

Coroner hopeful Gossett is only write-in candidate to file by deadline



ANTHONY GOSSETT

BY CHRISTOPHER HARRIS
COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL

Monday was the deadline to file to be a write-in candidate for the November elections in Kentucky, and Pulaski County will see one such individual challenge for coroner’s office.

Anthony Gossett, a veteran of the Pulaski County Coroner’s Office, was the only individual to declare intent to be a write-in candidate this coming Election Day, November 3, according to Pulaski County Clerk Tim Price.

Gossett spent 17 years working in the coroner’s office locally, and was chief deputy coroner under three different coroners. He filed on Monday, August 17.

“I know what the coroner’s office does, I know how it runs, I know what happens,” he said. “I know the coroner’s office pretty well.”

Gossett said that he was considering actually running in the Primary Elections, but “had a change of heart” as he didn’t want to run against two other candidates whom he counts as friends: Joshua New and Danny

Weddle. However, he said that he’s “not happy” with the individual who won that race in May — Tyler Hibbard. The lead funeral director for both Morris & Hislope and Pulaski Funeral Homes claimed 35.79 percent of the vote, over New’s 30.30%, Weddle’s, 29.95%, and Mitchell Eggers’ 3.97%.

Without any Democratic challengers, the Republican Hibbard appeared to be essentially a lock for the position come 2027, replacing Clyde Strunk who ran for county judge-executive instead this year, but

Gossett’s write-in candidacy now provides Hibbard with a contender, though one who’s name won’t be alongside Hibbard’s on the ballot.

Why is Gossett unhappy with Hibbard? “I just don’t think he’s qualified,” said Gossett. He added, “I’m just not big on the coroner’s office being in the hands of the funeral home.”

Specifically, with the coroner’s office being a function of government, Gossett doesn’t agree with someone being affiliated

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DOLLY

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own theme park — Dollywood. From a public persona perspective, she was known for a sharp wit, a distinctive style, and for being embraced by individuals from a variety of different backgrounds and perspectives — often considered an increasing rarity, politically speaking, in the 21st century — and built a reputation as one of country music’s brightest shining stars, known for hits like “Jolene,” “I Will Always Love You,” and “9 to 5.”

On Wednesday, Pulaski County Government colored the water of the Fountain Square pink in honor of Parton, the color most associated with her and her fashion sensibilities.

Parton was someone Master Musicians Festival organizer Tiffany Finley always wanted to get on the local concert event’s line-up, but was never able to land.

“Although budget constraints kept the Master Musicians festival from having the opportunity to honor Dolly Parton, she is the very definition of a master musician,” said Finley in a statement to the Commonwealth Journal on Wednesday. “Her music has soared across generations, and her extraordinary generosity has touched countless lives.”

“Dolly’s career represents what every artist should strive for — not simply success but a lasting legacy built with talent, grace, professionalism and kindness,” she added. “We should all strive to be a little more like Dolly. The world would certainly be a better place.”

One of the biggest impacts Parton left on the world was in creating the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a literacy program for children that she began in 1995 in her home area of east Tennessee. Books are mailed to enrolled children, free of charge to those families, every month from birth to age 5. The Pulaski County Library picked up the program in the 2000s, and it was incorporated in 2016; according to the Pulaski County Imagination Library’s website, imaginationlibrarypck.org, over 4,000 Pulaski County children had graduated from the program and now have a complete library of their

own by the start of last year.

Carol Sexton, former Director of Children’s Services at the Pulaski County Public Library, helped get the program off the ground — working closely, she noted, with Christie Champlin Adams, who passed away August 20 herself at age 58.

The local Rotary Club organization, in which Christie Adams (along with husband John) was very active, was one of the main funding sources for the local Imagination Library. “It all started with Christie and John, sponsoring the very first part of it,” said Sexton. “She looked at me, I looked at her, we walked up to each other ... and we were like, ‘We need to do this.’”

“We would ask anybody who would give,” she added. “We would go to the (Somerset-Pulaski County) Chamber of Commerce meetings with our ... six-foot or however tall the Dolly Parton lookalike poster was and sit out there and do whatever we needed to do to sponsor it.”

Likewise, said Sexton, she was involved in a “Sit and Read” auction, with local artists painting chairs to sell and raise funds. The author Sandra Boynton even designed one. There was a waiting list of children seeking to get on with the program, but until the money was obtained, that couldn’t happen; however, said Sexton, “A lot of people made sure that there was never a waiting list for the kids in Pulaski County.”

Sexton said that Imagination Library “does a really good job of selecting the books,” choosing appropriate, high-quality material that always starts with the classic “The Little Engine That Could” and ends with “Kindergarten, Here I Come!”

Heather Meadows of Evans, Harville, Atwell & Co, CPAs, PLLC is current president of the local Imagination Library affiliate’s board of directors. Like Sexton with Adams, Meadows credited the late Lisa Evans, a partner in that firm, with being instrumental with Imagination Library here

For Meadows personally, Parton’s influence began when she was young. “My grandfather loved her; I always knew her by my grandfather.”

In regard to the Imagina-

tion Library, “I’ve always personally had a love of reading, the library and books, so just to kind of be a part of helping further that (is important). I’m a big supporter of children and education and learning, and fostering that love of reading.”

