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Judge/Executive Joe Choate said the moratorium is intended to pause potential development while the county considers property rights, possible protections, and the wishes of Hart County residents.

“I appreciate the rights I have of ownership of my land and what I want to do,” Choate said. “You’ve got a lot of big topics here that the next year there’s going to be a lot of discussion over. Obviously, it’s going to be what the appetite of the folks of Hart County has...This gives us time to have these discussions, this open dialogue of, ‘Hey, do you want to be told that you can’t do that to your property or that you can? Or do you want not to be told?’”

“That’s what the moratorium does. It says, ‘Hey, we’re not doing anything right now. Essentially, we’re closed for business,’” Choate continued. “That’s the best way to put it. We’re closed for business on the data center. We’re going to take a breather here. We’re going to spend some time, we’re going to talk about it, and I’m sure we’re going to have some very, very good discussions over this in the next few months.”

Hart County Attorney Justin Baird said data centers remain a hot topic among county governments because many of their potential effects are still unknown.

“Basically, there’s three things that we want to make sure,” Baird said. “One is our infrastructure can handle it. Two, that all the costs associated with the data centers don’t affect the citizens’ bills. And then, what are the environmental effects of it? We just don’t know. It’s too new. So it’s a hot topic right now and a lot of unknowns.”

Baird also said the moratorium could be extended if the county is not prepared to act at the end of the year.

X“So after a year, if we’re no further along than where we are now, we’ll extend it again,” Baird said. “It’s just we don’t know. It’s just an unknown.”

Choate acknowledged that he also has questions about the potential effects of data centers and said the issue should be discussed by residents throughout the county.

“Let’s take some time. Let’s talk about it,” Choate said. “...There’s 19,000, nearly 20,000 of us now (in the county). It’s not the three on Facebook or the three here. It’s 19,000, almost 20,000 that need to have this discussion.”

A resident encouraged the court to organize discussions and citizen focus groups, saying residents do not always attend meetings because they do not feel personally invited to participate.

“There are a lot of model ordinances out there,” the resident said. “Kentucky Resource Council has a particularly good one

from what I’m seeing. And for me, what I would like for Fiscal Court to do is organize discussions, focus-groups, citizens, so we don’t have this issue that it kind of seems it’s going to be a problem if nobody comes...A lot of times nobody comes because there’s no invitation. I didn’t have to be invited to be here...but some people do feel that way.”

Choate said future discussions could be held at different locations throughout the county to make them more accessible.

“I think the best thing to do is have these around the county, try to have it where people can come in, because it’s not just a discussion of data centers,” Choate said. “There’s a lot more legal side of it. We can’t just say, ‘Hey, you can’t come here.’ The next thing you know, we may have a business using more water and more electricity than a data center already. We can’t just say, ‘You’re not coming here.’”

The conversation also turned to planning and zoning, which Choate said has previously drawn strong opposition from residents concerned about restrictions on the use of their land.

“When we brought up zoning, it wasn’t as hot a topic, but the calls I got were, ‘You’re not telling me what I can do with my land,’” Choate said. “So, it’s a very divided subject, period.”

Choate encouraged residents to remain open-minded about the effect regulations could have on neighboring property owners.

“It’s about having the open dialogue, respecting each other... But I think, obviously, the next year gives a good amount of time for discussion,” Choate said. “...I would ask everybody in the next year, as we start this conversation, be open-minded of your neighbor, that we don’t all agree on everything.”

During the meeting, Green River Valley Water District General Manager Andrew Tucker addressed questions and rumors connecting recent water-system improvements to a possible data center.

Tucker said he had

received numerous calls concerning a letter related to water infrastructure in northwestern Hart County. He said the project concerned water limitations in the Wax, Grayson County, and Bonnieville areas and was unrelated to a data center.

“Nobody’s contacted Green River Valley Water District about a data center,” Tucker said. “...No utility in this area, that I know of, can support a data center because they only allow you to grow with your customer base. We don’t have an abundance of water use. I’m not say that’s not capable. You know, we’re capable of growing, getting the permits, whatever that means...But I know that data centers use anywhere from 15,000 gallons a day to five million a day. Our plant right now pumps four million gallons a day to its customers. That’s our average number.”

Choate thanked Green River Valley Water District for improving service in the western portion of the county.

“Andrew said it a lot nicer than I would,” Choate said. “I’m going to be very blunt. Anybody that lives west of I-65, towards Cub Run, knows why we’re giving them money. They used to be served by Edmonson County Water. Right now, you’re getting served by Green River Valley Water. I’m not getting pictures of water that looks like it’s plucked out of a pond somewhere.”

Magistrate Lee Miles addressed Judge Choate about rumors, asking directly, “Have you ever been contacted about data centers coming to to Bonnieville?”

“Just from the newspaper,” Choate said. “And no. None.”

“I’m going to add on this, too, to try to squash some of this social media expansion of ideas,” Choate continued. “...You hear, ‘Hey, they’re coming to Bonnieville. That’s the reason they cleared some of that land.’ I tell people, you ought to be more proud that the county owns the land in Bonnieville on the corner of the interstate, so we’ve got control over it. There’s

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-REGULATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE A5

Jaggers also reminded residents that Miles Apart and Marty Brown are scheduled to perform August 1 on the square.

Parks and Recreation Director Logan Bell also updated the council on improvements at the city’s sports complex, saying maintenance work is progressing after equipment setbacks earlier this summer.

“We’re finally getting the ballpark back up to par,” Bell said. “We were without a four-wheeler for a month, but we got one field done today.”

Bell also announced the city has partnered with Trace to install six AI-powered cameras at the soccer fields. He said the cameras, valued at approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000, were provided at no cost along with a free two-year subscription. According to Bell, the system will record games, identify players from team rosters, and automatically create highlight reels for individual athletes.

Before adjourning, Mayor Line once again addressed those in attendance regarding the data center ordinance, reiterating that it is the council’s goal to have regulations in place before any data center proposal

reaches the city.

“We are restricting this as hard as we possibly can,” Line said. “There’s nothing we have left out that we know of. We have no desire for any company, whether they make billiard balls or whether they make paintballs, to come in and harm our water,

our sewage, and take the electricity where it drains the system and all of our electricity bills go up. We can’t afford that. We don’t want that.”

The next Munfordville City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

7/23/26

Super Crossword

Answers

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NOTICE OF UCC ARTICLE 9 SALE

Following the Master Commissioner Sale of the real property located at 425 Flint Ridge Road and 0 Flint Ridge Road, Horse Cave, KY, Franklin Bank & Trust Company will conduct a UCC Article 9 Sale of the associated personal property as an auction to the highest bidder.

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Time: Immediately following the 9:00 a.m. (Central Time) Master Commissioner Sale

Location: Steps of the Hart County Judicial Center, Munfordville, Kentucky

Terms: The personal property will be sold as one lot at public auction to the highest bidder. The successful bidder shall be required to pay the full purchase price by cash or check immediately upon conclusion of the sale.

All purchased items must be removed from the property within ten (10) days following the conclusion of the sale.

The sale may include hotel furnishings, equipment, fixtures, and other personal property. Interested purchasers are encouraged to attend.

For additional information, please contact Hope Hickey at Kerrick Bachert PSC via telephone (270)599-4944 or by email at hhickey@kerricklaw.com