

# THE STURGIS NEWS

140TH YEAR STURGIS, UNION COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 NUMBER FIFTY

## Union County Fiscal Court Hears Legacy Foundation Announcement; OKs Resolutions

The Union County Fiscal Court met in an hours and forty-five minutes session on March 10, with a lengthy agenda before them. The early part of the meeting included recognitions, the reading of proclamations and the announcement of a foundation that will support Breckinridge Golf Course and a housing development before the magistrates turned to the reading of six resolutions and other court business.

Tuesday's meeting opened with the recognition of the UCHS 2026 State Championship Wrestling team. Coaches Brooks Black and Jarvis Elam introduced each wrestler and shared their achievements. Fourteen UC wrestlers qualified for the state championships with four winning state titles and two medaling in the event. 2026 marked the seventeenth time UCHS Wrestling has won a state title.

After honoring the wrestlers, the court moved to the reading of two proclamations. The first proclamation was to celebrate March Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Seven representatives from Deaconess Hospital Union County were on hand to share information and statistics related to colon cancer and hear Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan read the proclamation.

The second proclamation honors the county's Vietnam veterans. Nine local veterans introduced themselves, noted their branch of service and the years they served. The proclamation read by O'Nan is a reminder that over



MEMBERS OF THE Breckinridge Legacy Foundation, Phil Clements and Jim Peak, along with Kim Humphrey and Billy Gough, were on-hand at Tuesday's fiscal court meeting to announce the establishment of the foundation, a project that will support the golf course and help establish an affordable housing area in the county. Gough has allowed the golf course to become part of the foundation and Clements and his wife are providing financial support for the program. Peak and Clements serve on the board.

58,000 American service men and women died in Vietnam with many still carrying the scars of that war. Kentucky is home to about 25,000 Vietnam veterans. The proclamation calls for residents to remember and support veterans during March, Vietnam Veterans Recognition and Appreciation Month.

Following the reading of the proclamations, Jason Greenwell, representing soil conservation and NRCS addressed the court regarding the annual allotment the county provides to the agency. Greenwell reviewed the federal funding local farmers received in 2025 and asked that the court continue to make their \$48,000 contribution to NRCS in 2026-27. O'Nan acknowledged the request will be included in the budget planning for the county.

Before moving to a major announcement

regarding a new foundation, the court approved advertising for a groundkeeper at Moffit Recreation area.

The agenda called for a discussion by the court regarding Breckinridge Golf Course. That announcement brought Phil Clements, Jim Peak, Kim Humphrey and Billy Gough before the court. Clements took the lead noting that he and his wife want to "do a project in Union County," and he said he was told that the community needs to maintain the golf course. After nine months of discussions and planning with city and county government officials, Clements announced March 10, that he and his wife along with local individuals have formed a foundation—the Breckinridge Legacy Foundation—that will put funds into the golf course and include an affordable housing project. Billy

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### City Hosts Public Hearing For Water Plant Update

The Sturgis City Council hosted a public hearing on Wednesday, March 11 to update citizens on efforts to reopen the local water treatment plant.

Mayor Billy Adams told a small gathering the public hearing was required by the United States Department of Agriculture as one of the steps in securing grant funding to be used for engineering services as the required first step in opening the plant.

According to Mayor Adams, the cost of that project is estimated to be about \$12 million. The city is studying several options to secure the entire amount for that work. According to city council member Hunter Davis, the cost of engineering for the project will be about 15% of the entire cost of the work.

Initially, the city is seeking \$60,000 in grant funds from USDA. Additionally, city officials have met with officials in Frankfort to make them aware of the need for the plant to be operational. Mayor Adams noted those

meetings have been positive. The city will also seek funds from the Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER).

AMLER funds are utilized to design, develop and create projects which encourage economic development in communities impacted by the downturn in the coal economy.

The requirements for an AMLER grant are the project must provide an economic benefit, and the project must have a nexus to historic mining. The City of Sturgis water plant revitalization would meet that criteria.

The application period for the AMLER grant is February 9, 2026 to May 11, 2026.

Mayor Adams noted that negotiations will continue with local, state, and federal officials to seeking funding for a project that he called a "necessity for Sturgis."

Mayor Adams and city council members will keep residents updated on the funding progress for the water plant.

## Sturgis City Council Approves Budget Amendment, Compensation Ordinances; Preparing For Streaming

The Sturgis City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 11 with Mayor Billy Adams presiding and all council members in attendance. City Clerk Sandra Germane and City Attorney Vickie Davis were also present.

Council members approved the minutes from the February meeting and a work session held in February and reviewed the financial report prior to beginning the business session. The financial report showed all accounts with a positive balance.

The mayor's mileage report for February in the amount of \$738.78 was also approved.

Fire Chief Josh Bradburn presented the monthly report for the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department. The department has a roster of 23, and members reported 17 training hours in February. Department personnel responded to 29 incidents in

February. Chief Bradburn also told members the fire department compliance rating increased from 23% to 52.63% as a result of more members completing training. He also noted department personnel and state investigators are investigating an arson case in Sturgis.

Code Enforcement Officer Greg Warmack reported two building in Sturgis were recently investigated. One of those buildings has been taken down, according to Warmack. A citation was written for the other. He also told members that scrap and salvage areas in the city are being worked on, with "some progress being made." Warmack added that costs of clean up and removal of debris in those areas is being determined. He added that properties on Talbot, King, and Pike streets are being looked at for possible razing, and other properties in the city are still being worked on

for possible foreclosure.

Officers from the Union County Sheriff Department responded to 52 incidents in the City of Sturgis during February. According to Mayor Adams, one of those incidents was a stop for driving under the influence. That individual was arrested by sheriff department personnel.

The monthly water report showed a water loss of 23.59%, a marked decrease from previous months. According to Mayor Adams, the city did very little line flushing in February. However, as the weather becomes increasingly warm, flushing will likely become more prevalent. There have also been significant improvements to areas of the city's water line infrastructure.

Mayor Adams appointed, and the council approved, Ms. Willie Garnett as a member of the Sturgis Housing Authority board.

Council members approved on a 6-0 vote an ordi-

nance amendment increasing the 2026 annual budget by \$16,535.16.

The council also held second reading and approved an ordinance increasing the pay for the position of mayor in the City of Sturgis to \$36,000 annually. That ordinance also passed on a 6-0 vote.

First reading was held on an ordinance approving the transfer of funds in the city's drug and equipment account to the Union County Sheriff Department. All council members voted in favor on the first reading.

In other updates, Mayor Adams asked for and received approval to sell a city ladder truck to Jerry Hayes for \$1,000. That truck was surplus in May, and according to Mayor Adams, there had been no bids received for its sale. The council is nearing completion of equipment purchase to stream council meetings on Facebook Live. Council member Charles Garnett that a computer needs

to be purchased before the streaming can begin.

Expressing concern about how the equipment would be secured, Mayor Adams asked members to consider moving council meetings to the building which formerly housed the Sturgis Police Department. A meeting room in that will accommodate visitors and allow the streaming equipment to remain in place. A change in the meeting location would require approval of an ordinance, and the matter will be addressed again in April.

Work is still being done on changes to the city's personnel policy. Mayor Adams told members that policy will be ready for review and approval prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Sturgis City Council will be Wednesday, April 15, 4:00 P.M.