

COUNCIL

Continued from page 1A

jury declined to charge him last February.

Mayor Tracie Handley announced Morgan’s departure near the conclusion of the meeting.

“He has resigned from the police department. He’s no longer employed by the city,” said Handley. “I really think that’s best for the city. I wanted to update everyone on that.”

The announcement followed a public discussion concerning police training, including questions about officers’ training in the application and execution of search warrants.

A resident asked city officials how often officers receive training related to search warrants and whether that training occurs on a monthly, semiannual or annual basis.

Acting Police Chief Gary Mehler said officers receive ongoing training.

“All officers are trained on the application and execution of search warrants,” said Mehler. “It’s ongoing training.”

The council also heard concerns from a representative with the Laurel County Historical Society, Douglas Phelps, regarding a proposed new road construction that had been on the

council agenda for discussion for Levi Jackson Park.

Phelps said the Historical Society opposed constructing a road through the historic Boone Trace Corridor, where the new road construction had been proposed.

“Levi Jackson Park is the only single property in the state of Kentucky that contains both parts of the Wilderness Road and Boone Trace,” Phelps said. He also stated that a portion of the trace remains within the park and includes historic markers dating to 1915 and 1941.

London Tourism Board Chair Phil Smith addressed the discussion, and sought to clarify the Tourism Commission’s position.

Smith said the Tourism Commission had not formally proposed the road, and had no intention of moving forward with construction through the historic corridor.

“The Tourism Commission has no idea about the road at all that was proposed and discussed,” said Smith.

Smith explained that the idea had come from informal conversations about creating another access point to Levi Jackson Park, particularly during large events when traffic and pedestrian activity can be congested.

He said the concept was



Mayor Tracie Handley calls the meeting to order. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

discussed in connection with emergency access and traffic concerns around the park. Smith emphasized, however, that the historic trail would not be disturbed.

“We can work with the Historical Society, we can work with Mr. Phelps, we can work with members in this room to make sure that does not disturb anything,” Smith said. “It was just a conversation we just had very, very briefly.”

The council approved several appointments during the meeting as well. Wayne Riley and Natalie Lynch were appointed to the city’s Housing Authority Board, and Laura Hays was appointed to the city’s Ethics Board.

City Attorney Christy Shannon also discussed an issue involving \$85,000 in payments owed to various agencies and organizations within the city.

Shannon said the city had not made payments to several entities since March. The reported reason behind the non-payments were that former Mayor Randall Weddle had ceased the payments due to the numerous lawsuits the city has and is currently facing, according to Shannon. The city clerk

and finance officials had researched the matter, and caught all of the unpaid accounts up to date.

The attorney also discussed a program involving city employees and tourism events in which employees participated in event planning meetings, attended events and took part in post-event discussions.

Shannon said the program had been discontinued

following questions about employees receiving compensation for participating at city events.

“We have stopped that program,” Shannon said.

She added that the city could still provide police officers for events when additional security is needed, with tourism paying for the officers’ overtime.

Shannon also briefed the council on pending legal

matters and an upcoming court proceeding.

She warned that losing one of the cases could have a significant impact on the city’s finances.

According to court records, the city has two motion hours this Friday, Sept. 11 for PHELPS, JAMES ET AL VS. CITY OF LONDON, and AUSTIN, JAMES VS. CITY OF LONDON KY, ET AL.

“Losing this argument can cause significant budget issues,” Shannon said.

The council also approved the second reading of an ordinance changing the location of regular council meetings. The ordinance allows the mayor to move a regular meeting to the downstairs council chambers at the London Community Center. With possible high attendance, the mayor is also allowed to move dated meetings upstairs when a large crowd is expected.

Following that vote, the council entered into executive session at Tuesday’s special-called meeting. No formal action was taken.



Justice for Doug Harless protestors again attended the council meeting. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD



LAUREL COUNTY FARM BUREAU

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

6:00 PM

LONDON COMMUNITY CENTER

South Main Street

Laurel County Members WELCOME

Come out and enjoy the food.

Drawing For Prizes

October is...

Pastor (Clergy)

Appreciation

Month



The Sentinel Echo would like to recognize members of our Community who take the time to give of themselves daily and weekly throughout the year.

This year show your Pastor, Priest, Youth Pastor, Deacon, Sunday School teachers and more how much you really do appreciate their labor and dedication by placing a note of thanks or recognition in the, **Wednesday, October 7th Sentinel Echo**

Pastor or Clergymans name: _____

Church of their pastorate or service _____

Message _____

Submitted by: _____

Contact Number: _____



Feel Free to submit Photos

Please drop off entry forms at the Sentinel Echo office, 818 S Main, London

Or email to thumphrey@thetimestribune.com



2x5 Ad: \$35.00

Deadline for Entries: Friday, Oct. 2nd