

EKY council member opposed to removing mayor resigns week before public hearing

BY PIPER HANSEN
phansen@herald-leader.com

The only council member to vote against a Kentucky city mayor's removal resigned a week before the elected body is to conduct a public hearing on allegations of misconduct and failure to provide services brought against the city's leader.

In a special meeting Aug. 29, the London City Council adopted a resolution amending its reasons to remove Mayor Randall Weddle and then setting a public hearing to review those accusations Sept. 5 at the Laurel County Judicial Center.

The council also accepted the resignation of council member Charles Stacy Benge. He was not present Friday at the special meeting. The council has 30 days to appoint a new member.

On Friday, council did not discuss details of Benge's resignation, his reasoning or the timing of his departure.

Benge was the only council member to vote Aug. 5 against bringing impeachment charges against the mayor.

He won reelection in 2024 and was in his second term on a mission to ensure public services were deployed fairly, according to the Sentinel Echo. Benge retired from one of London's probation offices and was working as a rental property manager and residential construction contractor while serving on council.

The city council this summer has sought to oust Weddle amid claims he is guilty of misconduct and willful neglect or an intentional failure to provide services.

Before the amended

resolution was read, Weddle's lawyer said the city council has demonstrated a pattern of shifting and revising its accusations against the mayor. That pattern creates a moving target, he said, which doesn't give Weddle appropriate time for rebuttal and undermines the integrity of the process.

Among the allegations the council believes could be cause under Kentucky law for Weddle's removal is his 19-month late appointment of members to the London Housing Authority.

According to the amended resolution for his removal, council members said it wasn't until federal officials told Weddle in July the city was not compliant with funding rules did he finally appoint members to the housing authority.

However, Weddle did so without following the proper process so the city still isn't compliant with federal rules.

Without an appropriate board acting with approval from council, members of the body said the city could lose federal housing dollars, and London residents may be evicted.

Other amended reasons for removal shared Friday during the special meeting detail how Weddle allegedly misused the city's police department and its funds for a personal protection detail for himself that Weddle then used to intimidate residents.

According to council, he left an ethics commission seat vacant, failed to host meetings and publish enacted ordinances online and illegally signed a \$5 million mortgage for a property on behalf of the city without council approval.

No criminal charges

have been filed.

Previous calls for his removal have included claims Weddle continues to not live within city limits. Residents also have thrown a litany of scrutiny and defamation lawsuits at their mayor, who claimed three of his most outspoken critics were part of a pedophilia ring.

Those critics were vocally against Weddle after city police shot and killed 63-year-old Doug Harless while serving a warrant for stolen property at the wrong house.

Eyebrows in London and in Frankfort raised August 2023 about a year into Weddle's term as mayor when a road project

near his freight and logistics business had its construction start moved ahead of schedule.

At the time, Weddle was already under investigation for campaign finance violations when his family and business partners donated more than \$200,000 to the Kentucky Democratic Party.

That same year, Weddle

was also being investigated for sponsoring a free gas giveaway during his campaign. The June 2023 campaign finance violation also claimed he provided voters with limo rides to the polls and gave gifts to city and county department officials.

Obituaries

Stuart Andrew Angus Sr. September 14, 1964 - August 28, 2025

Lexington, Kentucky - Stuart Angus of Lexington, KY passed away in Nashville on August 28th after a courageous five-year battle with cancer. Stuart is survived by his son, Drew, and daughter-in-law, Alexa, along with their two foster children. Stuart was one of three children born to his parents, Carol and Douglas Angus.

Stuart was born and raised in New Jersey. During his youth he fell in love with horses and that love of the thoroughbred shaped the rest of his life. Stuart did not skip steps in his development as a true horseman. Stuart took the time to graduate from farrier school and expose himself to every aspect of the thoroughbred industry. He landed a job with Due Process Stable while still in New Jersey where he learned stallion care and mare reproduction. Ultimately, Stuart knew that if he wanted to truly create a career with thoroughbreds, he needed to head south to Kentucky.

Stuart landed on his feet in the Bluegrass State and continued to build his resume. He worked for leading farms such as Walmac, Vinery, Payson Stud and Watercress while he steadily took on larger roles and more responsibility. In 2005 Stuart took a job at Taylor Made as a Senior Thoroughbred Advisor and he held that position until his passing.

