

TOWN HALL
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This became a prominent topic on social media and media outlets, including in Cincinnati, when on April 14, city workers were bolting it down in front of City Hall, from where it had been stolen. Former Mayor Sebastian Ernst saw this, said that he was the rightful owner of the sheep, and ended up in an argument with the police chief over its possession.

Hazen made it clear that this is a civil matter and not in any way an issue that the city was involved in, including the altercation between Chief Marty Hart and Ernst.

Someone suggested that when Pendleton County Attorney Stacey Moore Sanning dropped trespassing charges against Ernst, that proved he was innocent. Referring to the county attorney's decision, council members pointed out she did not assign guilt or innocence when the case was dropped.

With court records and police reports, Hazen outlined the history of the sheep, which originally was displayed at the former Conrad Hardware Store building that Ernst now owns and where his We the Pizza shop is located.

Hazen said that according to records, Tim Morrison took the building on land contract in 2022, put the statue up for sale, and finally gave it to Councilwoman Joyce Carson, who had it placed in front of city hall.

The statue was stolen in

August 2023, eventually was recovered and was placed in evidence in the basement of the police department until it was returned to the front of city hall last month.

Ernst contends that when he bought the building, the sheep was included. Once again, Hazen emphasized that the ownership of the sheep will be determined in civil court if a lawsuit is filed.

"Sebastian has been told multiple times to bring in the contract," she said.

THE SCHOOL

The second topic of discussion was the sealed bid sale of the old middle school at 500 Maple St.

Resident Howard Froelicher contended that the sealed bidding process was possibly illegal. The mayor explained that the process was approved by former city attorney Brandon Voelker and prior to notices being placed in the paper and on social media it was vetted by the Kentucky League of Cities.

Councilman Anthony Cox explained that sealed bids simply means the all parties interested submitted their proposals in sealed envelopes, which at the appointed time are opened, read and discussed during a public meeting.

Froelicher raised the question about how whoever is awarded the bid will address the sewage issue and the cost involved. The mayor admitted she was not aware of a sewage problem but invited him to join her at City Hall and review the sewage line maps to determine if there was an

issue that needed to be addressed. She also noted that the listing stated that the property is being sold "as is."

The concern over the sewage line led into a discussion on how the city ended up owning the property. The mayor pointed out that the city purchased the property illegally when a councilman who had resigned and was not eligible to vote, voted anyway. That led to a tie vote, which was broken by then-Mayor Sebastian Ernst, who championed the idea of purchasing the vacant property from the school district to renovate into a community center and city offices.

Hazen confessed her own role in voting in favor of the purchase, saying that she and others were misled about the condition of the building how much it would cost to rehab it.

"The math didn't math," she said several times, and after Ernst was impeached at the beginning of 2024, the city declined to attempt rehabilitating the property.

Besides Ernst, who continues to pitch his idea for the building and says the costs aren't nearly as high as others claim, and Trinity Southern Baptist Church, which expressed interest last month in buying the property to relocate its church there, the Brighton Center previously went on record of having an interest in converting the middle school into low-income housing like the old school building in Butler.

Brighton's original estimate to complete the project was \$8 million. Another

estimate done later placed the cost at \$12 million.

The work the city has done to protect the property was described as only a "patch" on the roof to stop further water damage.

Mr. Froelicher wanted to know why police Chief Marty Hart wrote a letter in support of Trinity's proposal. Hart was diagnosed with COVID and was unable to attend the meeting to respond to the question.

Froelicher then suggested that he felt the city, "Should be bulldozing it and selling the land."

NEOPTISM

A third topic the mayor felt strongly needed to be addressed was the accusations of nepotism because her fiancé was hired as a supervisor of the city water and sewage department.

She said the record will show that she was on council when the former mayor hired her fiancé, Christian Hutchinson, for that role.

Cox referred to the section on nepotism from the state council member training manual that clearly absolved Hazen.

