

Hebron Estates budget includes road repair funds

STEPHEN THOMAS
THE PIONEER NEWS

HEBRON ESTATES — The Hebron Estates City Commission accepted two bids for road paving... but first it made sure to approve the city's budget.

The commission unanimously approved the 2026-27 Fiscal Year budget, slated to go into effect as of July 1.

The budget included a carryover of \$859,000 from the previous year, along with \$912,000 under capital investments.

Projected tax income included \$200,000 in occupational tax, \$150,000 in insurance premium tax, and \$70,000 in real property tax.

Expenses included \$400,000 allotted toward road paving, with \$200,000 for the city's police contract with the city of Hillview.

The budget anticipates a total of \$403,000 in revenue to carry into the next budget, along with just over \$1 million in its capital investments account.

Commissioners Russell Forshee and James Tucker

both shared concerns for having enough funding allotted toward upcoming road projects.

City attorney Mark Edison said some of the funding was in this budget and some in the next, while city clerk Micheale McCauley added there was enough funding in the current budget for the projects.

In other business: - The commission accepted bids from Riverside Paving for upgrades to Burkland Boulevard, Hebron Lane and Scenic Drive.

Riverside provided a bid of \$284,980 for the project including Burkland and Hebron, and another bid for Scenic totaling \$5,900.

Other bids were provided by PSI Paving, with bids of \$313,478 and \$7,389, and Bourbon Paving Louisville, at \$323,700 and \$8,080.

Mayor Jerry Clark mentioned that he had not previously heard of Bourbon Paving, but the city had worked in the past with the other two companies.

Tucker said he was pleased with a project completed by Riverside in

the past and made motions to select both of its bids.

- Edison presented the first reading of a proposed updated city nuisance ordinance.

The primary change to the existing ordinance included grass height. In the new version, residents will be out of compliance if their grass grows above eight inches in height. The previous standard was 12 inches.

Another change was the addition requiring the removal of dead or dying trees, limbs and branches as safety hazards.

Clark said the updated ordinance provided more understanding of the rules, where the previous version was more broad.

Forshee shared concern that some residents might consider the nuisance rules as harassment regarding issues that involved bees.

One resident shared concerns about the grass changes, citing potential issues with being out of town while a lot of rain fell.

Hillview Police chief Bill Mahoney said most cases would receive a warning

for first-time offenses.

A second reading of the proposed ordinance, along with a vote to approve or deny, is scheduled for the commission's next meeting.

- The commission unanimously approved the reappointment of Paul Kulmer as the city's representative on the Bullitt County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Clark said the city was now accepting nominees for the city's Ethics Board. Anyone interested may call (502)957-3106.

- Mahoney mentioned a few instances involving adolescents riding electric vehicles on city streets. He said he would provide the commission with rules and regulations pertaining to such incidents.

"Parents just don't seem to care that their kids are on these devices," he said.

- The next Hebron Estates City Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 7 pm, at the city's community center on Burkland Boulevard. The public is invited to attend.

Solid budget allows Hillview room to grow

STEPHEN THOMAS
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HILLVIEW — The city of Hillview is sitting comfortably in terms of its own finances.

Even a \$3.5 million bulge in the city's upcoming 2026-27 Fiscal Year budget for a potential new city building should not impact a large carryover into the next budget.

The Hillview City Council approved both its new budget, going into effect July 1, and its amended budget for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year, ending June 30.

The new budget began with a carryover of almost \$8.9 million from last year, along with \$69,000 in its LGEA fund and \$356,000 in Municipal Road Aid funding.

The city anticipated increases in occupational tax, set at \$4.6 million, and real property tax, at \$1.6 million. A decrease was estimated in tangible personal/PSC tax revenue, set at \$41,000.

Add in another \$1.7 million in estimated insurance premium tax, and overall estimated revenue for the fiscal year was set at \$18.4 million.

Appropriations included funding for the city police department (\$4 million), recreation department (\$3.5 million), administration (\$2.1 million), and public safety (\$1.8 million). Another \$550,000 was allotted for the Eadens Resource Center. Total appropriations were tallied at \$12.3 million.

According to mayor Jim Eadens, recreation department funding included monies set aside for a proposed structure next to the resource center which could be purposed as both a sports facility and a concert venue for events such as the city fair, to avoid cancelled concert performances. Eadens mentioned

that architectural renderings of the proposed facility were in the works and would soon be shared with council members.

The amended budget for the previous year showed slight increases to the estimated tax revenue, while appropriations decreased in most departmental budgets. The city always estimates higher at the beginning of the fiscal year in hopes of covering all appropriations.

Council member Alice Keister noticed that revenue toward the resource center decreased. Eadens reminded that the city was partnering with the Bullitt County Health Department toward the center's expansion, adding that BCHD would be funding much of the remodel.

"It will be in next year's budget," Eadens said. "Then we can take (the line item) out."

City clerk Karen Richard requested that the council merge separate line items designated for beer and liquor fees collected by the city's Alcohol Beverage Control. Though the items would be together in the overall budget, Richard said they would remain separate in the city's office.

Keister inquired about forfeitures being changed from \$10,000 to zero. Eadens said the city did not receive any forfeitures in the past year. Richard added that the line item was included based on the prior year's budget.

