



FUN IN THE SUN – The Hickman Police Department hosted a “Summer Fun Day” Fri., July 24 at Jeff Green Park in Hickman, Ky., as 124 kids attended this year’s event, which is a new record. Food and drinks were provided, and several toys were given away. Also available were a bounce house, kickball game, and several other activities. (Photos submitted)

Audit highlights, SRO impasse dominate Fulton Comm. meeting

Megan Dame

The Fulton City Commission accepted the findings of a long-delayed independent audit, approved the hiring of a new police chief, advanced a proposal to rename Bankers Place as Banana Boulevard and spent considerable time discussing an ongoing stalemate with Fulton Independent Schools over whether or not to have one or two school resource officers (SROs) during its Monday evening meeting.

The meeting opened with Fulton Mayor David Prater leading the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, roll call, and the city attorney’s report before commissioners moved through a lengthy agenda.

The meeting’s most detailed presentation came from the city’s independent auditor, who reviewed the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, audit report and acknowledged significant progress while outlining remaining financial deficiencies.

The auditor Chloe Humphrey, with Cowart, Reese and Sargeant CPAs said recent efforts by city staff, particularly work by the finance department and city management, helped improve the city’s financial reporting process.

“We felt like that a lot of the efforts the city put in in the last few months ... we could get some basic financial statements,” Humphrey said. “Looking ahead, our office is committed to helping navigate the delinquency of the reports.”

She noted one audit finding had already been resolved after discussions with management and said an amended report would reflect that correction.

She expressed optimism that work completed this year will allow the city to begin its fiscal year 2025 audit.

“I know how important it is to you guys to get this information in your hands,” the auditor said. “I think we’re on our way to doing that.”

Although the auditor ultimately found the financial statements fairly presented after adjustments, the report contained qualified opinions because several items could not be fully reconciled.

Among the unresolved issues were: compensated absences; due-to and due-from accounts between city funds; items that could not be reconciled to exact dollar amounts.

Humphrey recommended those adjustments to be completed during the 2025 audit process.

Despite the audit findings, several financial indicators improved during the fiscal year.

Among the highlights presented: city-wide net position increased by approximately \$585,000; governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of approximately \$2.3 million; overall debt decreased by approximately \$324,000; and the utility fund posted a net income of approximately \$264,000.

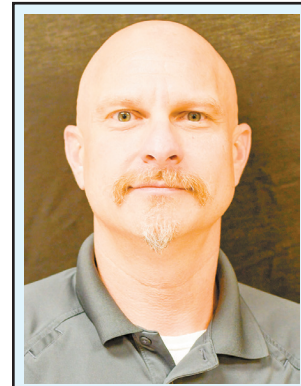
Humphrey also noted prior-period accounting corrections totaling about \$213,000

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Gentry

LAMB NAMED NEW FULTON CITY MANAGER – Nathan Lamb was named the new City Manager for the City of Fulton, effective immediately, with Mayor Prater, along with Commissioners Forrester, Kelley and Linn, voting yes to approve Municipal Order 2026-14 at the July 22 meeting of the Fulton Commission. (Photo submitted)



FISD BOE advances student support, leadership initiatives, dual credit partnership

Megan Dame

The Fulton Independent School Board of Education approved a series of operational and instructional initiatives, while Superintendent Dr. Darrell Witten outlined his vision for improving district systems, strengthening partnerships, and building a culture of leadership across the school district.

The board, including chairman Dr. Austin Ferrell, vice chair Carol Bransford, board members Christy Pettigrew, Janet Gossum and Karen Dean, met Tuesday, July 21 at the Fulton Independent Schools board office. Also in attendance were Board Secretary Tela Brown and Principal Amanda Curlin.

The board approved financial and personnel reports, renewed agreements supporting dual credit opportunities and leadership development, received updates on student services and grants, and began reviewing policy changes required by the Kentucky General Assembly.

