

Murray residents voice data center concerns

Planning commission reviews draft regulations

BY MACKENZIE LIONBERGER | THE SUN
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MURRAY — The city of Murray’s Planning Commission held a special meeting and public hearing Tuesday to discuss a draft ordinance that would establish regulations for data centers.

While there is no official proposal for a data center in Murray, the planning commission said the meeting aimed to discuss a plan and be prepared in case such a proposal is made.

However, during the public hearing, many people who spoke felt that the meeting was an invitation for proposals.

“We feel frustrated, we feel angry that this is here and that we’ve got a week’s notice to read over 25 pages and somehow become experts in data centers,” Sue Hood, resident of Murray, said. “We’re fearful of them, and we don’t want them in Murray.”

Residents said they wanted further action from the commission, such as a moratorium to study the impacts of data centers around the nation.

“What y’all are going to do affects our life,” one community member said. “You know what to do, you know what’s



MACKENZIE LIONBERGER | The Sun

Many locals came out to hear from commissioners and express their concerns on June 9.

right, you know what’s wrong. So do it.”

Out of the dozens of locals who made public statements, one traveled from house to house to meet with commissioners. Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Mississippian, Raegan Settle, is originally from Murray and came back to advocate

for stronger regulations on data centers.

“You have the unique opportunity and responsibility to protect Murray’s future,” Settle said.

She said she has witnessed the effects of data centers in Mississippi and didn’t want to see the same thing happen in

her hometown.

“I received calls and emails from these people, which have brought me to tears,” she said. “You will inevitably receive those calls from the citizens of Murray. You, however, will have to sit with the guilt that we could have done more to prevent them had we imposed

more prohibitive regulations.”

After the hearing, the commissioners went into recess — there was no vote or decision made and commissioners declined to comment. The community’s feedback and the ordinance will go to the Murray City Council for further review.

2 largest cities in state address hyperscale data center concerns

BY LIAM NIEMEYER
KENTUCKY LANTERN

Kentucky’s two largest cities took action Tuesday afternoon to begin considering zoning regulations to control — or potentially ban — power-intensive hyperscale data centers.

On Tuesday, Lexington Urban County Council suspended legislative rules to enact a moratorium on applications for data centers through Oct. 31 and work on zoning amendments to regulate data centers.

Lexington council member Emma Curtis told the Lantern concern surrounding a data center developer buying a local data center property, with intentions to expand the data center’s footprint, led to the council swiftly passing the moratorium.

“This is a case of an issue being expedited because of constituent concern and advocacy,” Curtis said. “The people that we represent made it known to us that they don’t want that expansion. They don’t want these types of data centers in Fayette County, so we acted.”

In a statement, Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton said she sup-

ported the data center moratorium to give the city more time to see what local controls are needed.

“We need to think very carefully about data centers,” Gorton said. “They do not produce many jobs, and have the potential to increase utility costs on local residents, as well as other concerns. I support very tight controls.”

Gorton also said the city does not support public incentives for the data center developer seeking to expand the local data center property.

Also Tuesday, the Louisville Metro Planning Commission released a draft ordinance regulating the siting of data centers — banning any data center that’s more than 500,000 square feet while restricting facilities over 250,000 square feet to industrial areas.

The state has been home to smaller data centers that power online services including digital cloud storage, but with a wave of artificial intelligence investment, sprawling data centers termed as “hyperscale” that can consume the electric-

ity equivalent of entire power plants have been built and proposed across the country.

The size of such hyperscale data centers can vary, reaching millions of square feet in size. The International Data Corporation defines such a center as having at minimum 5,000 servers and 10,000 square feet of floor space. The Louisville Planning Commission in March had approved a 1.6 million-square-foot data center in West Louisville despite local pushback, and a separate Louisville committee tabled a data center moratorium earlier this month.

Brian Davis, the director of Louisville’s office of planning, said the goal of the proposed regulations is to have “clear, achievable standards that provide transparency and clarity for both residents and potential developers.”

“The regulations reflect extensive community feedback and are designed to support responsible investment while protecting Louisville’s long-term interests,” Davis said in a statement.

Louisville residents

have 30 days to submit public comments on the draft regulations before they are presented to

Louisville Metro Council.

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Who’s Making a Difference in Our Community?

Two men arrested in connection with death of MSU employee

BY SUN STAFF

MURRAY — Angela Claxton, 49, an administrative assistant in the Branding, Marketing and Communication Office at Murray State University, died in Buchanan, Tennessee, on June 5. Police say her death is being investigated as a homicide.

According to a social media release from the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, police arrested two men in connection with the crime.



Kenneth Claxton



Travis Ryan

Kenneth Claxton, 50, was arrested in Buchanan and charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Travis Ryan, 21, was arrested in Dresden and charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

The suspects will be held without bond pending arraignment, which is set for June 11.

The investigation remains ongoing.

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Entries are open now through December 21, 2026. Beginning February 23, one Changemaker will be selected every two weeks. No purchase necessary.