

THE STURGIS NEWS

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Sturgis
and
Union County

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THE UNION COUNTY High School cheerleading squad spends many hours practicing routines they use during football and basketball seasons and for various competitions throughout the year. The squad was out in full force last Friday night supporting the Braves football team and encouraging the crowd that followed the team to Glasgow. The photos and others in this issue of The Sturgis News show members of the squad as they performed one of their cheers during the game.

Local Candidates Begin Filing For Office

With 2026 quickly approaching, Union County residents interested in seeking a county office have begun filing their candidacy petitions. The filing window opened on November 5.

At press time this week there is only one contested race; however, potential candidates have until January

9, to submit their petition to county clerk Garrick Thompson.

The race most highly contested race to date is the seat for the District 3 magistrate position. Jim Ricketts, who presently holds that seat, has told The Sturgis News he will not seek re-election. Brian

French, Jake Mason and Stephen Hendrickson have all completed and filed their paper work hoping the win the District three seat.

In other magisterial races Ricky Wyatt will seek re-election to the District 1 seat and Jerri Floyd will seek re-election to the District 2 seat.

Dakota Jones, District 4, and Joseph "B" Girtten have also filed petitions to seek re-election to those seats.

Adam O'Nan will seek another term as county judge/executive and Jason O. Thomas will run for sheriff for another term. Jason Newton has filed to run for jailer in the 2026 race.

A newcomer to the political arena is Megan Randolph who is seeking the county attorney's seat. Present county attorney Julie Wallace does not plan to run for re-election.

The Sturgis News will keep readers update as additional candidates file for office.

Sturgis Officials Continue Quest For Infrastructure Funding

The Sturgis City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 12 with Mayor Billy Adams presiding and all council members in attendance. City Clerk Sandra Germane, City Attorney Vickie Davis, and Code Enforcement Officer Greg Warmack were also present.

The council met for over an hour, discussing the response to a proposed agreed order from the Division of Water, the purchase of rubber mulch for the playground area at the city's park, a change in the city job classification and pay rate, and proposed water projects. Members also approved the sale of two surplus vehicles.

Following approval of the minutes from the October meeting, council members reviewed the monthly financial report. Council member Hunter Davis noted that the first four months of the fiscal year, the city has had more expenses than income received. Mayor Adams and the city clerk responded that mild weather in October resulted in reduced sales of natural gas. The city is also expecting the first round of payments for property taxes in the next few weeks.

Following review of the finances, council members approved the mayor's monthly mileage disbursement in the amount of \$201.60.

The City of Sturgis has been contacted by officials from the Kentucky Division

of Water concerning violations of TTHMs in city water. The DOW apparently has issued an order that the city be in compliance for TTHMs for four consecutive quarters. In a letter dated October 28, Mayor Adams responded, telling officials the city's water, which is purchased from the Union County Water District, is coming to the master meter "out of compliance". The increased TTHMs are apparently caused by extreme heat and water sitting in tanks for an extended period. The mayor attached reports to the letter showing the city's attempts to improve water quality by flushing. He concluded his letter stating the only recourse for the City of Sturgis is to construct its own water treatment plant and begin producing water locally.

Mayor Adams emphasized on Wednesday, "The only way to be in compliance is for the city to build its own treatment plant." In making that comment, the mayor said a grant is currently being written seeking funding for that construction. That grant is expected to be completed and submitted in the next few weeks. The city is also seeking other avenues of funding for construction of a water treatment facility. Mayor Adams concluded his remarks concerning a treatment plant by saying, "This is doable."

It is important to note the city is not under an agreed

order.

Officials are continuing to work on the design for water infrastructure projects which are scheduled in the city. Funding has been obtained for improvements to water lines three areas of the city. Additionally, city officials hope to put the local water tower in service and redo mapping of the city water lines. "We are prioritizing projects," Mayor Adams said.

In other business, the code enforcement officer told the council that five dilapidated homes have been demolished by the city, with help from the Union County Road Department. Another demolished by the owner, and one is scheduled for demolition later this month. He added that for more properties are being considered for demolition, two areas have been cleaned up by property owners, and two violations are scheduled for notification.

Warmack, who also serves as the city's alcohol beverage control officer, said the city has five alcohol licenses issued, and all five are current.

The monthly police report from Union County Sheriff Jason Thomas showed 46 responses in the City of Sturgis. According to Mayor Adams, that report showed 27 hours of response time within the city. That does not include patrol time. The city attorney told members, "We need to know how many of

those calls are alcohol-related."

The city received two bids for surplus vehicles which were advertised for sale in October and November. Council members approved a bid of \$250.00 for a 2011 Dodge first responder truck. That bid came from Jerry Hayes. A bid of \$661.18 from Emergency Remarking, an Ohio company, was approved for the sale of a 2013 Ford Explorer police interceptor.

In October, new playground equipment was erected at the city park. Council members Dennis Odom, John Deibler, and Hunter Davis spent several hours removing old equipment and preparing the area for the new equipment. On Wednesday, council members approved the purchase of coated rubber mulch to be placed in the playground area as a safety measure for fall protection. Members approved a bid of \$11,200 from IMC Outdoor Living in Sturgis for blue coated rubber mulch. That mulch will be installed as soon as possible.

The monthly water report showed a water loss of \$42.47%. City public works crews are continuing to work repairing leaks. Council members expressed their appreciation to those personnel for their continued efforts to improve the water infrastructure.

The council approved a change in the city's job clas-

sification and pay schedule. With that new schedule, a new employee will begin service at a minimum rate of \$17.00 per hour. Davis expressed concern that a new employee might begin service at the same rate as an individual who had been on the job for an extended time. The council approved the change on a 5-1 vote. Davis cast the dissenting vote.

Mayor Adams told members their would be no pay raises in the city until the 2026 budget is approved. He concluded his remarks, saying, "Things are going well with the city. We are moving forward."

Davis added, "The public works department is working very hard and have done an excellent job." Council member Odom agreed and added his appreciation to the county "for helping with the demolition."

In response to a question from the audience, Mayor Adams said he is continuing to acquire information and cost estimates to live stream city council meetings and make them available to local residents.

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

The next regular meeting of Sturgis City Council will be Wednesday, December 10, 4:00 P.M.