

Thomas Birl hearing continued to August

Blake Vickers
Richmond Register

Thomas Birl — the man accused of killing Chris and Gracie Hager and setting fire to an apartment complex during a police standoff in 2021 — had a pre-trial hearing continued to August 13.

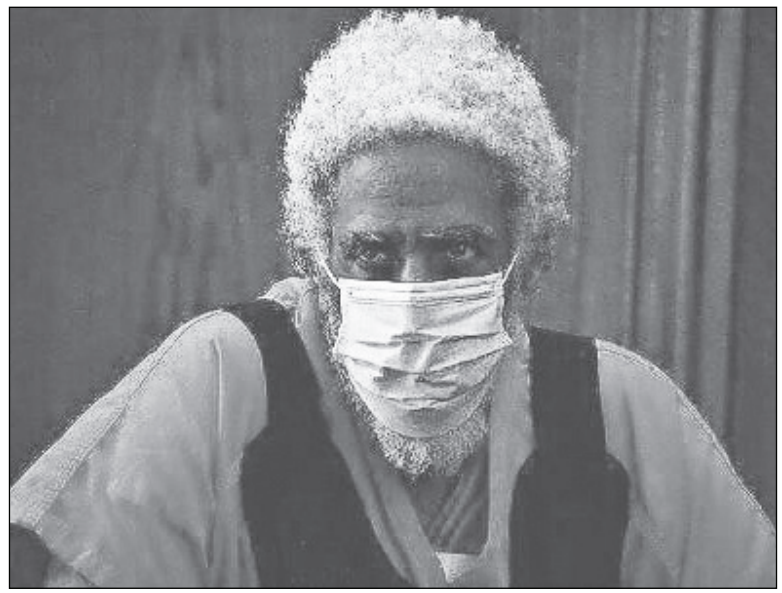
While he was initially due in court on June 11 for a status hearing and arraignment on assault charges from February, Birl's attorney's appeared in his stead. The status hearing was continued to that date in August.

In 2022, the case was temporarily halted after Birl was ruled mentally incompetent to stand trial and was transferred to a psychiatric facility for treatment. However, prosecutors re-indicted Birl on murder charges in July of last year. He returned to court in September of 2025 for a pretrial conference, where his attorney again entered a plea of not guilty.

On Jan. 10, 2025, the Commonwealth of Kentucky issued Birl a Notice of Aggravating Circumstance, signaling

prosecutors' intent to seek harsher penalties if he is convicted. Birl currently faces two counts of murder, first-degree arson, tampering with physical evidence, wanton endangerment of a police officer, criminal mischief, and receiving a stolen firearm.

The Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center is currently taking on a court ordered competency evaluation for Birl. On May 20, they were granted an additional 60 days to complete that evaluation.



Thomas Birl appears in court. The suspect behind the murders of Grace and Chris Hager is currently undergoing a court mandated competency evaluation with the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center.

REGISTER FILE PHOTO

PUBLIC NOTICE MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT Fiscal Year 2026-2027

The second reading and adoption of the Madison County Fiscal Court proposed budget ordinance for the fiscal year, is scheduled to be held at the date, time and location listed below.

Date: **06/23/2026**
Time: **09:30 am**
Location: **135 W Irvine Street, 1st Floor, Richmond, KY 40475**

BUDGET SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky:

WHEREAS, the proposed budget was tentatively approved by the Madison County Fiscal Court, and approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Officer, on the dates listed below:

Approval by the Fiscal Court: **06/01/2026**
Approved by State Local Finance Officer **06/12/2026**

SECTION ONE. The following budget is adopted for the fiscal year specified herein, and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

General Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	8,844,000.00
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	5,735,900.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	1,098,600.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	296,500.00
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE	869,900.00
6400	OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES/SVC	54,000.00
7100	GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS	1,180,300.00
7200	HOLDING COMPANY BONDS	520,700.00
7700	LEASES	49,200.00
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	873,200.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	1,183,000.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	39,045,300.00
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	2,554,300.00
Total		62,304,900.00
Road Fund		
6100	ROADS	4,395,300.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	20,000.00
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	631,800.00
Total		5,047,100.00
Jail Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	4,708,700.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	1,000.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	20,000.00
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	799,600.00
Total		5,529,300.00
Local Government Economic Assistance Fund		
6100	ROADS	
7100	GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS	135,000.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	686,000.00

Local Government Economic Assistance Fund		
Total		821,000.00
OPIOID ABATEMENT/SETTLEMENT FUND		
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	2,700,800.00
Total		2,700,800.00
EMA		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	500,600.00
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	78,200.00
Total		578,800.00
E-911		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	3,988,700.00
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	300,000.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	20,000.00
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	634,300.00
Total		4,943,000.00
SELF-INSURED HEALTH INSURANCE ACCOUNT		
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	503,000.00
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	1,900,000.00
Total		2,403,000.00
CLERK FUND		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	190,500.00
Total		190,500.00
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND		
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	4,612,300.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	235,900.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	
Total		4,848,200.00
Total Budget Appropriations		89,366,600.00

SECTION TWO. This ordinance shall be published in the Richmond Register & Berea Citizen by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.

SECTION THREE. This ordinance becomes effective upon passage and publication.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

All interested persons and organizations are hereby notified that a copy of the Madison County proposed budget in full is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.