

COUNCIL

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clearing downed trees to keep snowplows running, work at the transfer station, and ongoing sidewalk work on Carter Street, with discussion on future equipment needs for sidewalk clearing during extreme cold.

Acting Chief of Police Gary Mehler reported coordinating across departments during the storm, including transports, welfare checks and extra patrols, and said the department responded to 1,164 calls for service in January.

Chief Mehler also provided an update on the Doug Harless investigation, which had stayed the same with no new information since the case had been handed over to special prosecutor, Commonwealth Attorney Matthew Leveridge of Russell and Wayne counties.

Building Inspector Josh Wilson noted 11 building permits issued in January totaling \$1,349.50 in fees, continued inspections, and said a wall

near Fourth Street related to the Main Street fire remained structurally compromised, with the street expected to stay closed until demolition work is completed. The Fire Department reported 217 calls in January, including four structure fires.

After thanking each and every department head for their hard work during last week's winter storm, Mayor Randall Weddle requested that a new item be added to the agenda.

"This is not on your agenda, but I did bring a resolution tonight, 2026-01," said Weddle. "If the council would allow us to add this to the agenda, I would like the clerk to read this, and it's basically the council and myself thanking the departments for all their hard work during this storm."

Council unanimously approved Resolution 2026-01, presented by Mayor Weddle, expressing gratitude to city employees for their work during the harsh cold temperatures, snow and ice over the past week.

Council also discussed monthly budget tracking re-

ports, including questions about professional fees and how expenses are categorized across funds. A budget tracker was provided to each council member, which breaks down the year-to-date actual balance, the budget total, and the remaining amount that's received.

According to the budget tracker for December the actual balance was \$1,440,825.09 with the actual year-to-date balance being \$8,816,994.11. In the budget total, it was budgeted \$20,599.00. The year-to-date remaining for that revenue total was \$11,782,005.89.

Attorney fees were also revealed at the council meeting. For attorney professional fees for December, the actual balance was \$64,774.70. A year-to-date balance was read at \$127,762.15. The budget was \$125,000.

"So, that would put us in the negative of \$2,762.16," said Weddle.

In new business, council unanimously approved a first reading of 2026-07, an ordinance related to mayor compensation, with the ordinance

structured to take effect with the next term (Jan. 1, 2027) and setting different pay levels depending on whether a city administrator position exists. The discussion included questions regarding the role of city administrator, and why this ordinance had been brought up now.

"In doing the pay and classification, and doing the due diligence for the surrounding municipalities regarding compensation levels, one of the things that stood out was that we have a full-time mayor position, and the way we have the government set up here — the council felt very strongly that it's a full-time job," said Council Attorney Christy Shannon. "It's a real job, and they want to encourage all levels of citizens that are willing to take on that responsibility to run for that job — not just rich people."

Shannon explained that the council sought to revisit the mayor's compensation and to allow flexibility should an elected mayor determine they are unable to serve in a full-time capacity, in which case

a city administrator position could be established.

City Attorney Larry Bryson raised concerns about the ordinance and questioned why a measure of its nature was being introduced at this time.

"An office like this, it seems to me to be, frankly, a back-door window putting a city manager in," Bryson said. When Shannon asked Bryson to clarify his objection, he responded, "You've got the cart before the horse."

Weddle also weighed in on the discussion.

"I think the only concern was the administrator part — I fully understand that the mayor has to hire the administrator. You guys would confirm the position, so that would be a future mayor's problem. He or

she would decide if they wanted that," said Weddle.

A proposed appointment of Harold Dyche to the local housing authority board was tabled until council received documentation related to the vacancy/resignation, with the housing board noting it currently maintained a quorum but wanted the record clarified before action.

In old business, council tabled a second reading of ordinance 2026-06, related to council meeting sound until a future meeting.

Those interested in viewing the full text of ordinances approved by the London City Council can visit londonky.gov, select the Government tab, click City Hall, and then access the Ordinance Directory.

PUBLIC NOTICES

2.4.2026

Notice is hereby given that Lucille Robinson has filed an application with the Energy & Environment Cabinet to install a drainage culvert and perform stump removal

Notice is hereby given that Lucille Robinson, 911 N Main St, London, KY 40741 has filed an application with the Energy & Environment Cabinet to install a drainage culvert and perform stump removal. The property is located at 2751 Highway 30 East, East Bernstadt, approximately 4 miles north of the Hal Rogers Parkway and

Highway 30 Intersection on Little Raccoon Creek. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed in writing to: DOWfloodplain@ky.gov or Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd 3rd Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

East Bernstadt Independent Board of Education is seeking applications for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board representing the District at large

The East Bernstadt Independent Board of Education ("Board") is seeking applications for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board representing the District at large. This appointment will be effective until the November 2026 regular election.

Responsibilities include: setting policy to govern the District; hiring/evaluating the Superintendent; and levying taxes and adopting the District budget.

Board members must:

- Be at least 24 years old and a Kentucky citizen for the last three years;
- Be a registered voter in the particular District of the vacancy;

- Have completed the 12th grade or have a GED certificate;
- Meet all other legal qualifications (KRS 160.180); and
- Complete required annual in-service training.

