

ELECTION

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dropped the uninsured rate from 24% to 5%. Now because of the Medicaid cuts, people are losing their insurance. And Hal Rogers cast the deciding vote on it for a 215 to 214 for the cuts.”

Pillersdorf said he favored term limits for Congress, citing that U.S. Senators should be limited to three terms. Currently senators serve 6-year terms.

Pillersdorf said his own poll numbers are rising as the election draws near, citing his success with fundraising during his campaign.

“I’ve had 150 campaign stops and had more than 2,000 donations. I’ve raised over \$400,000. I’m the strongest competitor that Hal Rogers has had in years. We’ve (the Democratic Party) flipped 40 seats in the last election. I think we can flip 50 or 60 seats and have a Democrat Congress,” he added.

His goals if elected to Congress center around rural areas that would fall under his district.

“I want to increase rural health care, there are large areas of the state that people can’t drink the water. Martin County is famous for not being able to drink their water. I want to enhance the infrastructure and improve the lives of Kentuckians. The Meals on Wheels program is stopping, leaving the elderly without access to food,” he said. “I’m truly concerned about the poverty level.”

He also said he thought Social Security should have a cap on the wealthy while ensuring that those living on the basic rates receive the medical care they need without copays. As an attorney, Pillersdorf has spent most of his career helping citizens with Social Security. He gained national attention when he sued the Social Security Administration for denying claims for thousands of people. Many of those were clients of former attorney, Eric C. Conn, who was convicted of defrauding Social Security of \$550 million in false claims and bribed judges. Pillersdorf represented many of those clients whose benefits were revoked, winning their cases.



Ned Pillersdorf brought his campaign to London on Sunday.

| PHOTO BY NITA JOHNSON

STREET

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became one-way. He specifically cited difficulties navigating the area from Boreing Drive and Willow Street, particularly for larger vehicles and emergency responders.

“This is a safety issue for everybody,” Eversole said. “Now, what happens if that two-story house, one (of) them apartment complexes catch on fire and they need that ladder truck? It cannot go up Willow, turn down Fifth, and then turn down Boreing Drive. It’s physically impossible.”

Glenna Collins, who said she has lived on Pearl Street since 1993, also opposed the proposal. Collins said she regularly uses Fifth Street to travel through the area and that making it one-way would force her to take a significantly longer route.

While Collins said she understood the parking concerns of Fifth Street residents, she questioned whether the inconvenience created for surrounding residents would outweigh the benefits.

Roger Brown, another Pearl Street resident, said he also opposed the change. Brown said some residents who have driveways continue to park on the street, creating difficulties for motorists trying to access driveways and travel through the area.

Ray Holland said making Fifth Street one-way could push additional traffic onto



Resident William Eversole speaks on the possibility of danger and unsafe aspects if East 5th Street were to be converted to a one-way. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

Fourth and Ninth streets, which he said already experience congestion from nearby businesses, schools, railroad crossings and other traffic.

Holland also expressed concern about emergency vehicles having to navigate additional congestion.

Other residents voiced concerns about parking, visibility and vehicles traveling through the area, while Robinson maintained that the one-way

designation would make Fifth Street safer and provide needed parking space.

At the conclusion of the hearing, City Attorney Christy Shannon thanked residents for attending and participating in the public hearing.

Shannon acknowledged that the issue has been discussed through multiple mayoral administrations and that the city had received petitions both supporting and opposing

the proposed change.

“We need to be able to talk rationally, not emotionally, not attack each other, and just hear different points of view,” Shannon said.

Shannon also encouraged residents to address issues in person rather than through social media.

“I would rather hear it in person than on Facebook. I’m tired of Facebook running this city,” Shannon said.

She thanked those who attended and said the public hearing provided an opportunity for residents to discuss their concerns directly.

“I think this is a great way to address issues face to face, talk about stuff, and just get out in the open,” Shannon said.

The Planning and Zoning Commission then closed the public hearing without taking a vote. The comments will be forwarded to the London City Council for consideration of Ordinance 2026-27. A decision or vote regarding the ordinance has not yet been made as of press time, and was not on the agenda for a second reading for Monday’s regular London City Council meeting.

HARLESS

Continued from page 2A

create the need to remove charges from sanitation and it could have a significant impact on the makeup of the city,” Shannon said.

Debbie Gilbert presented a proposal to transform the former detention center property off Broad Street into a regional children’s museum.

Gilbert said she envisions a facility similar to a children’s museum in Greenville, South Carolina, that could serve as a tourism attraction and complement nearby businesses, parks and the farmers market.

“I’m asking for the council to see the dream and to watch how it grows,” Gilbert said.

She asked the council to participate in a proposed city-county children’s museum steering committee. A community meeting is expected later this month with an exact date not yet announced.

Two organizations also presented requests involving potential opioid settlement funds.

Structure House proposed a 12-month recovery program offering recovery housing, counseling, peer support, drug screenings, transportation and employment assistance. The organization said results would be reviewed every 90 days.

Kentucky Neighbors in Need requested funding or assistance securing a physical location to help people experiencing homelessness with transportation, basic necessities, temporary lodging and connections to treatment and other services.

Both presentations were for discussion only, with no ac-

tion taken.

The council approved several resolutions allowing the London Fire Department to pursue grant and loan opportunities.

Resolution 2026-37 authorized the department to seek opioid settlement funds for prevention, education and response efforts, including training supplies.

Resolution 2026-38 authorized an application for a Kentucky League of Cities liability grant, while Resolution 2026-39 authorized the mayor to apply for a \$125,000 loan through the Kentucky Fire Commission for a fire pump truck.

Resolution 2026-40 authorized the hiring of a grant writer to pursue FEMA funding for a new fire truck. Officials said a successful grant could cover approximately 95% of the cost of a new

truck.

The council also approved a Firehouse Subs grant application for a positive-pressure ventilation fan and approved an agreement allowing public works employees to obtain commercial driver’s licenses.

The council approved Resolution 2026-36 allowing the city to pursue approximately \$205,808 in funding for the Boone Trace Trail Improvement project.

The council gave first reading to Ordinance 2026-22, adopting changes recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission to bring portions of the city’s development ordinance into conformity with state law.

The meeting concluded with the council entering executive session to discuss proposed or pending litigation. No formal action was taken.



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