

THE STURGIS NEWS

Delivering
For
Sturgis
and
Union County

140TH YEAR

STURGIS, UNION COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE

Union County Board Of Education Makes Recognitions; Approves Working Budget, Other Consent Agenda Items

The Union County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday night with Superintendent Dr. Terra Hancock and all board members present. Board member Donnie Gatten attended the meeting via Zoom. Student board representative Cale Johnson, a senior at Union County High School, attended his first meeting.

In a session that lasted about an hour and 15 minutes, the board held recognitions, heard the superintendent's report, approved the financial report, heard a presentation from the Chief Council at Sturgis Elementary School, and approved several items on the consent agenda.

Nichole Thomas, a guidance counselor who shares here time at Union County High School and the Union County Learning Academy, shared her experience as a participant in

the STARS College Network Midwest College Tour. Terra Wright, chief financial officer at UCHS, was recognized as "Heart of a Brave".

During her report to the board, Dr. Hancock asked the student representative to update members on activities at the high school. Johnson reported on several athletic activities coming in the next few days. He also reported on special spirit events which are scheduled over the next two weeks.

Nikki Hancock, food service director for the district, updated the board concerning grant funds which have been received, equipment upgrades which are scheduled in the food service departments across the district, and the free breakfast and lunch program in the county schools. "We continue to encourage participation in our food service programs, particularly breakfast," she said.

Dr. Hancock presented a several events

and activities which have taken place or are scheduled across the district. She also told members there is a question as to whether students will be taking the ACT or SAT for state testing. "We believe it will be the SAT," Dr. Hancock said. She noted that information from the Department of Education noted a cost of savings of over \$3 million if the SAT is used in place of the ACT. More information will be forthcoming concerning the tests.

Michelle Hall, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel, presented the attendance report for the first month of school. The district student population is 2,066 students, and the average district attendance for the month was 95.25%. Attendance for individual schools was: Morganfield Elementary, 95.6%; Sturgis Elementary, 96%; Uniontown Elementary,

96.8%; Union County Middle, 95.3%; Union County High, 94.5%; UCLA/UCVA, 85%; Pre-School, 85.8%; and Victory Tech, 100%.

Four students from Sturgis Elementary School – members of the Chief Council – presented the board with the responsibilities and activities of the council. That council is comprised of a student from each class at SES. The motto for the council is Dream, Believe, Achieve. The students stressed the importance of setting a positive ex-

ample for their classmates and encouraging kindness and politeness in daily activities.

The monthly financial report was presented by Amy Morris, Chief Finance Officer. Board members approved that report, the payment of bills, the expenses for the superintendent's office, and the working budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. That budget is in the amount of \$40,116,166 with a contingency of \$2,500,929.

The board approved several items on the

consent agenda, including the travel report, requests for fund-raisers, trip requests, leaves of absence, several agreements, declarations of surplus equipment, and a change in a BG-1 and the payment process for that change on the renovations at Union County High School.

No further business came before the board, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Union County Board of Education is Monday, October 22, 6:00 P.M.

Sturgis City Council Sets 2025 Tax Rate

The Sturgis City Council met for a public hearing and a called session on Wednesday, September 17 with Mayor Billy Adams presiding and five council members present. City Clerk Sandra Germane was also in attendance at the meeting. Council member Hunter Davis was absent.

The purpose of the public hearing was to entertain comments from Sturgis citizens concerning the proposed four percent increase in property tax rates for 2025. Because the city council chose to accept the compensating rate plus four percent, the public hearing was required by law.

Sturgis resident and former council member Peter Van addressed the council, saying the four percent seemed like "the magic number." Van noted Sturgis residents have seen a recent four percent increase in water rates and public works employees received a four percent pay increase. "People are hurting," Van said. He encouraged the council to seek a more moderate rate.

Mayor Adams responded that expenses and obligations for the city are increasing each month. The mayor added, "We understand we are asking a lot of the citizens of Sturgis. All of recommendations from GRADD and the Kentucky League of Cities have been to take the four percent increase." He acknowledged residents of the city are likely seeing

those same increases. He also said the four percent increase in this year's real property rates equates to a \$6.00 increase in the yearly tax bill for a property valued at \$100,000.

Council member Charles Garnett said, "We have to operate. We cannot continue to absorb these increasing costs."

Mayor Adams concluded, "We understand this is a burden. It's a burden for the council as well."

