

Ravenna meets Jan. 11; mayor hires city clerk

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

The Ravenna council met in regular session on Monday night and Mayor Valerie Flinchum announced that Angie Napier had been hired as the new city clerk. Napier will work 15 hours per week at \$10 an hour. No set hours have been scheduled at this time.

There were no fire runs to report for the month of December, however, the police report was quite lengthy. Councilmember Amy Crowe asked Police Chief Ken White how many of those items logged actually brings money into the city.

White replied that the only time the city receives money is when they issue a third party warrant. He said the county receives money from court costs and fees on all the other citations.

Mayor Flinchum said they would

need to establish a petty cash fund in city hall. She added that she was unsure at this time if CPA Gay Oliver would be handling the city's tax payments but she would find out for certain.

Crowe asked if people would have to take those taxes to the CPA's office or how that would work. Flinchum said that she would pick taxes up from the citizens of Ravenna if she had to and deliver them to the CPA herself if they didn't want to make the trip to the office.

Flinchum asked the council to review the 23 page Code of Ethics document on the Department of Local Government's website and to sign a paper stating that it had been read.

There was discussion about two accounts that held money that had been willed to the city of Ravenna. The interest rate on both of those cd's at this time

is a half of a percent, and Councilman Budd Tucker suggested that they find some other way to invest that money that would generate more revenue for the city.

The accounts will mature in June and July, and Council member Tammy Howell said if the city receives the grant for the park some of the Van Huss money will have to be used on the park because that is a matching grant.

The council discussed the problem occurring with the newly blacktopped streets within the city and the fact that several residents are having problems with water running into their yards because the blacktop was not done properly. Flinchum said that she was advised to contact a general contractor who specializes in concrete work to look at the problem areas.

A representative from Hinkle had

been at a previous meeting and had spoken to the council about fixing the problem but Flinchum said to her knowledge nothing was ever done about it. She said that she felt like it was close to the end of the year and he was just trying to get the job done.

Flinchum advised the council that Buford Powell may potentially have a lawsuit against the city due to the issues he has been having at his home and church from the excess water running into his yard. She stated that she had received no paperwork on the lawsuit.

Tucker added that water was a problem in all areas of Ravenna. He said that he had worked on five houses in the city within the past few years and they all have had water issues. Flinchum said that she would contact Hinkle and find out what could be done to fix the problems in the areas with new blacktop.

Irvine grants new privilege licenses

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Two privilege licenses were granted for businesses coming to Irvine during the meeting on Monday night.

Angela Flynn will open a business located behind the Tobacco Barn on River Drive where she will prepare taxes.

Emily Allen will open a business located on Main Street that will specialize in therapeutic massage.

Mayor James Gross said that he had been contacted by someone from Lexington who is thinking about opening a business that will specialize in behavioral issues, but there has not been

a decision made on that yet.

Parking along Church Street has been an issue for quite some time now, and the council agreed to paint both sides of the street red to make it a tow away zone.

Mayor Gross said that Jr. Spicer had went up Church Street one day last week in the garbage truck, and there were so many cars parked on the street that he was unable to turn around so he had to back the truck out of the street.

Gross added there is no way that a fire truck or ambulance could get up the street with all the cars that are parked there.

Police Chief John Sturniolo said that by painting both sides of the street red they would be able to have any vehicle towed that was parked on the street.

He added that the three houses on Church Street have driveways and plenty of parking but people choose to park on the street instead.

Mayor Gross reported that he had good news about the fire department's debts being paid off.

He also stated he had been contacted by the Estill County Health Department about possibly using one of the bays to administer COVID vac-

cines this week.

Last week when they administered their first round of vaccines the weather didn't cooperate so they were seeking an alternative location to administer vaccines.

Fire Chief Justin Patrick said the Irvine Fire Department had gone on 265 runs last year. One home that burned on Stevens Avenue in December is being torn down at this time.

City Clerk Robin Powell said they had collected delinquent taxes on a property from 2013. She said they would begin mailing out letters about delinquent tax bills on February 1st.

Ravenna Jan. 6 meeting

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She said that the tanker leaks water and the hoses on the other truck do not work properly.

Newly elected council member Chris Smyth said he felt like David Harvey should have been present for the discussion. The council agreed that they would seek legal advice from an attorney or from Chris Johnson at the Kentucky League of Cities.

Flinchum said that she had been speaking with two different ladies about the city clerk position. Both ladies have experience in bookkeeping. Many of the duties handled by former city clerks have now been outsourced to Gay-Oliver, CPA. They city will pay her \$200 per month to handle things such as payroll.

Mike Fore and Dodd Dixon are both attorneys that have been in contact with Flinchum and Tammy Howell. Howell said that Fore helped the city of Ravenna in getting a grant through with the CARES act. He is based in Richmond and has Estill County roots. Dodd Dixon is based out of Winchester and is very knowledgeable in municipal matters according to Flinchum. Budd Tucker suggested contacting both men to see if they would be interested in handling affairs for the city of Ravenna and if it would be cheaper to pay them by the hour or to have them on retainer.

