COUNCIL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



▲ Katrina England | JOBEnews Photo

Police Chief Paul Reynolds explained that the goal of e-bike and scooter enforcement is safety and education, not punishing kids, noting officers have seen several close calls involving young riders.

The main discussion of the night included the first reading of Ordinance 26-9-11, which sets safety rules for electric bicycles and electric scooters in town. Before City Attorney Bobby Richardson read the ordinance, Mayor Hatcher addressed a wording mistake in the early draft that made some people think the city was banning e-bikes altogether.

"The verbiage is wrong, and I'll take all the blame for it," Hatcher said. "The ordinance clearly states we do not intend to prohibit (e-bikes) at all, but we want to take some action for the safety of everybody. That's the bottom line."

Police Chief Paul Reynolds explained that the goal is safety and education, not punishing kids, noting officers have seen several close calls involving young riders.

“We’ve let it kind of go, because it’s kids,” Reynolds said. “We’re not doing it to be mean. We’re doing it to save some kid’s life… We’re not out here trying to harm the kids, we’re trying to help them”

Under the ordinance, children under 12 cannot ride an e-bike or scooter on public streets without direct adult supervision, and anyone under 16 is not allowed to ride high-speed Class 3 e-bikes that go over 20 mph. All riders must wear a properly fitted helmet, follow traffic laws, and use lights and reflectors after dark. E-bikes are also not allowed on downtown or business sidewalks unless the city puts up signs allowing them.

After discussions with Chief Reynolds, Council Member Andrew Bagshaw made a motion to change the penalties to a three-step warning system so kids and parents have a chance to learn the rules.

The first time results in a warning from police, a call to the parents, and a required sit-down talk with officers. The second time brings a written ticket with a $25 fine. A third violation results in police impounding the e-bike or scooter.

Council members also talked about whether e-bikes should be allowed on downtown sidewalks on regular days and only banned during big festivals like Rail Fest.

Chief Reynolds advised against changing the rules back and forth for events, saying it would confuse kids and set them up for failure. Council Member Beverly Ford agreed that sidewalks should stay strictly for people walking.

Richardson suggested denoting whether ebikes are permitted or restricted through the use of signage.

Beverly Ford expressed that if one person is on the sidewalk, there should be no e-bikes.

“The kids have to learn to follow the signs, and nobody wants to step out of their business and two or three e-bikes come out,” said Ford.

The ordinance passed its first reading in a 4 to 1 vote, with Ford voting no due to her concerns over sidewalks. The council will hold a second reading next month before the rules go into effect.

Resident Tim Brown spoke to the council about problems with the Highway 90 road project, pointing out that the right-turning lane was taken out and there are no sidewalks or wide shoulders for pedestrians.

Brown explained that a disabled veteran on Glenwood Court who uses a wheelchair can no longer safely get to the store.

Mayor Hatcher explained that because Highway 90 is a state road paid for with state and federal money, the city has very little say over the plans, noting the project has taken 10 years to reach this point. However, Hatcher said he spoke with state highway officials earlier that day, and they admitted removing the right-turning lane was an oversight that will be fixed.

"That’s a heavily traveled road," Hatcher said. "It’s never going to be perfect. As far as the wider shoulder, we’re at the mercy of the state. From the discussions I’ve had with the highway people, at this point, the only thing to rectify this is a sidewalk. These things take time. I’d like to reiterate that this Highway 90 project took ten years, but we won’t quit trying to rectify it."

When Bagshaw asked if a sidewalk could be added to the current road work, Hatcher said it would have to be a separate project and would likely need to be paid for through a TAP grant.

In financial reports, it was announced that $125,587.52 was transferred to Tourism in October. Police Department savings stood at $11,942.61, and Fire Department checking was at $2,086.87.

The council also approved the first reading of Ordinance 26-9-11B to set up a bid process for a telecommunications franchise as Windstream splits into two companies, and Council Member Ronald Coffey reported the city has been approved for a generator grant while waiting on bids from electricians.

Mayor Hatcher and council members reminded everyone of several upcoming community events.

LeBraun Cares will host a free community Thanksgiving dinner at the Senior Citizens building on Saturday, November 14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Light Up Cave City (downtown) is scheduled for Saturday, November 21, and the Chamber of Commerce Awards and Christmas Banquet will be held Tuesday, December 8, at the Convention Center with guest speaker Rocky Adkins.

The annual Cave City Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday, December 13, at 6 p.m. The next regular City Council meeting will take place on Monday, December 14, followed by a holiday gathering.

Before wrapping up, Hatcher asked everyone to remember local veterans on Veterans Day and keep Thanksgiving in mind before rushing into the Christmas season.

