

Rodgers and Tomlin's partnership carries major stakes for both sides

BY WILL GRAVES
AP NATIONAL WRITER

PITTSBURGH — Aaron Rodgers and Mike Tomlin share a competitive stubbornness. An inherent arrogance, too.

While that hardly makes them outliers in the alpha-driven NFL, their ability to keep the realities of the game they have helped define at bay for so long does.

Coaches aren't supposed to go nearly two decades without experiencing a losing season. Tomlin has.

Quarterbacks aren't supposed to recover from an Achilles injury in their 40s and return to throw for nearly 4,000 yards. Rodgers did.

Maybe they have long sensed this shared “otherness.” Maybe that's why they've made it a point during their occasional professional meetings to make GIF-worthy eye contact, a non-verbal way of saying “game recognize game.”

So perhaps it's fitting that two men who believe the rules don't necessarily apply to them will share the sideline this fall in a season that could serve as a symbolic last stand for their worldview.



AP Photo/Seth Wenig

New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers runs onto the field before an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Jan. 5, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Rodgers is eager to move past two weird years in New York, where he generated more headlines than victories.

Tomlin has kept churning out winning seasons, potentially at the expense of finding the franchise quarterback that rival teams — teams the Steelers have been so frantically, if futilely, chasing for years — have in abundance.

‘OUR BUSINESS IS WINNING’

Yet rather than keep Russell Wilson or Justin Fields — both of whom Pittsburgh let walk

in free agency after leading the Steelers to a 10-7 mark last fall — or roll the dice with Mason Rudolph or use a first-round pick in April's draft on the most important position in the game, by signing Rodgers the Steelers are doing what they have always done for the last 50-plus years.

They're trying to win. Now. There is nobility in that, to be sure. Glory, however, is another thing entirely.

And while Rudolph made himself a quasi-folk hero after coming off the bench down the stretch in 2023 to lead Pittsburgh to the playoffs,

there's little doubt that Rodgers is the best option available, even if watching the Steelers spending two-plus months hat-in-hand waiting for him to commit caused franchise icon and Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw to call his old team's pursuit of the four-time MVP “a joke.”

Yet losing is no laughing matter to a coach who counts “our business is winning” among his many Tomlin-isms.

Riding with Rudolph or (eventually) rookie sixth-round pick Will Howard would have come with a high risk/reward. Either they would have been successful and the Steelers would have found “their guy” or they would stumble and the club would land inside the top 12 in the draft without having to trade to get there for the first time since taking Ben Roethlisberger 11th overall in 2004.

Gambling, however, is not Tomlin's way.

PLAYING IT SAFE

For all of his inherent swagger, Tomlin's approach remains cautious. In a league where scoring is paramount, Tomlin remains fixated on winning the turnover battle and avoiding mistakes, hoping in the end his team will be on the right side of a 20-17 game.

A little more often than not, it does. Until the playoffs come around anyway. Then the

Steelers often find themselves going against a team with a better quarterback, at least on that given day, than the one they employ, the defense struggles, and all the talk of a run to a seventh Super Bowl title quickly vanishes.

Enter Rodgers, who is hoping to put a more positive coda on the end of his career than what would have been tacked on had he decided to step away after a miserable 5-12 slog with the Jets last season.

Rodgers stressed during his methodical decision-making process that he wouldn't commit to any team until he was sure he could fully invest.

Apparently, Rodgers reached that point Thursday, conveniently a few hours after his soon-to-be teammates wrapped up two weeks of voluntary organized team activities. He will likely pass the physical that will ratify his one-year deal in time to trot out onto the practice field at the Steelers' facility for the start of mandatory minicamp next, where the angst over his future will morph into angst over how much life remains in his 41-year-old legs.

AN AGE-OLD DEBATE

Rodgers turns 42 in December. The list of quarterbacks who have won a playoff game at 42 or older starts and stops with Tom Brady.

For Rodgers to join that list, he'll have to stay healthy behind a young offensive line that struggled at times to protect Wilson and Fields, develop chemistry with a wide receiver group that is largely unproven outside recently acquired two-time Pro Bowler DK Metcalf and try to make sure the

volume on the noise that accompanies him wherever the frequent “Pat McAfee Show” guest and avid conspiracy theorist goes doesn't drown out the team-first tone Tomlin is trying to set.

