House expected to vote on stopgap funding bill

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TIMES RECORD

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Board delays cemetery property decision

George "Clay" Mitchell
Fort Smith Southwest Times Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Fort Smith Board of Directors has again delayed consideration of acquiring additional cemetery property, this time at the request of Fort Smith Cemeteries Inc. as its leadership works through questions about the future management of the properties.

Director Jarred Rego requested Friday that the board remove a resolution of intent to acquire additional cemetery property from its Sept. 1 regular meeting agenda and consider it on Oct. 5 instead.

"I made the request because the leadership team of Fort Smith Cemeteries Inc. is still working through various questions and topics associated with the future management of the cemetery properties," Rego said. "They requested removal from the September agenda and placement on the October agenda so that they could finish their preparatory work."

George Catsavis, Kevin Settle and Neal Martin initially concurred with Rego's request to remove the item from the Sept. 1 agenda, providing the four directors required under city code. Lee Kemp, Christina Catsavis and André Good later also indicated they concurred.

Rego then requested the item be

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Washington Cemetery is among the cemetery properties under consideration as Fort Smith officials discuss a potential acquisition. A decision initially scheduled for Sept. 1 has been moved to Oct. 5 at the request of Fort Smith Cemeteries Inc. GEROGE 'CLAY' MITCHELL/TIMES RECORD

A U.S. official said forces had attacked Iranian launchers on Larak Island, a small island in the Strait of Hormuz near the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, on Aug. 30. REUTERS

Iran still wants a negotiated end to war

Hostilities resume as U.S. hits Iranian island

Eman Abouhassira and Phil Stewart
REUTERS

DUBAI – Iran is still seeking a negotiated solution to its conflict with the United States, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Aug. 31, a day after the two countries resumed hostilities for the first time since late July, driving oil prices up more than 3.5%.

Pezeshkian's comments also came after President Donald Trump posted an AI-generated video clip that he said showed Iran's oil hub Kharg Island being destroyed. There was no evidence of any such attack, and a U.S. official said on Aug. 31 the military had not targeted Kharg Island in overnight strikes. An Iranian official dismissed Trump's post as "laughable."

U.S. forces on Aug. 30 struck two Iranian launchers on Iran's Larak Island, some 410 miles east of Kharg, a U.S. official said, prompting Iran to strike two U.S. bases in Jordan, according to Iranian media.

Two people were killed and others were injured in the attack on Larak Island, Iran's IRNA news agency quoted the local governor as saying on Aug. 31.

The return to hostilities followed weeks in which Trump's administration has stepped up efforts to punish Tehran and its business partners with costly economic sanctions, shifting away from military options. Diplomacy remains in stalemate.

Pezeshkian, speaking to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of a regional security meeting in Kyrgyzstan, accused the United States of failing to fulfill its commitments under past agreements.

"Nevertheless, we are still trying to achieve an agreement and understanding, and we believe that continuing the war is in no one's interest, neither ours, nor the region's, nor humanity's," Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted him as saying.

"We believe the solution to the existing issues is dialogue and cooperation and that every capacity must be used to prevent the spread of insecurity and conflict."

Earlier, Trump had annoyed Iran by posting on his Truth Social platform the AI-generated video clip with the message: "Kharg Island being blown to smithereens!!! President DJT."

Reuters confirmed that the video clip showing dramatic explosions was most likely synthetically generated, using software that detects AI-manipulated imagery.

The White House and the Department of War did not respond to Reuters requests for comment outside regular business hours.

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Deer draws first spot on ballot in 7-way race

George "Clay" Mitchell
Fort Smith Southwest Times Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nataylia Deer will be the first name Fort Smith voters see when they choose among seven mayoral candidates in November, in the city's most crowded mayoral race in years.

Sebastian County election officials have released the ballot order for Fort Smith's Nov. 3 municipal election. Deer drew the top position in the mayoral race, followed by Shayne McKinney, Yvette C. Powers, Daniel Williams, Sara Harrison, Christina Catsavis and Lee Kemp.

The drawing puts the two current members of the Fort Smith Board of Directors seeking the mayor's office at the bottom of the ballot. Catsavis, an at-large director, will appear sixth, while Ward 2 Director Kemp drew the seventh and final position.

The Position 5 race will have Molly Radhakrishnan first, followed by Krystal Cadelli, Quinton Cunningham and Lavon Morton.

Casey Millspaugh drew the first position in the Position 6 race, followed by Brian Trumbly and Carl Nevin.

Incumbent Director Neal Martin was unopposed for Position 7 and has been declared elected to a third term.

If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote Nov. 3, the top two finishers in a contested race will advance to a Dec. 1 runoff.

Fort Smith voters will choose among seven candidates for mayor on Nov. 3. Sebastian County has released the order in which the candidates will appear on the ballot. GEORGE 'CLAY' MITCHELL/TIMES RECORD

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