



WINCHESTER CITY COMMISSION WRAP-UP

Information from the Tuesday, March 6, 4:30 p.m. special and 5:30 p.m. regular meetings

Commission learns about certified Recovery Residences

During its Tuesday, May 6, 4:30 p.m. special meeting, the Winchester Board of Commissioners heard from Dane Prieston, executive director of the Kentucky Alliance of Recovery Residences (KYARR), who asked the commission to consider a draft ordinance aimed at creating local policies to enforce certifications on recovery residences.

Prieston shared with the commission the phases of becoming a certified Recovery Residence in Kentucky, the importance of this designation and how KYARR helps ensure those in recovery have safe and suitable housing.

KYARR is contracted by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to perform state-mandated recovery

housing certifications. By KYARR standards, recovery residences are safe and supportive housing environments designed for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders.

Recovery residences are defined in Kentucky Revised Statute. House Bill 248, passed in 2023, mandated that recovery residences achieve certification. KYARR, which formed in January 2025, was born out of the need for an agency to perform these certifications but also act as an advocacy organization.

Today, there are more than 325 certified recovery residences with 4,000 beds in Kentucky, making it one of the largest

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DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!

The next Winchester Board of Commissioners meeting is at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 15. This meeting will center on the fiscal year 2026 budget process. The commission will meet again at 9 a.m. Thursday, May 22. The meetings originally scheduled for May 20 have been canceled.

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IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the commission:

- approved the second reading of an ordinance annexing property from the county to the city. The annexation includes 23.515 acres on the western limits of the city. The order will require a second reading.

- approved the first reading of an ordinance annexing 31.818 acres of land in South Western Clark County to the city. This will require a second reading.

- approved the reading of an ordinance annexing 4.225 acres of land in South Western Clark County to the city. This will require a second reading.

- approved an ordinance changing the zoning classification of 23.515 acres of land located at 3315 Colby Road from Agricultural (A1) to Planning Development (PD) zoning. This will require a second reading.

- approved a contract with Abbie Jones Consulting for land surveying services through the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the Community Development Block Grant for Phase II of the Lincoln Street Redevelopment Project. Additionally, the commission approved eminent domain condemnation for 15 Lincoln Street as part of the project.

- approved an order transferring property at 124 Holly Ave. from the city to Landpath LLC.

- approved an order providing an extension to Todd Johnson Contracting Inc. for the Fulton Road Extension Project. This measure passed with a 3-2 vote to allow for an extension until Aug. 31. If not completed by Aug. 31, the contractor will be fined.

Mayor proclaims Arbor Day and Mental Health Month in Winchester



MAYOR JOELLEN REED ISSUED PROCLAMATIONS ESTABLISHING MAY 6 AS ARBOR DAY (PICTURED ABOVE) AND MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN WINCHESTER (PICTURED BELOW).



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affiliates in the country, Prieston said.

"Recovery is a life-long journey," he said. "It's more than just a 30-day rehab program."

This makes strong community-based recovery services critical, he said, and KYARR makes sure these residences are adhering a set of standards set by the National Alliance of Recovery Residences. KYARR takes these standards and makes them applicable to Kentucky.

The certification process involves three lengthy phases that include steps like obtaining liability insurance, signing a code of ethics and grievance policy, meeting all zoning and other local business laws, developing policies and procedures, a site visit, adherence to occupancy limits and a notarized letter from the property owner of record stating the property can be used as a recovery residence.

Once certification is obtained, recovery residences are expected to maintain these standards, and if not, grievances may be filed by residents or community members. Those grievances are investigated by KYARR. Violations can result in a plan of remediation or a shut down.

Enforcement of these standards has fallen on individual cities, so Prieston offered a draft local ordinance. The ordinance allows for enforcement on the city's part but respects the rights of the residents, he said.

"These aren't treatment centers," Prieston said. "These are people's homes."

Mayor JoEllen Reed asked City Attorney Bill Dykeman to review the draft ordinance and make recommendations. The commission intends to consider an ordinance at a future meeting.