It's a lot to ask, though Rodgers will likely come in motivated, well aware that a portion (albeit a small one) of his legacy is at stake.

The pressure Tomlin faces will be different. Conventional wisdom suggests it's finally time for the Steelers to get off the treadmill of “pretty good but hardly great” by taking an overdue step back.

Conventional wisdom, however, didn't have a defense with an ageless All-Pro defensive tackle, a future Hall of Fame outside linebacker on the back side of his prime and a perennial Pro Bowl safety.

The Steelers do.

STUBBORN? OR STUCK?

Tomlin feels he owes it to Cam Heyward, T.J. Watt and Minkah Fitzpatrick to maximize 2025, even if it potentially leaves them in a familiar position next April when the draft comes to Pittsburgh: with a first-round pick in the low-20s and no quarterback of the future on the roster.

If it happens, so be it. Tomlin has no plans to ever apologize for the way he goes about his job.

Five months ago, not long after another quick playoff exit, this time at the hands of Baltimore, he shrugged when asked if the Steelers were “stuck.”

“Stuck is kind of a helpless feeling,” the NFL's longest-tenured coach said with a touch of disdain. “And I don't know that I feel helpless.”

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| LG&E is proposing the following revisions to other charges in its Gas tariff: | | |
| Other Charges | Current Charge | Proposed Charge |
| Returned Payment Charge | \$3.70 | \$3.00 |
| Meter Test Charge | \$112.86 | \$119.00 |
| Disconnect/Reconnect Service Charge | \$32.00 | \$51.00 |
| Inspection/Additional Trip Charge | \$155.00 | \$180.00 |
| Unauthorized Connection Charge – no meter replacement | \$49.00 | \$51.00 |
| Unauthorized Connection Charge – meter replacement | \$114.00 | \$133.0 |
| Advanced Meter Opt-Out Charge (One-Time) | \$33.00 | \$85.00 |
| Advanced Meter Opt-Out Charge (Monthly) | \$5.00 | \$9.00 |
| Daily Storage Charge for Daily Imbalances (TS-1 and LGDS) | \$0.3797 | \$0.3797 |
| Gas Meter Pulse Relaying Non-FT Non-TS2 | \$28.00 | \$33.00 |
| Gas Meter Pulse Relaying FT/TS2 | \$8.00 | \$9.00 |
| Excess Facilities – w/ no CIAC | 1.12% | 1.44% |
| Excess Facilities – w/ CIAC | 0.44% | 0.68% |
| A detailed notice of all proposed revisions and a complete copy of the proposed tariffs containing the proposed text changes, terms and conditions for electric or gas service and rates may be obtained by submitting a written request by e-mail to myaccount@lge-ku.com or by mail to Louisville Gas and Electric Company, ATTN: Rates Department, 2701 Eastpoint Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, 40223, or by visiting LG&E's website at https://lge-ku.com/lge-2025-rate-case. | | |
| A person may examine LG&E's application at the office of LG&E located at 2701 Eastpoint Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, 40223, and at LG&E's website at https://www.lge-ku.com/lge-2025-rate-case. A person may also examine this application at the Public Service Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or may view and download the application through the Commission's Web site at http://psc.ky.gov. | | |
| Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission by mail to Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, or by email to at psc.info@ky.gov. All comments should reference Case No. 2025-00114. | | |
| The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by LG&E, but the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. A 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 initial publication or mailing of the notice, the Commission may take final action on the application. | | |

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless and TowerCo are filing an application with the Henry County Planning and Zoning Department to construct a new wireless communications facility on a site located at 3796 Bethlehem Road, Pleasureville, KY 40057, (North Latitude 38° 24' 09.40", West Longitude 85° 04' 25.82"). The proposed facility will include a 300-foot-tall self-supporting lattice tower, plus a 10-foot lightning arrestor for a total height of 310' and related ground facilities. This facility is needed to provide improved coverage for wireless communications in the area. You have a right to submit comments to the Planning Commission or to participate in the Planning Commission's proceedings on the application. You may contact the Henry County Planning and Zoning Department at (502) 845-7760 or P. O. BOX 686, New Castle, KY 40050.