Hazen said that after becoming mayor, she signed an executive order placing him under the authority of the City Clerk Ramona Williams. "I am not his boss," she said.

She also noted that he and Steve McClanahan both have since passed their testing to be awarded Kentucky Division of Water Level III certificates, which are needed to be operators.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Before opening the meeting to additional topics, the mayor and council explained that leadership changed hands at a bad time when the city was recovering from a major power outage and immediately followed by serious flooding.

Council relied on the advice of the city attorney in addressing a natural disaster, the resignation of the mayor, the city fire chief and the altercation between Ernst and Hart over the sheep.

To add to all this, the city attorney submitted his resignation. Mayor Hazen noted that the city attorney's departure was anticipated because he was on notice of being dismissed for breach of contract.

Cox explained the legality of the actions that council had taken since these resignations were within the scope of their authority as outlined in the manual that all council members received during their January training. In addition, Hazen and Williams relied heavily upon the advice of the Kentucky League of Cities to make sure any actions they were taking were legal.

Carson said that with all that going on, there will be misunderstandings, but that is no excuse for the vicious personal attacks shouted out in City Hall and in comments on social media.

Hazen said, "We just want to heal and move on."

County Economic and Tourism Development Director Tami Vater told

the group that it is important to project a positive image of the city and county to attract small business, industry and tourism. She commended the council for their transparency and professionalism displayed during challenging times.

Resident Ron Moreland rose in support of the city's leadership. Moreland said he has lived in the city for 60 years and operated a business here for 30 years. He lamented the history of conflict between the county and city governments that has lingered over the years and exists to this day.

He urged the council to "Get rid of that school" and let the buyer beware.

He suggested that the mayor and council consider the approaches of other cities similar in size to Falmouth to save money and enhance the infrastructure. He expressed concern about entering into any long-term lease agreement with any utility without due diligence.

The mayor addressed other comments and suggestions, including making sure all police officers, including the chief and deputy chief, have body cameras, developing five-, 10- and 20-year plans for the city, and increasing ways to keep citizens informed.

Hazen concluded the meeting by encouraging citizens to become involved and attend City Council and city committee meetings.


The meeting adjourned while TV cameras from stations in Cincinnati waited to interview the new mayor.

State police announce checkpoints in Pendleton Co.

DRY RIDGE — Kentucky State Police Dry Ridge Post, with a coverage area that includes Pendleton County, will conduct periodic traffic safety checkpoints throughout the post area, the post announced Thursday. Special attention will be paid to seat belt adherence, sobriety, insurance and registrations.

Pendleton checkpoints include U.S. Highway 27 North at Kentucky 22 West; U.S. 27 North at KY 17 north; U.S. 27 North at Wright Road; KY 22 East at KY 159 North; KY 22 at Hogg Ridge Road; KY 177 at River Road, Butler; KY 177 at Demosville Road, Demosville; KY 177 at KY 467; and KY 467 at KY 17, Grassy Creek Church.

Local police and county agencies may also assist the Kentucky State Police in conducting these Traffic Safety Checkpoints.



WoodmenLife[®]
Of Falmouth

Woodmen Life is inviting all military veterans and first responders to a pasta bar luncheon to honor their service.

May 9, 2024 / 11 a.m.
at Pendleton County Extension Office
45 David Pribble Drive, Falmouth, KY

THANK YOU!

If interested register by May 6, 2025
online at www.bit.ly/woodmenlunch or by calling 859-462-2151



Grassy Creek Christian Church
6884 HWY 17N Demosville, KY 41033

- ✓ Opens in September for school year 2025-26.
- ✓ Tuition-based program for 4-5 year-olds the year prior to Kindergarten.
- ✓ 3 Hours a day, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- ✓ Provides a Christ-centered and Bible-based preschool education that encourages a child's growth spiritually, academically, socially, verbally and physically.

