

OPINION

The opinion page does not reflect to the views of the KyNewsGroup.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

At the April 14 City Council meeting, the 2025/26 budget passed with Council members Caudill, Schack, Kash and Ousley voting yes. Councilmember Baldwin was absent, hopefully she is doing well as this is her third absence since being reelected. Councilman Littleton voted no because line-item restrictions were not included with the budget. However, he agreed with several other council members that the budget has a conservative revenue forecast, and he hoped this may give council adjustment room to reduce taxes later in the year.

A few weeks ago, I met with Councilmember Schack. During our discussion I shared that citizens have expressed the appearance of decisions being made away from a public view with prepared points presented, agreed to and passed at council meetings. Leaving some to wonder if select groups or individual council members are meeting with the mayor to receive talking points. We are not accusing anyone of violating laws that prohibit a majority of councilmembers to meet and discuss city business as this would be illegal. However, some council members talked about meeting with the mayor or city hall staff and then coming to an agreement. Is there a public record of these discussions? I got the impression Councilwoman Schack did listen, as she seemed to have questions that expanded several topics at Monday's council meeting.

Beyond the discussion of the budget having a conservative revenue forecast, Councilman Littleton asked about one of the administration's travel and training line of \$37,000. He said a constituent asked him what it was for. Mayor White-Brown

answered by presenting a prepared PowerPoint slide listing travel and training that city employees may attend. She explained that when \$37,000 is divided by 24 employees it isn't much money per employee. Which sounds reasonable for all city employees as first responders require training. However, when we reviewed the budget, we found a total of \$105,500 in travel and training lines for all departments with \$49,000 allocated for administration. This makes us wonder if other trips are being planned for the mayor and select friends?

Administration \$49,000
Police \$44,000
Fire \$8,000
Public Works \$2,000
Recreation \$2,500

We elect both a mayor and 6 council members with the expectation of the council being the taxpayers checks and balance and to set boundaries for the mayor. At the federal level, we elect a president who has ideas for the direction of the country. However, because we do not have a king nor queen, our government is designed with a check and balance system. One of those is the elected Congress which has oversight and the power of the purse. Congress appropriates where money is to be spent. If the president doesn't follow appropriations set by Congress, then lawsuits follow.

This process is replicated at the state level. We elect the Kentucky governor who develops the budget and submits it to the general assembly. However, because the general assembly has the funding power, they accept some line items and make changes to others before it is passed by the KY House and Senate. This process

is open to the public with committee meetings, session discussions, etc.

The checks and balance process seems to be missing at the local level. The last budget was developed and submitted by Mayor White-Brown at the March Council Meeting. However, discussion was limited. Even attending the budget work session and council meeting did not provide specific details about where our tax dollars are being spent. The mayor's presentation and some council discussion about limited items seemed very rehearsed. An open records request to view the budget was also denied so it was hard to know what the budget contained.

The council's power of oversight also seems absent as the budget does not contain line-item restrictions which would show where our tax dollars are to be spent. Without this accountability, the mayor may pay for trips to Ireland, Vegas, DC or whatever else she decides. These expenditures may be paid from areas labeled council training, festivals and events, or? Instead of using oversight power to protect taxpayers, Morehead Council members who voted to approve the budget once again gave their power away to the mayor.

A downside to the council having no power is that great ideas have no leverage and are at the mercy

of the mayor. Councilman Kash wants to pursue a nature park with Parks and Recreation and Councilwoman Schack is concerned about green space and traffic flows. Both council members suggested good ideas, but they may never come to fruition because council gave their power to the mayor. In the future, regardless of who the mayor is, we hope the council regains their oversight power of how our tax dollars are being spent.

It is time to start thinking about next year's 2026 mayor and council member elections. We encourage everyone who lives in the city of Morehead to consider becoming involved and running for mayor or city council. What happens in the city of Morehead affects the county as well. So, if you live outside the city, we suggest you recruit and support your friends to serve. Let us know if you need advice on how to become more involved.

