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Estill teams split with Powell Page 15

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Employees working in Irvine to pay occupational tax

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter
The first Irvine council meeting of 2023 was held on Monday night with newly elected council members Aaron Raider and Karen Hensley joining returning members Billy Arthur, Tim Burkhart, Tobo Bryant, and Kris Lee.

Mayor James Gross broached the subject of the city of Irvine imple-

menting an occupational tax on individuals who work within city limits.

Gross said he had been talking with the Kentucky League of Cities and a representative had given him some statistics from neighboring counties and what they generate each year from the occupational tax.

Gross said that out of 157 cities in Kentucky 76 percent of those cities

have an occupational tax.

The statistics provided to the council showed that Clay City generates \$45,000 per year, Stanton generates \$340,000 per year, and Beattyville generates \$203,000 per year. He said that those amounts are probably much higher now because the information that was provided to him was dated in 2015.

Gross said he realized that this was a touchy subject and while the city was in decent shape at the moment, he worried about the future with the declining revenue in property taxes each year.

He felt like the city needed to do something in order to keep moving forward.

Councilwoman Karen Hensley asked what the money would be earmarked for, and Gross

said that it would go into the general fund. Councilman Tobo Bryant spoke up and said that he was against raising taxes of any kind, and Councilman Tim Burkhart agreed. He said that it was penalizing people who work, and it wasn't fair.

Bryant also mentioned the fact that all city employees had just received a \$2 per hour raise, and

that the city of Irvine would always be behind bigger cities such as Richmond and Winchester as far as pay was concerned.

Hensley made a motion to proceed with the occupational tax set at a rate of 1.42 percent with Councilman Billy Arthur making a second. When put to a vote it was tied with three yes votes and three no votes.

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Irvine man is charged with trafficking & stolen goods

An Irvine man was arrested Saturday, January 7 on for illegal gun possession, trafficking in drugs, and receiving stolen property.

The arrest of Jimmy Nieves, 50, of Turner Avenue, Irvine came after the Irvine Police Department executed a search warrant at his residence on December 17 in relation to stolen items.

During the search of a bedroom believed to be Nieves, the officers said they saw in plain sight substances that were consistent with cocaine and methamphetamine.

The officers added that various items of drug paraphernalia were also discovered in the bedroom which were consistent with the distribution of narcotics.

The complaint states that three weapons were discovered in the bedroom and around the residence. The weapons were described as a handgun and two long guns.

IPD Sgt. Sam Hensley confirmed that Nieves had been previously convicted of a felony.

While executing the search, Irvine officers stated they recovered and identified various items that had been reported stolen by multiple victims.

The value of the stolen items exceeded \$1,000 but were less than \$10,000.

The complaint warrant for Estill County Court was served on Nieves by Irvine Officer Dalton Campbell.

The criminal complaint charges Nieves with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree, first



Five new members of the Ravenna Council met for Monday's council meeting. They are Dana Murphy, Tim Hall, Terry Williams, Estine Tipton, and James Sparks. (Estine Tipton is a former councilmember

and mayor of Ravenna.) The sixth member of the council is Marsha Coleman, not pictured. She and Mayor Sharon Snowden served on the previous council.
Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

New Ravenna council discusses finances and privilege licenses

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

With five new members on the Ravenna council quite a bit of the meeting on Monday night was spent discussing how the city operates.

City Clerk Amy Crowe and Mayor Sharon Snowden explained the financial report to the new members and how each month the city may have a larger amount of expenditures and less revenue.

She said for example in September and Octo-

ber the revenue is much greater due to income from property tax payments, but then other months they may have expenditures that exceed the amount of revenue they take in.

Snowden said that if they are fortunate then it will all balance out.

Councilman Tim Hall asked why the amount of office supplies for the month of December was much higher than the cost of fuel.

Crowe explained that

she had ordered checks which was almost \$300 and she had also purchased W2's which were both items that were not purchased regularly.

The privilege license fee was discussed among the council and Mayor Snowden said the fee had been the same since 1982. She said in her opinion the fee was way under-priced, and she would like to discuss this again in February after she spoke to someone at the Kentucky League of

Cities on how to proceed with raising the fee.

Councilman James Sparks said he thought that doubling the fee made sense.

Updates to the park were discussed because more equipment is on the way according to Mayor Snowden.

She added that there will be a large dinosaur that children will be able to climb on as well as a spinner that will be wheelchair accessible.

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Obituaries

- Harry Crowe, 78
- Stella Gray, 66
- Ruth Ann Henry, 79
- Maxine Long, 101
- Stanley long, 77
- Douglas Moore, 69
- Patricia Noe, 74
- Roy Patrick, 79
- See Page 6 ---
- James Tincher, 76
- Barbara Walling, 84
- Anna Warner, 67
- See Page 7 ---

Fiscal court rehires county employees

The Estill Fiscal Court met in special session on Tuesday, January 2 to re-hire county employees and pass a standing order to pay recurring expenses.

The four members of the fiscal court were re-elected for another four-year term. They are Judge/Executive Donnie Watson and Magistrates Mike Abney, Paul Tipton,

and Gerry Flanary.

County attorney Jason Riley was also re-elected.

Recurring expenses include salaries, utility bills, and retirement contributions, life and health in-

surance for employees.

The idea behind the standing order is to pay bills on or before their due date to avoid penalties which could occur if the fiscal court meets monthly. Bills which are not recurring must be voted on by the fiscal court before they are paid.

Brad Goolman was reappointed as county road foreman. Ronnie Riddell was reappointed as Emergency Management Agency (EMA) director and Lucas Barnes will serve again as deputy EMA.

Rehiring (or firing) of employees is required at the beginning of a new four year term for the fiscal court. In years past, many employees were

terminated when administrations changed, particularly when the political party changed.

Elected officials are not on the list of employees hired. A few county employees are on the list that follows. This includes the employees of county clerk Brian Crowe's office and county treasurer, Freida Lancaster.

The county treasurer is appointed by the fiscal court for a four year term which will end on June 30 of this year.

Kory Isaacs and Samuel Bruce Herald will continue as assistant county attorneys. Jordan Bach will serve as legal secretary to the county attorney.

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Members of the Estill fiscal court remain unchanged from four years ago. They will serve another four year term. Members are Magistrate Mike Abney, Judge/Executive Donnie Watson, Magistrate Paul Tipton, County Attorney Jason Riley, and Magistrate Gerry Flanary.