

CAVE CITY COUNCIL

Lower Taxes for City Residents

KATRINA ENGLAND
JOBEnews

The Cave City Council met in regular session on August 10. City Council members Beverly Ford, Denny Doyle, Andrew Bagshaw, Clifton Parsley, and Ronald Coffey were in attendance, alongside Mayor Dwayne Hatcher. Hatcher announced that council member Leticia Cline was absent due to illness.

Hatcher introduced a new Meeting Owl 360-degree smart camera device to livestream council meetings to the City of Cave City YouTube channel and social media. Mounted on a tripod, the voice-activated camera automatically detects and focuses on whoever is speaking around the room, providing both video and audio for public viewing.

City Clerk Bonita Hendren presented the financial report, announcing that \$58,115.40 was collected for the restaurant tax and \$1,207.10 for the transient room tax, resulting in \$59,322.50 transferred to tourism after accounting for an adjustment from the previous month. She also reported \$11,597 in police department savings and \$16,911 in fire department checking funds.

Attorney Bobby Richardson presented the council with the

city tax rate options. He explained that the city could adopt the compensating tax rate, which calculates the rate needed to generate roughly the same overall tax revenue as the prior year based on updated property assessments. Last year, the property tax rate was set at .134 per \$100 of assessed value. Richardson stated that the compensating rate for this year would drop the rate to .130 per \$100.

Richardson noted that if the council chose to take a 4 percent revenue increase instead, the rate would be set at .135 per \$100, generating roughly \$10,000 in additional revenue for the city.

Mayor Hatcher emphasized that strong local economic growth allowed the city to keep rates low. Real estate and personal property net assessments grew by over \$2 million this past year, which enabled the city to adopt the compensating rate without losing revenue. On a home assessed at \$200,000, the rate drop from .134 to .130 will save the homeowner \$8 per year, dropping their annual city property tax from \$268 to \$260.

Andrew Bagshaw made a motion to adopt the compensating rate of .130 per \$100 for real estate and personal property, which was seconded by Clifton Parsley and



▲ Katrina England | BCP Photo

A new Meeting Owl 360-degree smart camera device to livestream council meetings can be seen in front of Mayor Hatcher. It debuted at the August city council meeting.

passed unanimously in a roll call vote. Tax bills will continue to be collected by the Barren County Sheriff, with a 2 percent discount for early payments made by November 30 and a 10 percent penalty for late payments.

The council also held a reading and unanimously approved the ad valorem tax rate for motor vehicles and watercrafts, maintaining the rate at 17.5 cents (.175) per \$100 of assessed value.

During department updates, Hatcher reported that the city applied for a grant that could fully or partially cover the cost of new air packs for the fire department, with an

expected response within two to three months. He also noted that the city's new chipper had arrived and was successfully used for the first time.

The council discussed ongoing city clean up efforts, and Andrew Bagshaw announced that the North 3rd Street sidewalk project is complete. Hatcher shared that residents have already expressed appreciation for the new sidewalk, including local families and residents using mobility chairs. Chief Reynolds and Mayor Hatcher are currently reviewing city ordinances to address concerns regarding motorized scooters riding on pedestrian sidewalks.

TROOPER,

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The indictment alleges Biven took or exercised control over revenue or other money belonging to Trooper Island between Jan. 1, 2019, and Sept. 30, 2024, with the intent to deprive the camp of those funds.

The charge is a Class C felony punishable by five to 10 years in prison if Biven is convicted. KSP Detective Cameron Allen testified before the grand jury.

The indictment was filed Monday, Aug. 10. Biven was served Tuesday by Clinton County Sheriff Ricky Marcum and released after posting a \$25,000 surety bond.

He is scheduled to be arraigned at 9 a.m. Sept. 10 in Clinton Circuit Court before Judge David L. Williams.

KSP said the agency discovered a potential misappropriation of Trooper Island funds in September 2024. Its Special Investigations Branch reviewed financial transaction records before presenting its findings to the Clinton County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

Biven retired from KSP effective Sept. 30, 2024. Before becoming Trooper Island director, he was assigned to KSP Post 3 in Bowling Green and served for a period as the post's public information officer.

Biven later worked as a public safety officer at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport. The Louisville Regional Airport Authority placed him on paid administrative leave Aug. 7 pending further investigation.

Glasgow Attorney Ken Garrett, who represents Biven said several people had access to Trooper Island's finances and financial instruments.

"We look forward to the opportunity to defend against these allegations," he added.

Master Trooper Scott Ferrell began serving as acting director of Trooper Island on Oct. 1, 2024, and was formally appointed director Dec. 4, 2024.

Established in 1965, Trooper Island is a free summer camp on Dale Hollow Lake near the Clinton-Cumberland county line. The nonprofit program is supported through donations and provides children ages 10 to 12 with outdoor recreation and opportunities to develop positive relationships with law enforcement.

The camp has served more than 40,000 Kentucky children since its creation.

KSP said it remains committed to maintaining Trooper Island's integrity and providing meaningful experiences for children across the commonwealth.

An indictment is an accusation and does not constitute evidence of guilt. Biven is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

Elmore Realty opens new office in Edmonton



▲ PJ Martin | BCP Photo

A nice community turnout to support opening of the new local office.

PJ MARTIN
JOBEnews

EDMONTON — Elmore Realty & Auction officially opened its new Edmonton office Tuesday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local officials, Chamber members and community supporters.

The new office is located next to the Metcalfe County 911

Dispatch Center.

Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce President Gina Gibson welcomed those in attendance, saying the community was pleased to see the real estate company establish a presence in Edmonton. Realtor Rose Saltman also thanked those who attended the event.

Founded in 1935 by

Milza Elmore, Elmore Realty & Auction was later joined by his son, John Ray Elmore, who has served as an auctioneer for 67 years. They have remained a family-owned business for four generations.

The Edmonton office will be led by Principal Broker Dakota R. Elmore, John Ray's grandson, and will include multiple real estate agents serving

clients in the area.

Elmore Realty & Auction offers residential, commercial and land sales, as well as estate, antique and machinery auctions.

The opening marks the company's expansion into Metcalfe County, where community leaders welcomed the business and its investment in the local area.

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NOTICE

The Caverna Independent Board of Education will hold a public hearing at the Caverna Central Office, located at 1106 N Dixie HWY, Cave City, KY 42127 on September 10th, at 4:00 central time to hear public comments regarding a proposed general fund tax levy of 74 cents on real property and 74 cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 72.5 on real property and 78.7 on personal property and produced revenue of \$3,678,993.88. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 74 cents on real property and 74 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$3,878,260.76. Of this amount, \$753,526.85 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 71.2 cents on real property and 71.2 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$3,732,286.69.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$199266.88 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of Collections, \$4981.67; instruction \$154285.21; transportation \$30,000; and maintenance of plant, \$10,000.

This notice is published pursuant to KRS 160.470.

The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.