

THE PIONEER NEWS

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Council appears ready to override zoning; lawsuit to come?

THOMAS J. BARR
 THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – While the final vote may not occur until April 13, the writing is in an ordinance prepared for the Shepherdsville City Council that would override a recommendation of the Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission.

And the attorney representing owners of five tracts of property would like a second bite at the apple to dispel the opposition.

However, the Shepherdsville City Council voted 5-0 to deny a request by attorney Jon Baker to reopen a public hearing on a rezoning application to allow for three warehouses to be built off Steven Drive.

City attorney Katherine Dozier said that Baker had contacted her about

the possibility of having a second public hearing on the rezoning case.

Baker said that he felt there were factual issues with the findings of fact that would be used to override the favorable recommendation by the planning commission.

He asked to reopen the public hearing; otherwise, there is the option of filing a suit in circuit court to contest the council's decision.

Dozier said that she wasn't aware of Baker's concerns. The only discussion was asking to reopen the public hearing, which was held at the March 9 meeting.

She said if another hearing is held, the public would again be given an opportunity to speak.

If the council opted to hold another public hearing, it would still be within the 90-day limit to make a final decision. If that deadline expires, the planning

commission's recommendation would be binding.

With the council unanimously in favor of not granting any further testimony from the applicant or the public, Dozier moved forward with the first reading of all five requests.

In each reading, a motion to override the planning commission request included findings of fact, which Baker had disputed.

One finding concludes that although the county's recently-adopted future land use map shows the area just west of Interstate 65 and south of Cedar Grove Road should be industrial in use, the comprehensive plan "must be interpreted as a whole, including the goals and objectives relating to access, compatibility, transitions, buffering and the coordinated development of industrial districts."

The findings also state that there

is no access to Charles Hamilton Way, Ohm Drive or Preston Highway.

Also, none of the five parcels have any access to Ohm Drive, which is Exit 114 on Interstate 65.

Dozier wrote that while Charles Hamilton Way connects to Interstate 65 at Exit 116, the future land use map does not identify industrial access on that road.

Another finding states that without access to Ohm Drive or Preston Highway, it doesn't have the infrastructure necessary for industrial uses.

If the properties were rezoned, another finding stated that it would create a fragmented and isolated industrial area. This leads to incompatible uses of the property in relation to the surrounding area.

While plans for leaving existing trees, planting additional ones and

having a six-foot berm are part of the conditions of rezoning, Dozier wrote that this would provide only limited screening and would not meet the comprehensive plan's goals and objectives of having adequate transitions in land use.

Based on 22 findings of fact, the ordinance states that the request does not meet the comprehensive plan and the recommendation of the planning commission should be overridden.

To override the planning commission, four votes would be needed. If the request is denied, a similar request could not be made for one calendar year.

The next meeting of the Shepherdsville City Council will be on Monday, April 13, at 6 p.m. at the government center. The public is invited to attend.



THOMAS J. BARR

Water bill deposit process revisited in MW

STEPHEN THOMAS
 THE PIONEER NEWS

MOUNT WASHINGTON — The Mount Washington City Council discussed some scary topics at its last business meeting... but fortunately water bill talk was not scary.

Having addressed water service billing concerns at a previous meeting, council members decided that the city should revert to an older billing process regarding \$200 customer down payment deposits.

Council member Layne Abell said the old process had worked for many years, which used to require that a customer come to City Hall to collect a \$200 deposit refund.

"I feel like we should do (the \$200 deposit) and revert back to the way it was for many many years," Abell said.

City clerk Dawn Hardin suggested that after one year of maintaining good credit, a customer's \$200 deposit could be absorbed into their water bill (The \$200 deposits are kept by the city during the first year of water service).

Abell made a motion to revert back to the \$200 deposits for service, along with a discount of \$100 for military veterans and seniors age 65 and older, and all renters paying \$200.

The council unanimously approved the service change. An ordinance proposal will be prepared for a first reading at the council's next meeting.

In other business:
 - Mayor Stuart Owen announced a potential opportunity to bring a community event to Frank Cornell Park in October.

Owen met with Cam Bullock and Jason Hendrix, partners who hosted the Scareview Haunt event last October in the city of Hillview.

The space allotted to Scareview Haunt by that city is now designated toward a satellite location for the Bullitt County Health Department to mesh with the existing Eadens Resource Center. That decision caused the partners to seek a new location for Halloween 2026.

Owen said he and city Parks and Recreation director Wally Adams met with the partners at the park to discuss the logistics of a potential scary forest walking path concept.

One of the first issues Owen mentioned was a city ordinance that said city parks closed at dusk. The Halloween theme would need to be opened after dusk.

While researching the ordinances, Owen found another ordinance pertaining to the sale of alcoholic beverages in city parks. He said both the dusk closure and the alcohol sales mentioned could affect the city's annual summer concert series and would need to be updated.

The mayor added that the Halloween event would not serve alcohol.

Council member Troy Barr

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City looks to prohibit off-site billboard signs

THOMAS J. BARR
 THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – If you have any inclination to erect a third-party off-site billboard in Shepherdsville, you better hurry.

In discussions the past two meetings regarding the concerns of an explosion of electronic billboard signs in the city, the Shepherdsville City Council gave some insight into its desires

recently.

The council directed city attorney Katherine Dozier to begin paperwork on a text amendment that would go to the Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission.

The resolution would prohibit any new third-party, off premises advertising billboard signs to be erected in the city limits.

Dozier wasn't sure when

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Salute to the Vietnam War veterans

On a beautiful Saturday morning, residents of Bullitt County lined the streets of downtown Shepherdsville for the second annual parade to honor those who served the country during the Vietnam War. A parade featured dozens of veterans and they were then treated to a luncheon. See more photos inside today's edition.)

Mike Rice for Bullitt County Magistrate District 3
 Responsible Development and Growth
 Honest and Open Communication
 Common Sense Solutions from a Proven Local Entrepreneur
 Election Day - May 19th, 2026
 Paid by Candidate Mike Rice



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