

Crittenden has plans to move the city forward

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Jim Purcell called the Crittenden City Council to order on August 8 with all members present with the exception of Bobby Newman. The agenda consisted of a resolution, discussion of personnel planning and determining the 2026 trick or treat date.

City Clerk Shawn McHolland said the “current CD (certificate of deposit) does mature next month.” He said rates are remaining at the current 3.55% “or going up.” The city will probably keep it as is at that time.

McHolland said they have started paying the revised amount of \$25,000 per quarter for the fire department. The Ambulance District is up-to-date on payments, as well.

RESOLUTION 01-2026 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RESOLUTION

The City is applying for a grant for the Nature Park for Phase III (of V) of the park development.

McHolland said Phase I is complete and Phase II will be complete this year.

He said it has been two years since they looked at Phases III, IV and V, and they are “going to kick back into that engineering” with learning from the usage. For example, he noted people like to fish off the pier, so they will not be planting bushes in Phase V.

He said the grant process takes up to 24 months “cash payout.” He said they will engineer, then “stop spending; once cash [is] released that is ...the start line.”

He said from there, they will put it out for bid to hire a contractor, create contracts and then build the phases. He said the time to spend the money usually covers 10 to 12 months so it is not a rushed process. He said money must be spent “forward not backward.”

The resolution details the application for “maximum of fifty percent (50%) of proposed project costs estimated at \$1,000,000.00.”

Blake Madden, who handles grant writing for land and water conservation fund for the Northern

Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD), was at the meeting for questions.

A motion to approve the resolution carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL PLANNING

The city has an applicant for an assistant for the maintenance department. She is the niece of Keith McKenney, current maintenance foreman. Purcell said a niece is not considered as nepotism in the current personnel plan.

He said there is also “laborer” position for a maintenance assistant under that plan.

However, there is no provisions for family leave or “maternity leave” in the personnel plan.

Purcell suggests hiring her as a full time assistant. He said she has indicated she would ask for \$25 an hour starting pay. He said with her resume, he feels she would be well qualified for the position.

Purcell distributed a draft the job description for the position and the change in the plan, which will be discussed at a later date.

McHolland also asked about the

city manager position discussed during the July meeting.

Council discussed issues of continuity and the potential need for such a position. He said it would be important to have such a position for times such as when the mayor's seat comes open. He referred to issues in 2019-2020 during which the city would have, apparently, benefited greatly by having a city manager.

Councilmember Joe Dusing suggested to have himself, Purcell and McHolland develop a “bullet point list” or, as Purcell suggested, a framework of a position, utilizing the Kentucky League of Cities for information.

TRICK-OR-TREATING

Council agreed to have Oct. 31 as the date of Trick or Treating for 2026. The city will join with the other three Grant County cities to split the cost of an advertisement in the Grant County News for the event.

MISCELLANEOUS

Purcell suggested replacing the

current city attorneys, of Gatlin Voelker Law Firm, with C. Ed Massey & Associates, PLLC out of Erlanger. Council agreed to investigate the change.

The annual Christmas parade, was discussed by Fire Chief Alex Cole. He said they must have local government approval to have the parade. This can be in the form of a letter.

Councilmember Bobby Turner asked if it would be possible to have both lanes closed for the parade, for safety. Cole said it is possible, however they will have to coordinate with the Department of Transportation for the route and the Grant County Sheriff's Office for closures and times.

He said they plan to have the parade on December 17 at 7 p.m. and are working on the route, hoping to “make it a little bit longer this year.”

The next meeting of the Council will be a special meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. at the City Building, 117 Main Street. For more information on the meetings or any City business, call (859) 428-2597.

Corinth moves forward with problem property issues

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, Mayor Dalaney Bishop called the City of Corinth Council meeting to order. All members were present along with City Attorney Pete Whaley. On the agenda were possible interlocal agreement with the county and a short term rental ordinance.

PROBLEM PROPERTIES

Moving forward with pursuing actions against the problem properties inside the city, Whaley suggested the city enter into an interlocal agreement with the county to use their code enforcement officer. As well, they could partner with the county for dumpsters for cleanups.

