

Council advances controversial East Fifth Street one-way proposal to public hearing

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — A years-long discussed proposal to make a portion of East Fifth Street one way moved another step forward during a special-called London City Council meeting Thursday, despite continued opposition and concerns from residents about the potential safety risks associated with the change.

Council approved the first reading of Ordinance 2026-27, which would designate East Fifth Street from its intersection with North Hill Street to immediately before Willow Street as a one-way roadway, with traffic traveling west to east.

The possibility of this change was brought by community member Danny Robinson at the September 8 special-called meeting, where he said that parking and speeding had become ongoing problems on the street.

Under the proposed ordinance, residents and their guests would be permitted to park passenger vehicles



Mayor Tracie Handley called Thursday’s special-called meeting to order. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

along the south side of the street, provided vehicles do not block driveways. Garbage cans would also be placed on the south side between parked vehicles, while the north side would remain open for one lane of eastbound traffic.

The proposal has been discussed for years among residents, and has generated much opposition, particularly over concerns about the possible danger and impact the change could have on people who live

along the street. During the meeting, council members acknowledged they had begun receiving calls from residents opposed to the proposal.

Councilmember Judd Weaver asked for clarification about the process following the first reading, noting the importance of allowing residents an opportunity to voice their concerns.

“I’ve always said that this is a solution looking for a

problem,” Councilmember John Bruner said before subsequently voting in favor of sending the ordinance forward.

The remaining council members voted in favor, allowing the ordinance to proceed to Planning and Zoning for a public hearing.

The ordinance will now be considered at a Planning and Zoning public hearing, where residents will have an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns. As of press time, the Planning and Zoning meeting has not yet been announced.

If changes are made to the ordinance’s language following the public input, it will be required to return for another first reading.

The ordinance calls for violations to be a subject to a \$100 fine for a first offense and \$250 for a second or subsequent offense.

Council also approved the second reading of Ordinance 2026-25, amending the city’s pay and classification plan. The ordinance authorizes ad-

ditional stipends for certain police officers performing Alcoholic Beverage Control administrative or enforcement duties and established compensation for employees temporarily performing the duties of vacant positions, subject to specified limits and a maximum 180-day period.

The council then approved the second reading of Ordinance 2026-26, authorizing the mayor to execute deeds involving two properties. The ordinance addresses extinguishing easement rights involving an abandoned portion of Old Melcon Lane and a

property transfer to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to facilitate construction of a turn lane into Levi Jackson Wilderness Road Park and the fairgrounds.

Council also unanimously approved an amendment to Municipal Order 2026-06 to update VIN numbers on the city’s surplus property list.

The meeting concluded with council entering executive session to discuss proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency. No formal action was taken following the executive session.

Small dryer vent fire reported at Laurel County Correctional Center

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LILY — A small fire broke out at the Laurel County Correctional Center last Wednesday evening due to a dryer vent, prompting a multi-agency response from emergency crews.

According to Lily Fire & Rescue, the agency was notified at approximately 7:13 p.m. on Sept. 9 of a commercial fire alarm activation at the correctional center.

Upon arrival, firefighters observed fire and smoke coming from the roof area near the

facility’s laundry duct exhaust system. Crews determined the fire originated in the laundry room area and worked to extinguish the flames and check for remaining hot spots.

Approximately 45 firefighters along with their respective emergency personnel responded — including Lily Fire & Rescue, London City Fire Department, Laurel County Fire Department, East Bernstadt Fire & Rescue, Swiss Colony Fire Department, Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County and Laurel County Emergency Management.

Firefighters also coordinated with correctional center personnel to maintain safety measures throughout the incident. No injuries were reported among inmates, and officials said the facility remained secure during the incident.

“Small dryer vent caught fire at the jail. Great job by all responders. No danger, and all is secure,” said Laurel County Jailer Jamie Mosley in a social media post later that day.

Jailer Mosley also posted that the damage was limited to the laundry room, and evacu-

ations weren’t necessary.

Lily Fire & Rescue thanked the responding agencies for their assistance and cooperation.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY CITY OF LONDON

A SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO 2026-26

ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE CONVEYING CERTAIN PROPERTIES AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE DEEDS CONVEYING SAME; EFFECTIVE DATE"

This Summary is prepared by Christopher Wiest who is certified to practice law in this Commonwealth. This ordinance authorizes two property transfers by deed, which are attached and makes required findings under KRS 82.083; the first is for property that is a closed portion of Melton Lane to enable that property owner, House Brothers, LLC, to clear title requirements for development, and the second is on the border of Levi Jacson Park to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for that agency to acquire and then construct a turn lane into the park.

The full and complete Ordinance 2026-26 and Exhibits thereto, is on file at the Office of the London City Clerk and can be viewed there during normal business hours.


Christopher Wiest

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

CITY OF LONDON, KENTUCKY

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2026-23, THE CITY’S PAY AND CLASSIFICATION PLAN, AND SECTION III THEREOF, REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL STIPEND FOR PERSONS PERFORMING ACTING DUTIES FOR VACANT POSITIONS; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES AND EFFECTIVE DATE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONDON, KENTUCKY, as follows:

Section I

Section III of Ordinance 2026-23 shall be amended to read as follows:

Within the Police Department, an additional stipend is authorized for police officers performing additional duties as ABC Administrator and ABC enforcement officers; specifically one ABC Administrator and up to four ABC enforcement officers. The stipend shall be between \$1 per hour and \$2 per hour for hourly employees at the discretion of the Mayor and between \$2000 per year and \$3000 per year for salary employees assigned those duties.

For any person performing acting duties of a vacant position, which are assigned by the Mayor pursuant to an executive order, the Mayor is authorized, on or after the effective date of this ordinance, to pay that person an additional stipend for such duties, not to exceed 33.3% of the salary or compensation for that position, and set by an executive order; if that person is an hourly employee performing the acting duties of a salaried employee, the salary shall be divided by 2,080 hours to compute the additional stipend authorized by this section. No such stipend shall be paid for a period of more than 180 days total on a per-vacant position basis, and it is the intent of this measure to provide stop-gap compensation during a vacancy. If those duties are split between more than one person, then the cap herein shall be reduced on a pro-rata basis based on duties so as to not exceed, in total the 33.3% cap.

Section II:

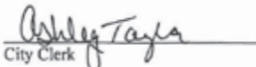
That any ordinances in conflict with this ordinance be repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section III:

That this ordinance shall be effective upon its publication. 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.


Mayor Tracie Handley

Attest:


City Clerk

September
First Reading: August 3, 2026

Second Reading: September 10, 2026

Publication Date: _____, 2026

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