Following the opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and approval of the agenda, the board unanimously approved minutes from its June

17 regular meeting and June 23 special-called meeting.

During communications and consent items, board members received an update from the Family Resource and Youth Services Center (FRYSC) Director Tracey Pulley.

Dr. Witten commended the program after touring both school FRYSC centers.

“One of the first things that I did... was take a tour of the FRYSC rooms in both schools. There are a tremendous amount of resources that we have and the work that she does to support our students.”

He also praised FRYSC staff for assisting with student registration, orientation and enrollment activities.

Board members Dean asked about and summer day camp participation figures, with administrators agreeing to get updated participation numbers for future reports.

The board reviewed the district’s annual food service report after completing a full calendar year with its current provider.

Board member Gossum requested information regarding the participation in the summer feeding program and requested average attendance

figures be provided at a later date.

The district announced it received state funding through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Carr Elementary was awarded \$8,250 and Fulton Middle/High School received \$6,600.

Board members congratulated food services director Ashley Teasley on securing the additional funding before unanimously approving all communications and consent items.

Dr. Witten presented the personnel report, including appointments and transfers contained within the board packet.

He reported the district continues recruiting certified staff, particularly in hard-to-fill subject areas.

The superintendent also announced the district recently interviewed candidates for the assistant principal position and had checked references.

Addressing questions from board members regarding recruitment, Witten said Fulton faces the same challenges as school systems across Kentucky.

“Math, English, science

and social studies—those are the four big core areas every superintendent is struggling because there’s a shortage of teachers.”

“We’re not unlike any other district. We’re competing for staff, and we’re doing everything we can to locate teachers.”

Rather than approve the monthly financial reports, the board voted to table the item until the next meeting.

Dr. Witten explained that copying issues affected the reports and that he and the financial staff had already begun redesigning the presentation to make financial information easier for board members to understand.

Future reports will feature summary pages highlighting cash balances, expenditures and revenue sources

“Munis is not very board-friendly,” Witten said. “We want to make sure they’re very clear and communicate the information.”

The board approved the amended Fiscal Year 2027 salary schedule. Dr. Witten explained the district is not providing across-the-board raises this year because of fi-

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Ken-Tenn EMS Board approves FY2027 budget, employee pay plan

(Editor’s Note: The following minutes were submitted from the Ken-Tenn EMS board meeting held Tues., June 16 and were considered for approval at the Tues., July 21 regular meeting of the Board)

The Ken-Tenn EMS Board of Directors approved a fiscal year 2027 budget, employee incentive pay, a new step raise program and updated fee schedule during its regular meeting Tues., June 16, at the Mills Point Community Center, in Hickman, Ky.

Board President Pete Algee called the meeting to order with Vice President Joyce Gray, Secretary Prater, Ben-

ita Fuzzell, Robert Griggs, Mike Gunn (via Teams), Jim Martin and Chuck Murphy present. Guests included Ken-Tenn EMS Director Jordan Jones, Office Manager Ashley Fortner and others.

The board approved the May 19 meeting minutes and May financial statement.

During the director’s report, Jones updated the board on ambulance operations.

Ambulance 303 is nearing completion after a dome light issue that drained the battery was repaired, with the manufacturer reimbursing repair costs. Ambulance 302, purchased in April 2025, experienced engine failure while responding to a call and will be repaired under warranty. The repair timeline is estimated at two months.

Jones reported Ken-Tenn

EMS responded to more than 200 calls during May. Annual refresher training began in June, providing employees with 20-30 hours of continuing education. He also announced the service’s second paramedic student has completed training and passed the National Registry exam.

Fortner reported four grant applications were recently submitted, including

requests for Community Paramedicine development, training equipment, Treat-No-Transport and Treat-All-Alternative-Destination programs, as well as additional paramedic tuition funding through FEMA. Award notifications are expected later this year.

The board approved an

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1522 Union City Hwy.
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