APPLY NOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.grassycreek.org
or scan this code:



NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

RECOVERY BY ENVIRONMENTAL SURCHARGE OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY'S 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in an April 30, 2025 Application, Kentucky Utilities Company ("KU") is seeking approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission") in Case No. 2025-00105, pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 278.183, of an amended compliance plan ("2025 Plan"). (Collectively, KU's Application and supporting testimony and exhibits are KU's "tariff filing.") If approved, KU will begin recovering capital costs associated with a new pollution control facility in the 2025 Plan under KU's existing Electric Rate Schedule ECR (also known as the Environmental Surcharge tariff) through an increase in the environmental surcharge on customers' bills beginning in December 2025.

KU filed an application with the Commission on February 28, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00045 seeking approval to construct a selective catalytic reduction system at the Ghent generating station to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which are a precursor to ozone. In Case No. 2025-00105, KU is seeking an order approving the 2025 Plan to recover the costs of this new pollution control facility through its Environmental Surcharge tariff. This project will help ensure ongoing compliance with regulations issued under the federal Clean Air Act as amended, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

The estimated total capital cost of this new pollution control facility is \$152.3 million. Additionally, KU is requesting recovery of future incremental capital and operation and maintenance expenses associated with this new pollution control facility. KU is also asking to recover the cost of publishing this customer notice through the Environmental Surcharge over 12 months and to have Environmental Surcharge recovery of future Commission-approved administrative expenses, including customer notice costs.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU's Group 1 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 0.81% in 2029. Group 1 includes Rate Schedules Residential Service (RS), Residential Time-of-Day Energy Service (RTODE), Residential Time-of-Day Demand Service (RTODD), Volunteer Fire Department Service (VFD), All Electric School (AES), and all Lighting Rates (i.e., LS, RLS, LE, and TE).

RS and VFD customers using 1,085 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.09. RTODE customers using 1,043 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.01 up to \$1.14. RTODD customers using 987 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.80. AES customers using 25,620 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.30 up to \$24.28. LS and RLS customers could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.12. LE customers using 2,473 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.02 up to \$1.59. TE customers using 147 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.00 up to \$0.15.

Beginning in December 2025, the initial bill impact for KU's Group 2 customers is estimated to be a 0.01% increase with a maximum increase of 1.10% in 2029. Group 2 includes Rate Schedules General Service (GS), General Time-of-Day Energy Service (GTODE), General Time-of-Day Demand Service (GTODD), Power Service (PS), Time-of-Day Secondary Service (TODS), Time-of-Day Primary Service (TODP), Retail Transmission Service (RTS), Fluctuating Load Service (FLS), and Outdoor Sports Lighting Service (OSL).

GS customers using 1,657 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.03 up to \$2.41. GTODD customers using 19,652 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.31 up to \$25.26. PS-Secondary customers using 30,434 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.39 up to \$32.35. PS-Primary customers using 35,028 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.45 up to \$36.82. TODS customers using 189,538 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$1.54 up to \$126.82. TODP customers using 1,242,574 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$8.25 up to \$678.42. RTS customers using 7,387,224 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$38.91 up to \$3,199.31. FLS-Transmission customers using 44,229,667 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$237.46 up to \$19,525.53. OSL-Secondary customers using 4,627 kWh/month could expect a monthly increase of \$0.17 up to \$13.87.

The Application described in this Notice is proposed by KU, but the Commission may issue an order resulting in an environmental surcharge for customers other than the environmental surcharge described in this Notice.

Comments regarding KU's 2025 Plan and Application may be submitted to the Commission through its website or by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this Notice, the Commission may take final action on the Application.

Any person may examine KU's tariff filing at the Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov> or KU's website (<http://www.lge-ku.com>) after KU makes its tariff filing on April 30, 2025. KU has requested a deviation from the requirement to make the tariff filing available at its office at One Quality Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. If the Commission denies that request, KU will make the tariff filing available at its office upon request by any person.