

SCHOOL

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“Laurel County Public Schools prioritizes student safety and is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for every student. We do not tolerate any form of violence, bullying, or harassment,” she said.

She continued by noting the broader impact such behavior can have within schools.

“These behaviors negatively impact students, physical and mental well being, and disrupt the positive educational environment we strive to provide in all our schools,” Griebel said.

According to Griebel, school officials and law enforcement have completed their investigation into the incident and the video that circulated online. She shared that the administration at North Laurel High School, along with the Laurel County Schools Police Department, addressed through the district’s disci-



SLMS First Priority students receive certificates for leading the board in the Pledge of Allegiance. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

plinary procedures and legal framework.

Supt. Griebel further stated that the findings from the investigation have been forwarded to the Laurel County Attorney’s Office for review.

During her remarks, Griebel also highlighted safety measures already

in place across the district, including the structure of the school police department and ongoing safety reviews.

“Laurel County Public Schools is a leader in school safety. Our district was among the first in Kentucky to create and implement a fully stacked POPS-certified police department with a full time SRO or school resource officer assigned to every school,” Griebel said.

POPS stands for Peace Officer Professional Standards.

The superintendent also discussed annual safety evaluations conducted through a partnership with the Kentucky Center for School Safety.

“In addition, Laurel County Public Schools partners annually with the Kentucky Center for School Safety to conduct independent safety assessments of all district schools on a rotating basis,” Griebel said.

According to Supt. Griebel, the assessments include reviews of policies, safety procedures and

day-to-day school operations.

Each school in the district also maintains updated safety and emergency management plans developed alongside first responders.

“These plans are developed with input from local law enforcement and first responder agencies to ensure a coordinated and effective response to any potential emergency,” Griebel said.

Supt. Griebel also highlighted programs intended to allow students to participate in discussions about school safety.

“We also convene an annual, safe school, student advisory panel made up of student representatives from each middle and high school,” she said. “This panel meets with the Laurel County Schools Chief of Police to discuss school safety concerns and insure student voices are part of that conversation.”

Additionally, Griebel noted the district provides reporting tools for students and community members to report concerns related to bullying or other safety issues.

She also explained that schools offer anonymous reporting options for students who may not feel comfortable reporting concerns openly.

Supt. Griebel concluded her remarks by reiterating the district’s commitment to student safety and continued improvement.

“Laurel County Public Schools proudly serves more than 8,000 outstanding students,” she said. “We remain committed to listening, learning, and continuously improving our efforts to ensure that every school remains a safe place where students can learn, grow, and succeed. The safety of our students will always remain our highest priority.”

Also during the meeting, students from the First Priority group at South Laurel Middle School were invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the start of the board’s agenda.

In other action, the board approved making March 18 a non-instructional day in the event that the North Laurel High School boys basketball team defeats Bell County in the 13th Region Tournament (which they did on Monday night). Additionally, March 20 would also be observed as a no-school day should the Jaguars advance to the next round of the KHSAA state tournament in Lexington.

School will not initially be dismissed for the Lady Jaguars, who have also advanced to state, as they play in the evening.

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COUNCIL

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the appointments, no formal motion was made to either approve or decline the recommendation. Weddle and council attorney Christy Shannon then discussed whether council action was required, with Weddle urging members to move forward with the appointments.

Councilmember Donna House subsequently called for an executive session. After approximately an hour,

council returned to open session and unanimously approved the appointments of Dyche and Riley.

At Monday’s special-called meeting, council members voted unanimously to void those actions after determining the executive session portion of the meeting had been improper.

“Mayor, I thought we had made some progress but now we are back to square one,” said councilmember John Bruner before voting yes on the resolution. “Some people can’t take yes for an

answer.”

Council attorney Christy Shannon clarified which actions were impacted by the resolution.

“What the actions that were voided was the appointment on a board, and under KRS 80.041, there are two legal requirements for this board,” said Shannon. “One is the bipartisan — the mix of the different parties whether it be Independent, Republican, or Democrat — and second, they have to be a resident of the city.”

Shannon also added that

the council will “look forward to your next motion to reappoint” when speaking to Weddle.

No motions were made during the special-called meeting to appoint individuals to the Housing Authority Board.

Council members also unanimously approved second readings of Ordinance 2026-09, relating to regular council meetings, and Ordinance 2026-10, which addresses stormwater developments.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY CITY OF LONDON ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING A PORTION OF ORDINANCE 2025-15 RELATING TO RECORDING COUNCIL MEETING REQUIREMENTS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LONDON, KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:

Section I

Section IV of Ordinance 2025-15, relating to City Council meeting transparency is amended to read in full as follows:

(A) All meetings conducted by City Council shall be live streamed on the City Website to include the following:

1. The videographer shall ensure that the camera view allows remote participants to see the entirety of the room to include the Mayor, City Council, audience, and public comment time clock and podium (at Regular Meetings).
2. ~~[The volume for all audio will be set at the same level. All microphones will project the same level of volume.]~~ A good-faith effort shall be made for all participants to be heard at an approximately equal level, barring any external factors which are beyond the control of the sound engineer.
3. The City shall procure a competent vendor to ensure that there is minimal disruption in live stream.

Section II: Effective Date, Repealer, and Invalidity Provision

This ordinance shall be effective upon publication. Further, any ordinances in conflict with this ordinance be repealed to the extent of such conflict. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such infirmity shall not effect the validity of the remaining ordinance.

Attest:
Ashley Taylor, City Clerk

Mayor Randall Weddle

First Reading: January 9, 2026
Second Reading: 3/2, 2026
Publication Date: _____, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY CITY OF LONDON, KENTUCKY ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2003-07, AND THE COMPENSATION FOR MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LONDON; SEVERABILITY, REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES AND EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, KRS 83A.070 permits the City Council to set the compensation for elected officials, provided it is enacted not later than the first Monday in May, in the year the official is elected; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that is appropriate to revisit that compensation; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LONDON, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section I

Effective January 1, 2027, that the compensation for the Office of Mayor of the City of London is set as follows:

- (A) In the event that there is no City Administrator or City Administrative Officer for the City of London, which position must actually be authorized in the pay and compensation plan and filled, the Mayor’s compensation shall be set at the rate of \$75,000 per annum; or
- (B) In the event that there is a City Administrator or City Administrative Officer for the City of London, which position is both authorized in the pay and compensation plan and filled, the Mayor’s compensation shall be set at the rate of \$20,000 per annum;

Section II

This ordinance shall be effective upon publication, however, consistent with KRS 83A.070(1), changes in the rate of pay shall not take effect during a current term of office. Further, any ordinances in conflict with this ordinance be repealed to the extent of such conflict. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such infirmity shall not effect the validity of the remaining ordinance.

Attest:
Ashley Taylor, City Clerk

Mayor Randall Weddle

First Reading: February 2, 2026
Second Reading: 03-02, 2026
Publication Date: _____, 2026