Thirty residents made public comments at Tuesday night’s Paducah City Commission meeting. Commissioner Rich-ard Abraham introduced a resolution that would have postponed project bids for the facility, but it was rejected.

Commission rejects Abraham’s resolution for aquatic center

BY KELLY FARRELL

Pardon City commissioner Richard Abraham introduced a resolution Tuesday to post-pone bids to March 2024 for the estimated $20 million indoor recreation/aquatic center in Noble Park. Commissioner Rich-ar-d Abraham introduced a resolution that would have postponed project bids for the facility, but it was rejected.

Commission rejects Abraham’s resolution for aquatic center

BY KELLY FARRELL

The mixed messages came as the government’s coronavirus response became a political issue, with leaders of both political parties questioning whether the White House’s request for $2.5 billion in virus response funding was enough to prepare the nation.

George Bray said city leaders “definitely need to pause and re-evaluate the process, project, timeline and financing.”

He called on city leaders to, among other things, match the outlay of bond payments.

Mayor candidate Brany questions rec facility plans

BY DAVID ZOELLER

Paducah mayoral candidate George Bray said city leaders need to pause and re-evaluate their plans for a community indoor recreation/aquatic center until a better way to finance the project is es-tablished.

Bray had a brief news conference on the subject after eight blocks from City Hall late Tuesday afternoon at the Respite Bed & Breakfast.

“Games of Deception,” which starred Growing Pains andDiff’rent Strokes star Kirk Cameron, played at Paducah Technical College.

It was rejected by a 4-2 vote.

The decision came after 30 residents and five elected offi-cials gave their stance.

“I’m totally against the mu-nicipal being the principal in con-structing it,” Abraham told The Sun, after the meet-ing, adding he doesn’t think it should compete with the pri-ivate sector. “I truly believe that our job is more on essential services.”

Mayor Brandi Hardies and commissioner Brenda McCl-

roy, Sandra Williams and Gerald Watt-
kins all voted against the resolution, while Abra-

ham was the sole vote in favor.

Abraham

The proposed project is a two-story, 77,000-square-foot facility located in Noble Park, off Park Avenue, where ball fields currently exist. Its exact size remains subject to change. It’s under design by Nash-ville-based Lose Design and expected to feature a natate-

rium, including a competition-

ized pool and warm water therapy pool, gymnasium, walking/jogging track, locker rooms, two-story theme slide, lobby area, child watch, tenant space for community part-ners, concessions and more.

Public comment

Residents gave more than an hour’s worth of public com-

ment, some who voiced op-

position, support or proposed other ideas, such as the need for stormwater infrastructure improvements, holding a pub-

lic vote on the issue (which City Manager Jim Anghar said is not do-

able in Kentucky), improve ball fields, or just to “pour the bricks” on the project.

The residents included the Hagan family from Paducah Athletic Club; a Paducah Swim Team and Paducah Tllghman

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Smith. They spoke at St. Mary’s Business...