Applications are available at East Bernstadt Board of Education

145 School Street
East Bernstadt, KY 40729
or online at

www.ebernstadt.kyschools.us
Mail applications to:

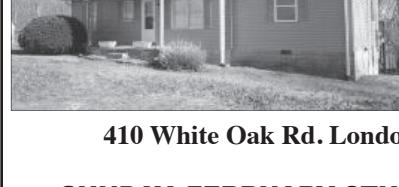
Vicki Jones, Superintendent
ATTN: Board Vacancy
145 School Street
East Bernstadt, KY 40729

All applications must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 13, 2026.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH • 2 PM - 4 PM

MLS# 25505069



Listing Agent:
Sherman Clark 606-224-1952
Hosting Agent:
Elaine Parrott 606-682-0151

230 North Laurel Rd. London, KY 40741

MLS# 25500985



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Walker
606-627-9522

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CRUMBL

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310 Old Whitley Road next to Martin's Peterbilt. The expansion will include additional service bays, expanded parking, and a larger equipment lot. For more information, call 606-864-6603 or visit the company's Facebook page.

— Blondie's Allstar Grill opened for business Jan. 14 at 201 Faith Assembly Church Road. For more information, call 606-877-7464.

— Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen opened Jan. 28 at 207 W. KY 80 beside Go Time.

Normal business hours are 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, call 606-401-2130.

— Eyemart Express, located at 1758 KY 192, Suites 200 and 300, is scheduled to open Feb. 9. The business will offer eye exams, prescription glasses, and sunglasses. For more information, call 606-250-2194 or visit its Facebook page.

— Additional restaurant announcements include Tropical Smoothie Café, scheduled to open in March at 1758 KY

192, Suite 500, and Crumbl Cookies at Suite 400 of the same location in April. Big City Pizza is also scheduled to open April 1 at the London-Corbin Airport.

— Building redevelopment is underway at 283 London Shopping Center on KY 192, the former Pizza Hut location. The project will create three new retail suites designed to attract additional businesses to the community. Further updates will be provided as construction is completed.

elected by fellow judges as the 3rd District representative on the executive committee, now known as the board of directors, of the Circuit Judges Association.

In addition, Lay has received statewide and national recognition for his work

on the bench. He was named Trial Judge of the Year by the Kentucky Justice Association in 2021 and received the same honor from the American Board of Trial Advocates in 2023.

The 3rd Appellate District includes 25 counties: Adair,

Anderson, Bell, Boyle, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Garrard, Green, Harlan, Knox, Laurel, Lincoln, Marion, McCreary, Mercer, Metcalfe, Nelson, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne and Whitley.

communicating online for approximately two months with one of the suspects, who is 19 years old.

Authorities said the man allegedly intended to take the juvenile back to Texas.

While at the residence, deputies observed footprints in the snow near the home and an outbuilding that were believed to have been made by the suspects. Sgt. Reed continued the investigation at the scene while Dep. Smith later located the suspect vehicle at a business parking lot along US 25, approximately eight miles south of London.

The mother reportedly instructed the individuals to leave and contacted LCSO.

When deputies arrived, they spoke with the mother and the teen — learning the juvenile had allegedly been

Deputies detained two men, one identified as 19-year-old male Gabriel Waibel of Peoria, Illinois, who allegedly intended to pick up the juvenile, and 43-year-old Chad Goffinet of Peoria Heights, Illinois, whom authorities said transported the younger suspect from Illinois to Kentucky.

Investigators determined the men had allegedly planned to take the juvenile across state lines without parental consent.

Waibel was charged with attempted kidnapping of a minor, unlawful transaction

with a minor (first offense), and first-degree sexual abuse involving a victim under the age of 18.

Goffinet was charged with complicity to kidnapping of a minor and possession of marijuana.

Both individuals were lodged in the Laurel County Correctional Center and scheduled to be arraigned Monday.

With not guilty pleas entered on their behalf, Waibel and Goffinet are scheduled for preliminary hearings in Laurel District Court next Tuesday morning.

The list of potential surplus items includes seven computer monitors, one HP server, CPUs and additional computer-related equipment. Walls assured the board that any equipment containing sensi-

tive data would be properly destroyed and disposed of in accordance with state regulations.

"Getting rid of this stuff would really clear up a lot of room for us," said Walls.

"We're pretty tight in there." The board agreed to designate the listed items as surplus, clearing the way for proper disposal and additional space within the dispatch center.

BOARD

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completed last year, have resulted in excess equipment that is no longer needed.

JOSEPH

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approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide to identify the top hospitals in key specialty areas, including Treatment

of Respiratory Failure and Treatment of Sepsis. Through easy-to-understand, objective measures of hospital performance, Healthgrades empowers patients with the information they need to find a hospital that excels in their

procedure or condition.

As performance gaps persist between the nation's highest- and lowest-achieving facilities, seeking care at a top program has never been more important. Healthgrades' 2026 analysis revealed that

if all hospitals, as a group, performed similarly to five-star hospitals during the 2022-2024 study period, on average, 230,466 lives could have been saved and 156,797 complications could have been avoided.