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE #25-03

Be It hereby ordained by the City Commission of the City of New Castle, Kentucky, that it's annual budget for the fiscal year 25-26 is as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | |
| Beginning Balance | \$453,750 | | |
| Revenues | \$477,400 | Total | \$931,150 |
| Expenses | \$602,564 | | |
| Ending Balance | \$328,586 | | |
| WATER FUND | | | |
| Beginning Balance | \$449,856 | | |
| Revenues | \$315,600 | Total | \$765,456 |
| Expenses | \$363,348 | | |
| Ending Balance | \$402,108 | | |
| SEWER FUND | | | |
| Beginning Balance | \$453,075 | | |
| Revenues | \$280,100 | Total | \$733,175 |
| Expenses | \$302,583 | | |
| Ending Balance | \$430,592 | | |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT | | | |
| Beginning Balance | \$2,500 | | |
| Revenues | \$48,000 | Total | \$50,500 |
| Expenses | \$46,500 | | |
| Ending Balance | \$4,000 | | |
| SUMMARY | | | |
| Totals (revenue & cash balances) | General \$931,150 Water \$765,456 Sewer \$733,175 Fire Dept \$50,500 Total - \$2,480,281 | | |
| Total Expenses | General \$602,564 Water \$363,348 Sewer \$302,583 Fire Dept \$46,500 Total - \$1,314,995 | | |
| Ending Balance | \$1,165,286 | | |
| Phoebe Thompson, Mayor | | Date: 06/02/25 | |
| Attest: | | | |
| Lynn B. Adams, City Clerk | | Date: 06/02/25 | |
| 1st reading: 05/05/25 | | | |
| 2nd reading: 06/02/25 | | | |
| Published: 6/11/25 | | | |

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE # 2025-02

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

PROPOSED BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SMITHFIELD, KY

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SMITHFIELD, KENTUCKY THAT ITS ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR IS AS FOLLOWS:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| | 2025/26 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | |
| REVENUE | | EXPENDITURES | |
| Ad Valorem | \$1,100.00 | Advertising | \$600.00 |
| Franchise Tax - Trash | \$800.00 | Attorney Fees | \$2,250.00 |
| Franchise Tax - KU | \$1,800.00 | Bond for clerk | \$110.00 |
| Insurance Tax | \$38,120.00 | Decorations | \$1,000.00 |
| Mineral Tax | \$250.00 | Fire Protection | \$1,100.00 |
| Motor Vechicle Taxes | \$100.00 | Gov't Dues & Subscriptions | \$610.00 |
| Municipal Aid Fund | | Insurance Premiums | \$4,500.00 |
| Municipal Aid Reserve | \$1,800.00 | Mayor & Com. Stipen | \$4,080.00 |
| Property Taxes | \$6,300.00 | Miscellaneous | \$400.00 |
| | | Municipal Expense | |
| Smithfield Day | \$2,000.00 | Ditch Repair | \$0.00 |
| Tangible Tax | \$150.00 | Road Repair | \$0.00 |
| Telecommunication Tax | \$1,400.00 | Sidewalk Repair | \$20,000.00 |
| Total General Fund | \$53,820.00 | Signage | \$150.00 |
| | | Office Supplies | \$400.00 |
| | | Park Improvement | \$1,445.00 |
| | | Park Maintenance | \$5,550.00 |
| | | Planning and Zoning | \$700.00 |
| | | Postage | \$500.00 |
| | | Printing & Copying Expense | \$600.00 |
| | | Salary Expense | \$2,400.00 |
| | | Smithfield Day | \$2,000.00 |
| | | Street Lighting | \$4,500.00 |
| | | Telephone | \$350.00 |
| | | Weather Siren Expense | \$575.00 |
| | | TOTAL EXPENSES | \$53,820.00 |
| First reading May 1, 2025 | | | |
| Second reading June 5, 2025 | | | |
| Published June 11, 2025 | | | |