Glasgow man faces drug trafficking, assault charges following confrontation with officers

STAFF REPORT

GLASGOW, Ky. — A Glasgow man faces multiple charges, including drug trafficking and assaulting law enforcement officers, following a confrontation with probation and parole officers and a subsequent search of his residence.

Kenneth Vernard Stephens was arrested Thursday, Nov. 12, after Glasgow police responded around 11:30 a.m. to assist probation and parole officers with a combative individual.

According to the Glasgow Police Department, Officer Walker arrived to find probation and parole officers struggling to restrain Stephens.

Police said Stephens physically assaulted multiple officers, scratching one and pushing another into a set of large mirrors.

Stephens was detained and arrested. Officers also reported detecting a strong odor of marijuana coming from him.

During the investigation, Stephens allegedly told probation and parole officers that he had marijuana at his residence but declined to disclose the amount.

Police subsequently obtained and executed a search warrant at the home, where officers reported recovering marijuana, scales, a grinder, an unidentified tan powder and a large amount of cash.

Stephens initially faced charges of second-degree criminal mischief, menacing, third-degree assault of a police or probation officer and public intoxication involving a controlled substance.

Following the search, Officer Alley filed additional charges of trafficking in marijuana, less than 8 ounces, first offense; possession of drug paraphernalia; and first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, involving an unspecified drug.



▲ Photo | Glasgow Police Department

Kenneth Vernard Stephens

Stephens was lodged in the Barren County Jail.

The Glasgow Police Department did not specify the amount of marijuana or cash recovered, nor did it identify the tan powder.

The charges are allegations, and Stephens is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

Court consolidates four suits over fatal Glasgow crash

STAFF REPORT

GLASGOW, Ky. — Four civil lawsuits stemming from a 2025 Glasgow crash that killed three teenagers have been consolidated for discovery in Barren Circuit Court.

The Nov. 9 order allows the parties to exchange evidence under a single case number. Whether the four cases will be tried together remains undecided.

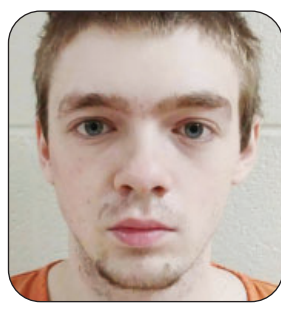
The Oct. 17, 2025, crash at North Jackson Highway and Veterans Outer Loop killed Emily Corbin, 18, William “Toxie” Moore, 17, and Charley Fancher, 14.

The teenagers’ families and two occupants of the other vehicle, Timothy Houchens and Stephen Estes, filed the suits against Asa Howard, the accused driver, and South Green Liquors in Glasgow.

The plaintiffs allege Howard, then 18, bought alcohol at the store before driving through a red light at high speed. According to court filings, a blood sample taken about two hours after the crash showed a blood alcohol concentration of 0.129.

The plaintiffs seek compensatory and punitive damages. The liquor store’s operator disputes liability. Howard has invoked his right against self-incrimination in the civil proceedings.

In a separate criminal case, Howard has pleaded not guilty to three counts of murder, three counts of first-degree wanton endangerment and one count of first-degree assault.



▲ Photo | Barren County Detention Center

Asa Howard

The Nov. 9 order allows the parties to share evidence in the cases stemming from the deaths of three teenagers. The court has yet to decide whether to hold a joint trial.

A criminal pretrial conference is scheduled for Dec. 7. Trial dates are set for March 16–19 and March 24–26, 2027.

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is preparing an economic impact study. Wage ranges for the projected 350 to 400 permanent jobs and annual tax revenue estimates were not included in the responses. The developer said it had neither applied for nor been offered local or state incentives.

According to the representative, due diligence began in March, the developer obtained a grading permit in July and submitted building permit applications for six buildings in November. Issuance of those building permits remains unconfirmed.

Asked whether a data center was under contract, the representative replied, “We are not at liberty to discuss at this time.”

Residents seek a continuing discussion

Coalition organizer Judy Jessie Crabtree said her concern is the proposed location near homes, farmland and Mammoth Cave National Park. Coalition member Sherry Williams said she wants the community to weigh the economic opportunity against what residents could lose.

“So why am I speaking up at the age of 70? Because I’ve lived long enough to appreciate what industry contributes, but also to understand that some things, once damaged, cannot be repaired,” Williams said.

The developer said its engineering and development team intends to hold community information sessions as the project progresses. Dates have yet to be announced.

“We intend to be a good neighbor and a long-term partner to Barren County,” the representative said.