

REGULATIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1



▲ Mike Heuer | BCP Photo

An unnamed attendee at the Aug. 13 Hiseville town hall asks how zoning might work and protect current land use by property owners.

tential data center site for industrial development, has some county residents supporting a move toward planning and zoning, as evidenced by recent comments at the final two town hall meetings.

The Aug. 10 town hall in Park City generally was the first in which several commenters addressed planning and zoning instead of the proposed data center in Cave City.

Among them was Steven Gibson, who lives in District 6 and suggested people consider how zoning might affect county farmers.

“Are we going to make the neighborhoods that are inside the county more like the city?” he asked.

Gibson asked people in the audience to think about how zoning would affect them individually and how much it would cost to implement zoning.

“I’ve seen several places that are used as dumps,” he continued. “If zoning is implemented, and they’re not able to dump there, are they going to be able to sell that to a person that’s going to build a house?”

He suggested the land would be unstable for many years in areas where dumping has occurred.

“How does zoning protect that?” Gibson said. “We’re not only protecting us. We have to protect the future.”

Another local resident, Ken Wininger, simply stated that he is there to learn about planning and zoning, adding that he thinks the county has good magistrates on its Fiscal Court.

Wininger said he has been “staying out of the city” so he “can do what I want” on his land.

Also asking how planning and zoning might affect the county was Jennifer Graves, who lives in District 6.

She wants to know when zoning might be enacted, what the actual timeline would be and how it might affect the proposed data center in Cave City.

County Attorney Mike Richardson and Planning and Zoning Director Kevin Myatt have said the Cave City data center project would not be affected by county planning and zoning.

That is because Cave City, like Glasgow and Park City, is incorporated, and each city has its own planning and zoning regulations.

The about 600-acre parcel upon which the proposed data center would be built is subject to Cave City’s zoning, which is zoned industrial.

No countywide zoning would apply within the borders of Cave City, Park City or Glasgow, so the county could not use zoning to stop the proposed data center from being built.

Zoning might make it harder for a data center to be built in unincorporated areas of Barren County, though, depending on how the zoning is done.

Many Cave City residents and others attending the town halls have suggested a data center would pose a danger to local water quality due to possible sinkholes and other natural features, but that would apply to virtually anything built on the Cave City property.

Developer Kentucky Industrial Alliance LLC filed two active lawsuits against Cave City in the Barren County Circuit Court after city officials in May imposed a moratorium of up to a year on the parcel.

City officials say a proposal submitted by Kentucky Industrial Alliance officials was incomplete, but the developers say that is untrue.



▲ Mike Heuer | BCP Photo

District 6 resident Steven Gibson asked how zoning might affect farming while he attended the Aug. 10 planning and zoning town hall at Park City Elementary School.

While the matter is tied up in court, Cave City residents might want the city’s planning and zoning commission and city council to revisit the matter to better determine if it was a good idea to zone the former farmland for industrial use.

The Park City town hall produced more county residents who are more focused on zoning and not the proposed data center, although many others did focus on the data center.

Lifelong Barren County resident Anthony Huff said he opposes any effort to enact zoning in the unincorporated areas of Barren County.

“I don’t need anyone telling me what I can do on my property,” he told county officials.

Others also state opposition to zoning for similar reasons.

The final town hall in Hiseville again produced more people focused on planning and zoning rather than the controversial Cave City data center project, but the data center was on many attendees’ minds.

Only four people signed up to speak during the town hall held at Hiseville Elementary School, with Becky Thomas among them.

She opposes zoning and urged county officials and residents to “say ‘no’ to zoning, which she said would give the county government more power over property owners.

Thomas favors enacting regulations to address matters like the proposed data center, instead of enacting planning and zoning regulations.

Thomas Branham did not offer an opinion on planning and zoning but instead asked how it might affect someone who might want to build a barn on a farming property is zoning were enacted.

Myatt assured him that the Kentucky Right to Farm Act would protect any ag-related activities on a parcel that is at least 5 acres in size, including building a barn.

The act has legal precedence over any local laws, including zoning.

Myatt said the purpose of planning and zoning is to ensure the public safety, health and welfare of the local community.

Upon hearing that, an unnamed man suggested that “zoning protects me.”

Myatt agreed and said planning and zoning are intended to protect property owners against surprise developments or other uses that otherwise could not be stopped.

Whenever a project is proposed that does not meet zoning regulations but seeks a variance, a public hearing is held during which anyone can testify why he or she does or does not support the proposed land use.

A newly formed Barren County Land Use Committee begins the process of drafting possible planning and zoning laws for the county, which might be enacted before the end of the year if county officials decide to proceed.

Public hearings would be held before any final decisions are made, though.

About 80 attended the Park City town hall, while about 60 showed up for the Hiseville town hall.

Two earlier town halls were held at Temple Hill Elementary and Austin Tracy Elementary.

Members of the Barren County Fiscal Court, including Judge Executive Jamie Bewley Byrd and Fiscal Court magistrates attended the four planning and zoning town halls, along with Richardson and Myatt.

In & Out

MAMMOTH CAVE 50K/25K RACE

Mammoth Cave 50K/25K race scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026. More info. is available at visitparkcityky.com.

225 Years of Ministry at Salem

Salem Baptist Church wants to invite the community to join in celebrating its 225th Anniversary on September 13, 2026, at 10:00 am. The special service will include worship, special singing by Joyful Road, and a time to reflect on the church’s rich history and God’s faithfulness throughout more than two centuries. Following the celebration, a BBQ meal and fellowship will be enjoyed by all in attendance. A time capsule will also be opened. The celebration will be held at 90 Salem Church Road, Cave City, KY 42127. Everyone is welcome to attend this historic milestone celebration.

VA ASSISTANCE

A representative will be at the Lera B Mitchell Clubhouse, 1214 South Green Street, Glasgow, every Tuesday, 8:00 am to 12 pm, to help Veterans file VA benefits and answer any questions you may have.

CHS 2026/2027 SBDM MEETING DATES/TIMES

Tuesday, September 8
Tuesday, October 13
Tuesday, November 10
Tuesday, December 8
Tuesday, January 12
Tuesday, February 9
Tuesday, March 9
Tuesday, April 13
Tuesday, May 11
Tuesday, June 8

*All meetings will be held at 4:00 p.m. CST (5:00 p.m. EST) in the CHS Library. Dates and times are subject to change.

Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library

August 1–August 31

Our Youth Department and Bookmobile Staff will be at area Back-to-School events, so be sure to stop by to see them!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Red Ink Writers’ Circle: 6:00 PM

Meet together with other local writers for manuscript critique and for support. Prepare a five-minute section of a manuscript to read, then receive comments from group members with the aim of strengthening your writing. Please bring copies of your selected pages for group members. Open to adult authors of all genres.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

Page Turners Book Club: 10:00 AM

The book selection this month is *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah. “Women can be heroes, too.” When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances Frankie McGrath hears these unexpected words, it is a revelation. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America. Pick up a copy of the book at the library, read, and join the group for discussion.

Coming Up in September

September Is Library Card Sign Up Month

Chair Yoga: Every Thursday at Noon

Time for Medicare:
Tuesday, September 1 at 6:00 PM

Painting with Leah Williams (Adults):
Thursday, September 3 at 6:00 PM

Trivia Night (Adults)-
Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 PM

English Discussion Group
for Speakers of Other Languages:
Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10:00 AM
& Monday, Sept. 21 at 6:00 PM