite what these rumors suggest, Chief Deibler's employment with the city is not terminated. The city has worked with Chief Deibler to resolve an error contained in the paperwork originally submitted by the chief, and the issues caused by that error have not been remedied. The city values its law enforcement officers and understands that law enforcement officers often struggle with mental health challenges related to the difficult nature of their jobs. It is the city's wish and desire to assist its officers in seeking help for any mental health struggles they may be experiencing and to provide support to those officers. As always, the city's goal is to promote the well-being of its employees, its law enforcement officers, and the community as a whole."

In the past few days, a series of posts on social media have made accusatory comments toward the mayor and city council concerning Deibler's employment status.

After reading the statement, the mayor stated there would be no further comments on the status of the police chief.

Three city residents, Melissa Bebout, Nicole Young, and a woman who did not identify herself made statements in support of Deibler.

Ms. Bebout stated the police chief had not received support or concern from the mayor, city council members, or any member of the police department. She concluded her remarks, saying, "You (Greenwell) should resign. You are not worthy of this position."

Deibler was in Morganfield city hall during the meeting; however, he did not come into the council chambers.

At the conclusion of those statements, the meeting was adjourned. Following adjournment, Mayor Greenwell was once again asked about Deibler's employment status, and he noted that Deibler remains in his role as the Morganfield police chief.

The next regular meeting of Morganfield City Council will be Thursday, June 26, 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDED 50.89 SECTION (D)

If water service is disconnected by the City by reason of delinquency in the payment of any water or sewer bill, reconnection of such service shall not be made until the owner or user pays all charges and penalties owed, plus the amount of \$25 as a disconnection and reconnection charge. **Reconnection shall be at the city's convenience, during normal business hours on day of payment.**

Amended 04/21/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Union County Fiscal Court is accepting applications for a road crew/general laborer. The road crew member must possess a current CDL license or be able to obtain one within 6 months from the date of hire.


This is a full-time position with benefits, including health insurance, retirement, and vacation.

Applications can be picked up and turned in at the Union County Judge/Executive's office, 100 W. Main St., Morganfield, KY or you can apply only at www.unioncountky.org. Applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. June 13, 2025.


The Union County Fiscal Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer: All applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

6/4c

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Brian Lovell

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Saturday, May 31st

10:00 A.M.

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