Council members discussed the need for increased revenue, and at the conclusion of the public hearing introduced a motion to accept the compensating rate plus four percent for 2025. That motion was made by council member Dennis Odom and seconded by council member Allan Collins. On a roll call vote, council members Theresa Greer, Charles Garnett, John Deibler, Collins, and Odom approved the tax rate.

The 2025 tax rate for real property for 2025 will be 0.524 cents for \$100 of assessed valuation. The personal property tax rate for 2025 will be 0.6567 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of Sturgis City Council will be Wednesday, October 8, 4:00 P.M.



MORGANFIELD MAYOR RANDY Greenwell is pictured here as he read a proclamation declaring September 21-27 at "Paul Monsour Week" in the city. Monsour, a long-time member of the Morganfield City Council, passed in July. Monsour's family is pictured as the proclamation was read.

Morganfield Council Meets Briefly

The Morganfield City Council met in a called session on Thursday, September 18 with Mayor Randy Greenwell presiding and all council members present. The meeting was moved from the regular meeting date because of next week's Corn Festival.

Following the approval of the minutes from the August meeting and the bills and claims, the council dealt with a short agenda in a session that lasted only 15 minutes.

Mayor Greenwell reported there were no transfers in August.

Council members voted 6-0 to approve the second reading of an ordinance allowing the operation of side by side utility vehicles on city streets. The mayor noted those vehicles may not be used legally on U.S. 60 and the Morganfield by-pass.

The council held first reading and approved an amendment to the city's golf cart ordinance. That amendment would allow the use of golf carts on city streets at night, providing those carts meet the all the criteria for safe use. The second reading of that ordinance will be held in October.

Mayor Greenwell reading a proclamation declaring the week of September 21-27 as "Paul Monsour Week" in October. Monsour was a long-time member of the Morganfield City Council and was an active member of several organizations in the county. He passed away in July. His family was present at the meeting on Thursday to accept that proclamation.

In final business, council members reviewed the city financial report. Council member Jeremy Collins questioned the cost of natural gas purchases in August. City Administrator Scott Clements responded that gas usage for the month increased because of harvest season and dryers being used on farmers' grain bins. Clements noted the report will show an increase in revenue in September because of that usage.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Morganfield City Council will be Thursday, October 23, 5:00 P.M.

51st Annual Corn Festival Begins On Thursday

The Morganfield Lions Club 51st Annual Corn Festival opens Thursday with three days of activities planned.

Food booths and half pot ticket sales will start at 11:00 a.m. Half pot ticket sales will continue through Saturday afternoon with the winner being drawn at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, the carnival rides open at 4:30 followed by the opening ceremony and dedication of Coal Miner Corner (formally Renaissance

Corner) at 5:00 p.m. A tribute to Paul Monsour a long time Lions Club member and community supporter will be held during the opening ceremonies.

Kids Zone and the Balloon Guy will start activities at 5:30, and the John Paul II 5K run starts at 6:00 p.m. A pickle ball tournament at the city park also starts at ten while activities including the crowning of Miss Teen and Miss Corn Festival will be held at Coal Miners Corner

starting at 6:00.

On Friday, Bingo will be played at Old National Bank starting at 9:00 a.m. and the carnival opens at 4:30. The Kids Zone opens at 5:00 and Little Miss and Mr. Corn Festival will be crowned in a 5:00 p.m. pageant followed by the Miss Pre-Teen pageant at 6:00. At 7:00 on Friday, the talent show will begin followed by music at 8:30 hosted by Jeremiah Slaton.

Saturday, a full day of events are planned with the

baby contest starting at 9:00 a.m. and Tiny Miss and Mr. being crowned at 9:45.

Play-N-Hooky, a kids' tractor pull starts at 10:00 a.m. and Sara Beth Brewer with the Neon Spurs will perform on the courthouse steps at 10:00. The Cub Scout mobile races are also scheduled for 10:00 a.m. with a corn shucking contest set for 10:20. At 11:30, the popcorn eating contest will be held followed by the Eagles 9 ball tournament at noon.

The festival's most popu-

lar event, the annual parade, is slated to start at 2:00 p.m.

The Grand Marshal of this year's parade is Kassie Wesley DePaiva and the Golden Kernel is Sam McLeod.

Following the parade Luther and the Breed will provide music. The half pot drawing and additional prize give-a-ways will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by music by MINX.

A fireworks display will culminate this year's festival at 8:30.