Added Sexton, “We know

that early literacy matters for success, in terms of school success, graduating high school, and when you put books in the hands of children at their home, they’re or likely to pick them up. So what (Parton) did was revolutionary. ... She was so giving and she just got it. She got it.”

PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS REBUILDING OF HIGH SERVICE WATER PUMPS FOR CITY OF BURNSIDE, KENTUCKY AUGUST 2026

Sealed proposals for the following work will be received by the City of Burnside at 7929 S. Hwy 27, Burnside, KY until 11:00 am (local time) September 2, 2026, for furnishing labor and materials and performing all work as set forth in the Advertisement for Bids, General Conditions, Specifications and or/ Drawings prepared by HMB Professional Engineers, Inc., 3 HMB Circle, US 460, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Immediately following the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids, all proposals which have been submitted in accordance with the above conditions will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work to be bid upon is described as follows:

- The rebuilding of two (2) Peerless High Service Water Pumps

Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents may be examined at the following places:

City of Burnside	HMB Professional Engineers, Inc.
7929 S. Hwy 27	3 HMB Circle, US 460
Burnside, KY 42519	Frankfort, KY 40601

Printed or electronic copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from LYNN IMAGING, 382 Old Vine Street, Lexington, Kentucky, 40507, upon payment as follows:

Rebuilding of Two (2) Peerless High Service Water Pumps	\$300 per set (hard copy); \$200 per set Electronic Copy
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The phone number for LYNN IMAGING is (859)226-5850. Note: Additional shipping charges may apply.

Sealed proposals for Contract shall be clearly marked on the outside of the container as follows:

“Sealed proposal for: The rebuilding of two (2) Peerless High Service Water Pumps”
Not to be opened until 11:00 am (local time), September 2, 2026

“The following addenda have been received and considered in the enclosed proposal”
Addendum No. _____ Addendum No. _____ Addendum No. _____

Time allowed for completion is 120 calendar days from the start of repair project which shall be no later than November 1, 2026.

If forwarded by mail, the sealed envelope containing the proposal must be enclosed in another envelope and mailed to the City of Burnside, 7929 S. Hwy 27, Burnside, KY, 42519 allowing sufficient time for such mailing to reach this address prior to the scheduled closing time for the receipt of proposals.

Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond payable to the City of Burnside in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the base bid. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date bids are opened. He may, however, withdraw his bid at any time prior to the time and date scheduled for opening of same or any authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified will not be considered and will returned unopened to the bidder.

The City of Burnside reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities and any bid that is obviously unbalanced may be rejected.

Robert Lawson
Mayor

PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. 26-13

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FORMAL CLOSING, DECLARING SURPLUS, AND DISPOSAL TO THE SURROUNDING PROPERTY OWNERS THE PART OF THE PLATTED BUT UNDEVELOPED PART OF A CITY STREET “SUMMIT A VENUE” BETWEEN HILLVIEW AVENUE AND VAUGHT STREET.

WHEREAS, the following described street bed has been dedicated as a public street by reference to same in Deed Book 90, Page 231 and possibly other records filed and of record in the Pulaski County Court Clerk’s Office, but having never been developed, to wit:

“The unconstructed part Summit A venue located between Hillview and Vaught Street or more commonly located as the back property line of Prairie Farms Dairy facility on the South Side of Bourne A venue.”

WHEREAS, A property owner has petitioned the City to have the property declared surplus and conveyed the to the adjoining property owners.

WHEREAS, the City of Somerset desires to acknowledge the dedication of said street so that same may be legally closed, declared surplus, and disposal by conveyance to the surrounding property owners as herein provided; and,

WHEREAS, all property owners who abut the public street, alley or way have consented in writing to the proposed closing of the street; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Somerset, Kentucky, the following findings are made with reference thereto:

1. The street to be closed is and described as follows: The undeveloped part of Summit Avenue (See Exhibit A) if dedicated properly to the City of Somerset is deemed and found to be surplus;
2. Written notice of the proposed closing was given by the petitioning property owner in or abutting the public street (See Exhibit B); and,
3. The property owners abutting the public street, being closed have given their written consent to the closing and a copy of the written consent(s) is and are attached hereto (See Exhibit B); and,

Accordingly, based upon the findings of fact herein, it is hereby ORDERED and ORDAINED the public street, alley or way described is hereby CLOSED, FOUND TO BE SURPLUS PROPERTY WITH NO USE TO THE CITY OF SOMERSET, AND MAY BE DISPOSED OF BY CONVEYANCE TO THE SURROUNDING PROPERTY OWNER. A copy of this Ordinance shall be filed of record in the Pulaski County Clerk’s Office as required by KRS 82.405(2).

The foregoing Ordinance was read and presented to a regular meeting of the City Council of Somerset, Kentucky for the first reading on the 27th day of July, 2026.

Motion by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Wheeldon that the Ordinance be adopted as the law of the City of Somerset, Kentucky, to be effective immediately upon publication thereof as required by law after a Second Reading on August 10, 2026.

APPROVED:
ALAN KECK, MAYOR
CITY OF SOMERSET, KY

ATTEST:
NICK BRADLEY, CITY CLERK