Stuart's accomplishments are many. He brokered the deal to buy Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird as a two-year-old. He raised a KY Oaks winner in Farda Amiga

along with Breeders Cup Juvenile winner, Vindication. While these achievements are impressive, his legacy in the thoroughbred industry will be about him helping others achieve their dreams and goals. Stuart was a tireless worker on behalf of his clients. Horses were not a job to Stuart. Horses were a way of life, and it showed in how his customers embraced him and included him in their critical decisions. Stuart was also a great mentor to young people who were seeking to follow their own path in the horse business. He would take time to teach them and help them avoid mistakes that he made along the way. As young people came to Taylor Made, they would always gravitate to Stuart for guidance and advice.

Despite his obsession with horses, Stuart was most proud of Drew, Alexa, and his two young grandchildren. Anyone who spent much time with Stuart knows that they were his pride and joy.

A celebration of life will be held on September 3rd from 3pm - 5pm at Shamrock's in Brannon Crossing, Stuart's favorite spot, and all are welcome.

Stuart was taken too soon but he got more out of life in 60 years than most people could in 100. He lived every day with intention and passion. He set a heroic example of how to battle cancer with positivity and grace. Stuart Angus was a great friend, a great dad, a great horseman and a great mentor. God Bless Stuart Angus!

Obituaries

Beverly Jeanne Ray Jones November 21, 1938 - August 21, 2025



Bowie, Maryland - With deep love and sorrow, we celebrate the life and legacy of Beverly Jeanne Raye Jones—a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, teacher, and friend—who passed away peacefully on August 21, 2025, at her home in Bowie, Maryland, surrounded by her devoted daughter, Sammie Johnson. The eldest of six sisters, Beverly was born on November 21, 1938, in Lexington, Kentucky, to the proud parents Carl and Lillian Raye. Beverly graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in 1956. She became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. in 1959, then graduated from Maryland State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960. On June 8, 1963, Beverly married the late Samuel "Sam" Jones, recognized as the first African American television newsman in Lexington, KY. He was also the producer-moderator of the public affairs show Focus on Minorities and an editor for IBM. From this union, they had one daughter, Sammie Abeni Jones.

In 1963, Beverly also started her teaching career at the State of Kentucky Training Home, working with children with special needs. While teaching, she obtained

a master's degree in education from the University of Kentucky in 1965. In 1967, Beverly began working for Fayette County Public Schools in Lexington, Kentucky, at Constitution Elementary School, and later transferred to Linlee Elementary. She became a baptized Jehovah's Witness in 1969 and was dedicated to the ministry. In 1993, she retired from Fayette County Public Schools. On November 30, 2019, Beverly relocated to Bowie, Maryland, to be nearer to her daughter, Sammie, her husband, Marcus, and her two grandchildren, Addison and Arianna.

Beverly Jeanne Raye Jones was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Samuel Jones; her parents; her sister Evelyn Carter; and her brother-in-law Marion Thomas. She is survived by her daughter Sammie Jones Johnson; her son-in-law Marcus Johnson; and her granddaughters Addison and Arianna Johnson. Also cherishing her memories are her sisters Maxine Douthitt (Paul Douthitt), Marian Thomas, Yvonne Hunter (Phillip Hunter), and Joyce O'Neal (Welton O'Neal); her brother-in-law Virgil Carter; her cousin James Washington; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of relatives and lifelong friends. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Beall Funeral Home in Bowie, MD. The viewing will take place from 10 AM to 11 AM, followed by the service from 11 AM to 12 PM. Burial details will be announced at a later date and will occur at Evergreen Memorial Gardens (5364 Lexington Rd, Paris, Kentucky).



Schiffman's
JEWELERS

ESTATE & VINTAGE JEWELRY EVENT

SEPTEMBER 3RD - 6TH | THE SUMMIT AT FRITZ FARM

Shop our largest collection of
estate and vintage jewelry- four days only!

859-456-2755 | SCHIFFMANS.COM/EVENTS

*All items are subject to prior sale.