Both the 2026-27 Fiscal Year budget and the 2025-26 amended Fiscal Year budget were approved by a 5-0 council vote, with one council seat remaining vacant.

The next Hillview City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 6, 7 pm, at the Hillview Government Center. The public is invited to attend.

Huff participates in state transportation committee meeting

FRANKFORT — Rep. Thomas Huff attends the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation's first meeting of this year's legislative interim.

Lawmakers take part in interim committee meetings at the Capitol Annex as they continue examining policy issues between regular legislative sessions. Committees, made up of members from the House and Senate, allow legislators to review existing laws, hear testimony, and prepare potential legislation for the upcoming session.

Kentuckians can monitor legislative work in several accessible ways, all available on the legislature's website, legislature.ky.gov. Meeting agendas, presentation materials, and minutes from previous meetings are available on the legislature's website under the committee section. A weekly calendar is posted on the website, as well as a



full schedule of committee meetings for the entire six-month interim. All meetings are open to the public and generally held in the Capitol Annex, and the calendars are updated to reflect schedule changes. Those unable to travel to

Frankfort may watch proceedings live through the Legislative Research Commission's YouTube channel, KYLRCCCommitteeMeetings, or through Kentucky Educational Television's livestream service. Both

platforms also maintain archives of past meetings.

Rep. Huff can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181 or emailed at thuff@kylegislature.gov.



Todd Berry, Megan Wingfield and Tyler Swanson were at the Bullitt County Fair

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event scheduled for July 10. The event will take place from 5-10:30 pm, with the fireworks scheduled for 9:45.

The event takes place along West Joe B. Hall Avenue at South Buckman Street. Odle said the company may move the location of the fireworks to allow patrons a view from the event location instead of the back of the park.

Friday After Five will include food trucks and live music, as well as corn hole and kids' games. Live music will be provided by Johnathan Paxton from 5:30-7 pm and Leather &

Lace from 7:30-10:30.

On July 18, the city will host the Food Truck Invasion Celebrating America 250 at the City Park, scheduled from noon to 5 pm.

Odle said the free rides planned for Bullitt Blast would not be available during this event, but everything else will be, from food vendors to a rock wall to the city's dunk tank, along with the annual flag retirement ceremony.

Live music will be provided courtesy of Chasing Judah, a Variety/Country band, from 2-5 pm. Odle mentioned that Soul Circus, originally scheduled to perform at Bullitt Blast, would be invited to return to a future city event.

The Bullitt County History Museum's 250th celebrations have also moved to July 18, tying in with the Food Truck Invasion.

From 1-3 pm the museum will be open to the public, hosting scavenger hunts for the kids. Ten lucky winners will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card for locating various museum items.

Mayor Jose Cubero will read a portion of the Declaration of Independence in George Washington costume.

The museum has extended donation deadlines for its time capsule. Museum director Sheri Hatter said items will be collected through July 31 at the museum, open 10 am-4 pm weekdays.

Hatter reminded that time capsule items may also be brought to the museum on the July 18, as well as the Tourism booth located at the Food Truck Invasion.

According to Hatter, time capsule donations should be smaller items "no bigger than your cell phone or your fist." Items such as household items, toys, school yearbooks and newspapers are suggested. For more information call (502)921-0161

The Bullitt County History Museum is located at 300 S. Buckman St., in the front portion of the Bullitt County Courthouse.

For more information on the city events call (502)543-2923.

Congressional candidate visits Bullitt County Fair

On the final day of the Bullitt County Fair, Second District Congressional candidate Megan Wingfield made a visit. The Democratic contender met with a lot of Bullitt County residents from all walks of life. Answering questions about her view of AI data centers

and why she opposes them. She talked about rising costs, how when elected her top priority would be to help the average Kentuckiana. She received a great reception from everyone who stopped to meet her in the Bullitt County Democratic Party booth.

BUDGET

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Now, Summers said that when the county wants to purchase items like dump trucks and ambulances, money will come from the general fund.

"We'll have to continue to build up our reserves for those purchases," said Summers.

The new fiscal year started out with money in the bank. The general fund

carried over \$4.6 million from the 2025-26 budget. And another \$1.1 million was carried forward from the opioid settlement fund.

For employees, there will be a 2.8 percent increase, based on the cost of living. Chief finance officer Keith Griffiee said that pay levels are increasing to get supervisors at the appropriate levels to retain and to recruit employees.

The new budget will see an overall decrease in funding at 7.5 percent. The

general fund was the steepest drop as \$1.5 million was cut, with a total of \$18.8 being budgeted for 2026-27.

The lone debt is associated with the judicial building, which will be paid off next February. The 20-year loan through the Kentucky Association of Counties was for \$25.7 million to build the facility in 1987. The county has paid all but \$954,300 on the loan.

The state Administrative Office of the Courts pays

for the loan through lease payments.

Griffiee said that the county would continue to lower its property tax rate each year, which is due to the increasing assessments.

"We are in good shape," said Summers. "But we have to be smart on how we spend the money."

Roads will continue to be a big priority. Summers said the county has spent a lot of money on blacktop and most are in much better shape.