



LEFT: Millee Kate and her family get their turn to cross the finish line. ABOVE: This group of volunteers helped support 5K for MK. |PHOTOS BY MACEE SWAFFORD

## 5K

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by the children's "Depot Dash" at 9:30 a.m.

Following the event, organizer Jillian Paige expressed gratitude to the volunteers, sponsors and supporters who made the fundraiser possible.

"Our hearts are so

full, and I don't think I'll ever find the right words to thank everyone who made the 5K for MK such an incredible day," Paige wrote in a social media post.

She thanked the many volunteers who "showed up early, stayed late, and worked so hard behind the scenes," along with

sponsors whose generosity helped transform "an idea into something so much bigger than we ever imagined."

Paige said the event demonstrated the strength of the community as people united around Millee Kate and her family.

"We witnessed an entire community wrap

their arms around Millee Kate's family and love on our sweet MK in the most beautiful way," she wrote. "We will never forget seeing so many people come together with one purpose — to support our girl."

She also extended a special thank you to Robyn Woods Petrey and

Tyler Harris for donating their time and race expertise.

Vendors on sight for the event were Ice Cream for Liam and Twisted Sisters Lemonade.

The fundraiser was created to raise awareness of DIPG while helping ease the financial burden on the Daugherty family

as Millee Kate undergoes treatment. Organizers said all proceeds from the event will go directly toward supporting the family during their journey.

To help support the recovery process of Millee, donations can be made through GoFundMe.



Barbourville City Council members call the meeting to order. |PHOTO BY ANIYA JAMES

## RATES

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izing employee compensation according to job descriptions, responsibilities, skills and experience while providing a framework for future performance-based pay adjustments.

The ordinance received unanimous approval on its first reading.

### GARBAGE COLLECTION RATES TO INCREASE

Council also unanimously approved the first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-7, which increases commercial and residential garbage collection fees.

Under the proposal, commercial collection rates will increase from \$19 to \$22 per month, while residential service will increase from \$14 to \$17 per month for twice-weekly pickup.

Mayor Thompson said the adjustment is necessary because the city's sanitation department has been operating at a loss.

"We're losing over \$6,000 on garbage," Thompson said, noting the

city had delayed increasing rates for several years but could no longer absorb the deficit.

The ordinance will require a second reading before taking effect.

### HEALTH INSURANCE EXPANDED FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council unanimously voted to extend the option of city health insurance coverage to all council members beginning with the next elected council.

Officials said three current council members already receive the benefit while three do not. The policy change will allow each future council member to decide whether to participate in the city's insurance plan.

### SHOOTING RANGE LEASE APPROVED

Council also authorized Mayor Thompson to sign a lease agreement for the city's shooting range after receiving a 911 address for the property.

Officials said the city's responsibilities under the agreement include maintaining the access road and providing electrical service to the facility.

### DEPARTMENT HEADS PROVIDE

### MONTHLY UPDATES

Fire Chief Doug Dozier reported the department responded to 70 emergency calls during the month, including five fire alarms and two vehicle extractions.

Dozier also announced that July 31 will be his final day as fire chief after 50 years of service. He said members of the fire department voted to recommend Winston Tye as his successor.

Mayor David Thompson thanked Dozier for his service to the City of Barbourville and wished him well in retirement.

Police Chief Adam Townsley reported the Barbourville Police Department handled 426 calls for service, investigated 11 traffic accidents, made 24 arrests involving 91 criminal charges and completed 17 directed patrols during the reporting period.

Townsley also addressed the June 6 double homicide involving two young girls, explaining the department conducted an internal review following the incident to ensure officers were

offered support services after responding to the tragic scene and reported that they are doing well.

City officials also received updates on several ongoing infrastructure projects, including work associated with the KCEOC building renovation. Officials said engineers continue evaluating structural issues involving a brick wall discovered during demolition — delaying portions of the project while the city awaits Environmental Protection Agency approval for a change order.

Street Department Superintendent Jason Lake reported crews installed 460 feet of storm drain, completed paving work, replaced stop signs and street signs throughout the city, trimmed trees overhanging sidewalks and are preparing to repair sidewalks on Johnson Lane and Liberty Street.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT TATTOO POLICY DISCUSSED

Council members discussed the Barbourville Police Department's policy regarding tattoos below the elbow after questions were raised by prospective applicants.

Chief Townsley explained that the restriction is part of the department's internal personnel policy rather than a city ordinance. He said the department is already working to update the policy but wants to ensure the language is appropriate before making any changes.

Townsley said he has no objection to officers having visible tattoos, provided they are not offensive or inappropriate.

"I don't have issues with tattoos below the elbows," Townsley said.

"It just depends on what that tattoo is."

He said the department is reviewing policies from other agencies and working with legal counsel before presenting revised language.

Mayor Thompson voiced his support for the approach, saying the department is handling the issue correctly by carefully reviewing other agencies' policies before implementing any changes.

### RESIDENTS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT LIBERTY STREET

During the public comment portion of the meeting, representatives from PT Pros Physical Therapy voiced concerns about traffic flow on Liberty Street following recent construction near the KCEOC project.

Employees said many of their patients have mobility limitations and rely on clear sight lines when pulling onto Knox Street.

City officials said they are working with the

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to evaluate whether the street can be reopened safely and whether a traffic signal or stop sign would be appropriate once construction is complete.

Mayor Thompson noted state transportation officials are expected to meet with the city to discuss future traffic control options at the intersection.

### LOCAL THEATER GROUP HEADED TO NEW YORK

Before entering executive session, Mayor Thompson announced that three performers from the Tri-County Mystery Meets theater group will soon perform in New York City.

He said additional details about the performance will be announced in the coming weeks.

Following the regular business meeting, council entered executive session to discuss the appointment of personnel. No action was taken in open session before adjournment.

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