Wainscott Property: City Clerk Tara Wright said if the city owned the property, which has a burned out house on it, they could potentially do a one-time permit by rule onsite for disposal of the building. However, the city would have to foreclose and seize the property in order to own it, which could be a cost-prohibitive and time consuming process. The property needs attention as soon as possible.

They would prefer to enter an interlocal agreement with the county providing dumpsters for the material and the city to pay for cleanup.

Estes Property: This property has been in litigation in the past for sewer, water and health issues. While the county has assisted to a certain extent, the brunt of the responsibility has fallen to the city. Without a code enforcement officer for Corinth, it has proven impossible to do anything with the property.

Whaley said in the past, code enforcement was the responsibility of Bryan Miles, the retired county solid waste coordinator (SWC). However, it was clarified this was not in the SWC job description, and the county could not enforce against Estes.

Whaley indicated a code enforcement officer/SWC was to be hired “in the next couple months,” possibly by November. He said they could “restart the process” against Estes possibly in January with a county code

enforcement officer/SWC.

Again, it was clarified the Solid Waste Board (SWB), not the county, has responsibility to hire this position and while the SWB is in-process, they are awaiting Judge/Executive Chuck Dills to provide verbiage for adding code enforcement responsibilities to the job description.

Sexton Property: this property has overgrown weeds and unknown materials in the yard and is a potential health hazard. While the city has tried to hire someone to mow the property, with the amount and height of growth, no one will venture into the property.

Plus, with no code enforcement, the city may not have authority to do such. Code enforcement would help to add legal authority to go onto the property and mow/clean up.

McCormick Property: the old bank building has been allowed to deteriorate to the point of being a potential health hazard.

Whaley had a written document delineating to-date procedures for the properties including notices of violation, citations and newspaper notices for these four properties.

He also presented the city with a draft interlocal agreement “regarding code enforcement” indicating the “county code enforcement officer will act as the city code enforcement officer” and in exchange, Corinth “to the extent possible, will cooperate with Grant County regarding matters of interest to Grant County and Corinth to their mutual benefit.”

Additionally, Whaley presented the city with a copy of the Grant County Nuisance Ordinance so they might have a similar ordinance for the city.

Council unanimously approved accepting the ordinance and entering into the interlocal agreement. Bishop signed the agreement during the meeting.

SHORT TERM RENTAL (STR)

Whaley also brought a copy of a proposed ordinance he had “copied from Louisville” and customized for Corinth, as he had no draft ordinances available.

It was noted Dry Ridge,

Williamstown and Crittenden all have STR ordinances. He said he would look into them.

TRICK-OR-TREAT

In the past, the city has joined with the other three cities in county—Williamstown, Dry Ridge and Crittenden—to have the official Halloween Trick or Treat on the same day. Usually, it is as close to the date of Halloween, Oct. 31, as possible. The four cities then pool funding to advertise, and activities are county-wide on that date.

Apparently, Williamstown originally requested Trick or Treating be on Friday, Oct. 30 instead of Saturday, Oct. 31.

Council said they would go with the majority, however they prefer to have Trick or Treating on the actual day of Halloween.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council agreed to look at getting bids for paving the following streets: Hamilton Lane Rookwood Lane Knox Lane Woods Land Church Street Depot Street

Reverend Jim Sears of Corinth Baptist Church has contacted the city asking for possible volunteer opportunities for the congregation to help around Corinth.

As well, he is asking about potential approval for a Gospel Singing in front of the fire house at the junction of Kentucky 330 and Main Street. This would be a precursor to a possible Fall Festival in the future akin to the ones the city had several years ago.

On Hamilton Lane, gravel repairs have been done to a small portion that was cut into to repair a water leak. While the area is too small for blacktopping at this time, it will be included with the paving bids. Gravel will continue to be added as it settles.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Corinth City Council is Sept. 28 at 5 p.m. at 215 Thomas Lane, Corinth. However, there may be need for an earlier date for approval of tax rates for the city. If so, this will be at the call of the Mayor. For more information, call (859) 824-5922.