Fiscal court meets early due to holiday next Mon.

The Estill Fiscal Court met in special session on Monday. The meeting was called because the regular meeting was scheduled for next Monday, and that is Martin Luther King day.

The teleconference meeting opened with prayer and pledges to the American flag and the Kentucky flag. Meetings by teleconference are open to the public by phone.

Judge Donnie Watson received his Covid-19 vaccination last week. Because he has had a cough since then, he took a corona virus test which came back negative.

Watson stated that he had received a call from his 60 year old cousin in Arizona thanking him for the Christmas card he had sent. He learned through the phone call the cousin had been hospitalized for a month with Covid-19.

"This is really real," Watson stated. "It's a deadly virus."

Watson said young people are also getting the virus, and some are dying from it. He added that most businesses are following CDC guidelines.

"This has cut down on the flu going around this winter," he added.

A resolution was passed to amend the fiscal court minutes of their July meeting. At that time, the fiscal court accepted bids from Hardy Oil Company for gas and Hinkles for asphalt and gravel. The motions for those bids were omitted from the minutes.

The July meeting had been taped, as are all the teleconference meetings. The clerk was able to replay the July meeting to verify the bids were accepted.

The fiscal court accepted the county clerk's budget. Like the sheriff's budget, the clerk's budget runs for a calendar year.

The fiscal court received two bids to replace the roof on the jail building. The fiscal court rejected the bids and voted to re-advertise.

Watson explained the bids included money for hauling off the debris. He said the county can haul the debris to the landfill which will bring down the roofing bids.

Ronnie Riddell, director of Estill Emergency Services, asked the fiscal court to rebid the electrical enhancement project at Chestnut Stand tower.

Riddell explained the bid specifications were incorrect concerning lightning and surge protection. To correct the problem, it would require change orders which would drive up the bid cost.

Fire Chief Derrick Muncie reported the department had 457 runs for a year. This was the third highest number of runs.

The highest was 522 runs during 2009 because of an ice storm.

Muncie said there were only 18 structure fires last year, which was down.

The fire department had responded to 98 motor vehicle collisions and provided mutual aid to other fire departments 40 times.

Muncie explained the fire department becomes the first responder when an ambulance is not available.

Watson said the state sent an engineering firm from Paducah to analyze the heating and air system in the courthouse.

The reason given was Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) in Frankfort rents 55 percent of the courthouse.

The engineer recommended a Lexington firm to work on the heating and air system.

Irvine Police Activity Report

Kevin Dwayne Horn, 31, of Winchester Road, Irvine, was arrested January 8 by Irvine Police Chief John Sturniolo.

The police chief was dispatched around 3 p.m. to Horn's residence on an assault complaint.

When he arrived, the chief said he made contact with Danielle Brady, the caretaker for Horn's father. She reportedly told Sturniolo that Horn had attacked his father.

The citation states the younger man was joking with his father, then within seconds became agitated. He started to scratch and bite him.

It adds the elderly man sustained scratches and minor wounds to his nose and left wrist.

Sturniolo said that Horn had a strong odor of alcohol and slurred speech. He stated that he was not going to jail.

A female at the residence said they did not want Horn on the property. She went to the courthouse to obtain an EPO.

Jeffrey A. Mosley, 50, of Crabtree Lane, Irvine was arrested January 7 by Officer Stewart Morris on a warrant for failure to appear.

Drug arrests by IPD

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The officers reported they recovered \$1,150.00 in cash from Shuler's wallet.

Shuler was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (carfentanil or fentanyl derivatives), trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree, first offense (greater than or equal to two grams methamphetamine), trafficking in marijuana (over 8 ounces but less than 5 pounds), possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (opiates), drug paraphernalia - buy/possess, possession of a controlled substance, third degree, and possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine).

Jewell was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (carfentanil or fentanyl derivatives), trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (greater than or equal to two grams methamphetamine), trafficking in marijuana (8 oz. to 5 lbs.), first offense, possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (opiates), possession of a controlled substance, third degree, and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess.

Shuler and Jewell were transported to Three Forks Regional Jail in Beattyville.

Officer Jason Conrad also assisted with the drug investigation.



Snow on evergreens

Use a broom in an upward, sweeping motion to brush snow from evergreens as soon as possible after a storm. Heavy snow or ice can severely damage branches.

Source: lancaster.unl.edu



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Superintendent discusses school closures

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The school board does not go by the health department numbers when determining if there will be school or not, because there is a lag in data between the

health department and the state.

Saylor said they go strictly by what the state's numbers are, and then he will make the decision on school that weekend.

He stated when the county gets in the yellow zone then students from preschool to eighth grade will return to in person classes four days a week while high school students will remain on

the hybrid schedule.

With all students in high school having access to the Chrome books this will allow them to remain on the schedule of only going two days per week.

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