We appreciate the growing number of involved citizens who continue to share thoughts, information and observations. Everyone's voice matters and together Morehead can have lower taxes, be business friendly, stable and improve the quality of life for all citizens. We'll keep you informed. bel.hitch@roadrunner.com.

Thank you,
Belinda Hitch

Kentucky Humanities at the Schools brings authors and speakers to schools across the Commonwealth

School visits begin on April 15th and will continue throughout the Fall.

Kentucky Humanities at the Schools brings authors and speakers to dozens of schools across the state to meet students in an exciting, interactive learning experience. Schools awarded a visit, incur no charges.

Twenty-seven schools have been selected to receive an author/speaker sponsored by Kentucky Humanities. The speakers vary from picture book authors to storytellers and presenters from the Kentucky Humanities Speakers Bureau. During the visits, speakers will meet with an assembly of students and will present on a topic or engage the students in an interactive learning experience. If the speaker is a children's author, Kentucky Humanities will purchase a set of books as a gift for the library of the school. Twelve of the selected schools will also receive personalized books by the visiting author for all children in attendance.

Schools receiving visits represent the following counties: Boone, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Campbell, Fayette, Hardin, Harlan, Henderson, Henry, Jefferson, Kenton, Letcher, Marshall, Monroe, Nel-

son, Perry, Powell, Rowan, Trimble, Webster.

Kicking off this year's round of programs are: 4/15 Susan Mills at Clearfield Elementary, Clearfield

"Kentucky Humanities at the Schools is one of my favorite programs that Kentucky Humanities sponsors," said Bill Goodman, Kentucky Humanities Executive Director. "Giving Kentucky students the opportunity to interact with an author and to share in the love of reading and writing is something we feel passionate about. Gifting each child with a book of their own has positive impacts lasting far beyond that one day."

Humanities at the Schools is a student outreach program of the Kentucky Book Festival. More information on the festival, including a full list of sponsors, events, and authors can be found at <https://kybookfestival.org/>.

Kentucky Humanities is a non-profit Kentucky corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. For information about Kentucky Humanities' programs and services, visit kyhumanities.org.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Rowan County Democratic Party Reorganization Meeting

The Rowan County Democratic Party will hold its **Reorganization Meeting on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 5:00 PM** at the **Rowan County Courthouse Fiscal Courtroom**.

All registered Democrats in Rowan County are encouraged to attend, participate, and help shape the future of our local party. Whether you're a longtime member or new to politics, there's a place for you. Precinct elections will be held, and new leadership will be selected in accordance with party rules.

This is your opportunity to get involved, make your voice heard, and play a role in strengthening our community through Democratic values.

When: Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Where: Rowan County Courthouse Fiscal Courtroom

For more information, contact the Rowan County Democratic Party using the information below:

Email: rowancountydemocrats@gmail.com

Facebook: Rowan County Democratic Executive Committee

Instagram: [@rowancountydemocrats](https://www.instagram.com/rowancountydemocrats)

Let's organize. Let's lead. Let's make a difference—together.

FREE DISPOSAL

DAY

Saturday, April 26, 2025

8:00am-12:00pm

at Waste Management

Landfill in Rowan County

300 Old Phelps Rd.

Morehead, KY 40351

YOU MUST BE A CITIZEN OF ROWAN COUNTY
ALL LOADS MUST BE TARPED/TIED TO A VOID SPILLAGE
-NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
-NO TIRES OR APPLIANCES ACCEPTED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
ROWAN COUNTY SOLID WASTE OFFICE

Phone: (606)784-6345

Email: tyler.brown@rcky.us

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ROWAN CIRCUIT COURT
DIVISION II

File No 23-CI-90264

FEDERATION ON APPALACHIAN HOUSING

PLAINTIFF

VS: NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

WALTER LITTLETON, ET AL

DEFENDANT

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Rowan Circuit Court on March 21, 2025, to raise the sum of \$95,475.91, plus interest, fees and costs, I will expose for sale to the highest and best bidder, at Rowan County Judicial Center, 700 West Main Street, Morehead, Kentucky, 40351, on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the following described property:

A tract commonly known as 70 Stonekirk Way, Morehead, Ky, and being the same property conveyed to Walter Littleton and Megan Harris by deed dated October 31, 2008, and recorded at Deed Book 231, Page 239, of the Rowan County Records.