Ambulance board meets

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Chair Tony Morgan called the Grant County Kentucky Ambulance Service District Board (Board) meeting to order Sept. 9. Trustee Chad Bedard and Attorney Pete Whaley were absent. On the agenda was an insurance policy update as well as Dry Ridge Emergency Medical Services (DREMS) Update.

Treasurer Brooke Rider-Cummins provided the board with her report, which shows a balance of \$346,204.51.

Morgan noted the previous meeting the board conducted the tax rate setting properly and the rate was accepted and approved by the Fiscal Court on Sept. 8. He said the rate remained the same as the previous year.

He also said a routine audit is being conducted by ETA Associates and all is going well with that process.

Morgan said they are working with the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Service (VFIS) on the new policy for bonding and liability. VFIS will be sending a quote and policy statement which should be available by the next board meeting.

DRY RIDGE REPORT

DREMS Director Kevin Stave brought the board up to date as per the Inter-

Local Agreement. Run volume for August was 255 (1,927 year-to-date). Mileage was 7,903. Maintenance was \$3,606, with EC-4 up and running after an engine replacement.

EC-2, however, “dropped its transmission” and is in the shop having it replaced. Stave said they expect to have the unit back next week. He estimated the cost would be “10 to 11 thousand dollars.”

He said they had “made some calls to Owen County” with response times around 25 minutes.

Stave said patients that are “self pays” seem to be increasing over the past several months and are around “11%” now. With changes and loss of insurance coverage, this is occurring more often and is somewhat concerning as these can eventually turn into bad credit.

Stave said their cardiac unit will be receiving an award from St. Elizabeth and the American Heart Association for responding to a “widow maker” heart attack quickly and ultimately saving the patient even though they had three cardiac arrests.

He also noted DREMS has signed a critical care agreement with Scott County for Long Term Inservice Training; an Air Evac collaborative for blood storage and access. Scarcity of blood has resulted in collaboratives

between regional departments.

DREMS have also formed a “First Responder Naloxon Leave Behind” program. The program is designed to have “Leave Behind Toolkits” in each ambulance and Stave's command vehicle. He said responders will “leave them with family members or patients that don't go to the hospital. They receive a first aid kit that has naloxone “Narcan” and other first aid items. They are also given information on how to receive help and also a number they can call to ‘not use alone’ when using. This is phase one of our roll out for substance abuse responses.”

MISCELLANEOUS

When questioned about Bedard not being at meetings for the past two months, Morgan and Brinker both indicated they had not heard from nor contacted Bedard. Brinker said Bedard was getting the same emails as other members and there were no responses from him.

Morgan confirmed Grant County Judge/Executive Chuck Dills is aware of the situation.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Courthouse, 100 North Main Street, Williamstown. For meeting information, contact Chair Anthony Morgan at (859) 992-7081.

Former Grant County Clerk's Fee Account Audit

ALLISON BELL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

FRANKFORT – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2024 financial statements of Grant County Clerk Colton Simpson. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Grant County Clerk in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The clerk's financial

statement did not follow this format. However, the clerk's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regula-

tory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology.

SEE **AUDIT/PAGE A5**

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Marlee Wolfe

Williamstown Independent School

Marlee Wolfe is a standout member of the Williamstown FFA Chapter, excelling both in and out of the classroom. She is a freshman this year.

In the classroom, Marlee is an exceptional student, particularly in her agricultural courses. Her favorite thing about Ag classes right now is learning about our state commodities. She likes learning about products that are produced in Kentucky and other states. Marlee joined the agriculture department to learn more about agriculture and improve her skills for raising cattle and prepare her for her future in the agriculture industry.

Currently enrolled in Principles of agriculture courses at Williamstown Independent, she consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and a passion for learning. Marlee is very involved in FFA, FCCLA, Volleyball, 4-H and her churches youth group. She also helped out on her family cattle farm where they raise black Angus cattle. After high school she strives to attend college to pursue a career and a future CTE Teacher in agriculture or Consumer Science.

Marlee's commitment to excellence, leadership, and service makes her a role model for her fellow students and a true asset to the Williamstown FFA Chapter. We are proud to spotlight her achievements and contributions to both our school and the local community.

