London City Council approves ordinance changes in preparation for new distillery

MACEE SWAFFORD
SENTINEL-ECHO

LONDON — A new distillery planned for Fourth Street near Flowers Bakery in London is moving closer to becoming a reality, as the London City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending the city's regulations and licensing fees for distilleries during last Wednesday's special-called meeting.

The proposed distillery, whose name has not yet been publicly announced, is expected to bring additional jobs and tourism opportunities to the city, according to information presented during the council's special-called meeting. It will also be a part of the Bourbon Trail.

Ordinance 2026-31 amends portions of existing city ordinances 2016-08 and 2017-04 relating to alcoholic beverage licensing. The changes primarily address inconsistencies in the existing language and update statutory references to align with state law.

According to a summary prepared by City Attorney Christopher Wiest, the city was approached by a distillery interested in obtaining a license, prompting the need to clarify the city's licensing requirements.



London City Council met in special session both Wednesday and Friday of last week. | MACEE SWAFFORD

The ordinance establishes several annual licensing fees — including a $500 distiller's license; a $3,000 Class A license; a $960 Class B craft rectifier license; and a $3,000 wholesaler of distilled spirits and wine license.

Councilmember Kelly Green Smith was the only council member to vote against the ordinance. The remaining council members in attendance voted in favor of the first reading. Judd Weaver was not present for the meeting.

At another special-called meeting held on Friday, council approved the second reading of the distillery ordinance, with Smith being the only outlier vote again.

In other business during the Nov. 4 special-called meeting, council members approved:

— Municipal Order 2026-10, allowing an officer to take home a police cruiser.

— The second reading of Ordinance 2026-22, adopting changes recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ordinance 2026-22 updates portions of the city's development regulations to bring them into conformity with state law. Changes address planning commission and Board of Adjustments appointments, application and appeal fees, public hearing procedures, notice requirements and enforcement provisions.

JENSEN

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"Tom was always friendly with everyone," Evans said. "He was a very likable person and would fit in anywhere. I'm glad he married locally and stayed here. He had a great legal mind."

When Jensen retired as Circuit Court Judge for the 27th Circuit, Evans was appointed to fill the remainder of Jensen's term. The two had known each other for years and Evans considered themselves as close friends.

"Friend" is also the term used by Laurel County Judge Executive David Westerfield, who said he and Jensen had been acquainted for over 40 years.

"Tom was one of the best men I've ever known," Westerfield said. "I'll miss him. I met him over 40 years ago and he was always helpful to me. When I was a magistrate, Tom always took my calls and tried to help however he could. Tom was the same wherever you met him. He did a lot for London and Laurel County as Senator."

Jensen spearheaded funding for a connector road from KY 80 to Parker Road, which provided easier access to the Heritage Hills property where the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission and the London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce are now housed. For his contributions, that road now bears his name as Tom Jensen Highway.

"He was a community-oriented person and was an upstanding man," Judge Westerfield continued. "I can't say enough good things about him. He was just a good man."

Jensen's dedication to his community and to his family were also recognized by London attorney Douglas Benge, who shared a practice with Jensen several years ago.

"It was an honor to work with Tom for 15 years. I considered him a third father," Benge said. "He is a credit to the legal profession and a goal post for all lawyers and fathers to achieve."

Funeral services for Tom Jensen were held Sunday. He leaves behind two daughters, their spouses, two grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

TOURISM

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the future of the project.

In response to the recent development, Tourism Commission Chair Starr Handy provided the following statement:

"The City of London Tourism and Convention Commission has been presented with concerning allegations levied by the sitting Mayor of London Tracie Handley. As I can not fully comment on current legal matters, I do want to say our board is composed of terrific commissioners who dedicate their free time to improve the city of London by promoting tourism and being excellent stewards of the tax dollars afforded to our commission. However, our commission is taking these allegations very seriously. Our major concern is the wellbeing of our excellent employees and disruption these proceedings could cause to the staff and all services we provide to London and Laurel [County]."

The commission also held a special-called meeting Friday, during which members entered into executive session. Following the executive session, the commission stated it would seek legal counsel regarding the matter at hand. No further details were released following the meeting.

In separate letters also dated Nov. 3, Handley notified two additional tourism commissioners that they would not be reappointed following the expiration of their terms.

Josh Samples was notified that his term expired Oct. 1, while Lois McWhorter was notified that her term expired Nov. 1.

Handley's letters state removal hearings for the five commissioners are scheduled for Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. in the downstairs City Council room at the London Community Center. The commissioners have the right to employ counsel to represent them during the proceedings. Handley stated she would issue a decision following the conclusion of the hearings.

LAUREL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 2
LAUREL COUNTY, KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY HIGHWAY 1006 WATER SYSTEM RELOCATION
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the Kentucky Highway 1006 Water System Relocation project, will be received by the Laurel County Water District No. 2, at their central office, 3910 South Laurel Road, London, KY 40744 until 11:00 a.m., local time on November 20, 2026, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud. The project consists of two (2) separate contracts as follows:

CONTRACT NO. 1 - PIPING MATERIAL SUPPLY consists of the supply and delivery of piping, fittings, valves, and various other associated materials.

CONTRACT NO. 2 - ROADWAY BORES consists of the construction of 100 L.F. of Conventional Bore & Case for 6-Inch Water Line and associated appurtenances.

Bids will be received for each individual contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum or unit price basis, as indicated in the Bid Form.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is Monarch Engineering, Inc., 556 Carlton Drive, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky 40342, (502) 839-1310, James L. Mudd, P.E., HYPERLINK "mailto:lmudd@monarchengineering.net"lmudd@monarchengineering.net. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office, during the hours indicated above, upon payment of a deposit of $100.00, non-refundable, for each set, each contract. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to "Monarch Engineering, Inc.". Upon request and receipt of the document deposit indicated above, the Issuing Office will transmit the Bidding Documents via delivery service. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office. Bidding Documents purchased by one party and bid by another party will not be accepted. Bidding Documents will be available for purchase until 4:00 p.m., (E.D.T.), November 18, 2026.

Any bid that is obviously unbalanced may be rejected. The Laurel County Water District No. 2 reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive informalities. The award for each contract will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder.



PARENTS / GUARDIANS & TEACHERS: PLEASE READ!

We have set a few simple guidelines that will make your child's letter easier to read.
THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **If you make copies, make (CLEAN duplicate copies) must be the exact same size that is in this ad or written on original letter included in this ad**
- **Must be written in BLACK INK (for print quality reasons)**

YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

All I want for Christmas

ATTENTION, KIDS:
Wanna see your name in print? The Sentinel-Echo will be printing Letters to Santa in a special edition of the newspaper. Write your letter in the space provided and letters needs to be received by
Dec. 3rd, 2026

Mail letters to:
Santa Letters
P.O. Box 830 • London, Kentucky 40743

Dear Santa,

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Love, _____

Letters will be published December 23rd, 2026

LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 3rd, 2026