Terms of the sale are as follows: (A) At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. In the event the successful bidder elects to credit the balance, he shall post bond with acceptable surety for the unpaid purchase price bearing interest at the judgment rate from the date of the sale. The surety may be a person who owns real estate in Kentucky who must be present at the sale, or an alternative type of surety. Alternative types of acceptable surety may be obtained by an email request to budsalyer4@gmail.com. A lien shall be retained by the Commissioner as security for the purchase price; (B) The purchaser shall assume and pay all taxes and assessments for the current fiscal year. (C) All other delinquent taxes and assessments for previous years shall be paid from the sale proceeds if properly claimed in writing and filed of record by the purchaser within ten (10) days from the date of sale; (D) If a successful bid is less than two-thirds of the appraised value, the defendant shall retain a right of redemption for six months from the date of sale; the purchaser shall receive an immediate writ of possession and a deed containing a lien in favor of the defendant reflecting the defendant's right of redemption. KRS 426.530; (E) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Rowan County Clerk's Office, and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s); (F) For more particulars, reference is made to the records of the Rowan Circuit Clerk; (G) Bidders are advised to obtain a title examination; (H) Exceptions must be filed not later than ten (10) days following the filing of the Commissioner's Report of Sale; (I) Risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale, and possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed; (J) Announcements made at the time of sale take precedence over any statement contained herein; (K) Purchaser is responsible for the current year's taxes. Anyone wanting to be added to a mailing list of future sales should send a request to budsalyer4@gmail.com.

B. R. Salyer
Rowan County Master Commissioner
210 Big Brushy Road
Morehead, KY, 40351
606-776-0119
budsalyer4@gmail.com

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ROWAN CIRCUIT COURT
DIVISION II

File No 24-CI-90028

SERVBANK, SB

PLAINTIFF

VS: NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

DERRIK, HALE, ET AL

DEFENDANT

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Rowan Circuit Court on November 22, 2024, to raise the sum of \$94,966.67, plus interest, fees and costs, I will expose for sale to the highest and best bidder, at Rowan County Judicial Center, 700 West Main Street, Morehead, Kentucky, 40351, on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the following described property:

A tract of land commonly known as 215 Eden Hollow Road, Morehead, KY, bearing PVA Parcel ID 133-00 00 010.00, containing 1/-1/4 acres, more or less, and being the same land conveyed to Defendants herein by deed dated August 10, 2015, and recorded in Deed Book 256, Page 732, of the Rowan County Records.

Terms of the sale are as follows: (A) At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. In the event the successful bidder elects to credit the balance, he shall post bond with acceptable surety for the unpaid purchase price bearing interest at the judgment rate from the date of the sale. The surety may be a person who owns real estate in Kentucky who must be present at the sale, or an alternative type of surety. Alternative types of acceptable surety may be obtained by an email request to budsalyer4@gmail.com. A lien shall be retained by the Commissioner as security for the purchase price; (B) The purchaser shall assume and pay all taxes and assessments for the current fiscal year. (C) All other delinquent taxes and assessments for previous years shall be paid from the sale proceeds if properly claimed in writing and filed of record by the purchaser within ten (10) days from the date of sale; (D) If a successful bid is less than two-thirds of the appraised value, the defendant shall retain a right of redemption for six months from the date of sale; the purchaser shall receive an immediate writ of possession and a deed containing a lien in favor of the defendant reflecting the defendant's right of redemption. KRS 426.530; (E) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Rowan County Clerk's Office, and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s); (F) For more particulars, reference is made to the records of the Rowan Circuit Clerk; (G) Bidders are advised to obtain a title examination; (H) Exceptions must be filed not later than ten (10) days following the filing of the Commissioner's Report of Sale; (I) Risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale, and possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed; (J) Announcements made at the time of sale take precedence over any statement contained herein; (K) Purchaser is responsible for the current year's taxes. Anyone wanting to be added to a mailing list of future sales should send a request to budsalyer4@gmail.com.

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