

## Green Energy Parks, LLC plant coming to Arlington, Ky.



Ricky O'Neal is procurement specialist with Genesis Anaerobic Solutions LLC. He will serve as Master of Feedstock.



By GAYE BENCINI

With an anticipated completion date of 2028, the new plant, Green Energy Parks, LLC, to be constructed in Arlington, Ky., will employ around 20 people and pay \$105.00 an hour. Local hog producer Ricky O'Neal, Genesis Anaerobic Solutions, LLC, will serve as Master of Feedstock. It will be a 26-acre site located near Curtsinger Farms on CR1130.

Details of the Green Energy Parks plant were shared Monday after-

noon at a WAVE Ag meeting held in Bardwell, Ky., at the Carlisle County Extension Office. The plant, a "digester facility," will turn waste like corn stover, livestock manure, and distiller grains into natural gas and recycle it back into fertilizer.

Carlisle County Judge/Executive Greg Terry said the plant wouldn't have been possible without Ricky O'Neal's dedication and vision. Ricky O'Neal is a local hog producer for Tosh Farms. He is married to Holly (Kelly) O'Neal, formerly of Clin-

ton, Ky. "Having hog barns also means having hog waste," O'Neal, who has been in the hog production business for the past 12 years, said.

"Now that waste is also a valuable product, but it can cause a lot of heartache when it comes to emptying the pits," he said, adding that it's something farmers across the board deal with every year.

"The obstacle is what pushed me to start looking for solutions," he said.

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A large crowd with attendees from Carlisle County, Hickman County, and other areas attended the WAVE Ag meeting Monday where information was shared about a new plant coming to Arlington, Ky. (Photos by Gaye Bencini)

## Heflin, Inc. wants payment for coming to Clinton building collapse site in July; matter now to be handled by attorneys

By GAYE BENCINI

Clinton City Council met in regular session Monday night, March 2 at Clinton City Hall. Present were Mayor John Kelly, Council Members Wynita Dillard (by phone), Betty Morrow, Laura Poole, Tommy Kimbro, and Jerome Jenkins. Council Member Jerry Rushing was absent. Visitors: Kenny Wilson, Phyllis Campbell, Kory Naranjo, Justin Jackson, two representatives with Heflin, Inc., Mary Kimbro, and Gaye Bencini.

Charlie Finnell, a representative with Heflin, Inc., attended the Clinton City Council meeting Monday night, saying Heflin, Inc., still has not received payment after being called by the city and emergency management to come to the former Clinton Pharmacy building collapse site in July.

Heflin Inc. had equipment at the site for three days where it sat before being moved out after the property owner of the collapsed building wanted to use a different company to do the demolition work.

Heflin Inc. presented a bill to Hickman County Emergency Management and the City of Clinton in the amount of \$15,523.40.

In September 2025, the Clinton City Council voted to send a letter drafted by the city attorney to the insurance company with which Clinton Pharmacy was insured for reimbursement of \$23,619 to the city for asbestos testing, employee time, fuel, etc., involved during the collapse and subsequent demolition.

Finnell said the city has received their payment from insurance but Heflin, Inc., has not and he wanted to know why.

Tom Dickson, who was unable to attend the meeting Monday night due to a family emergency, had prepared a written statement for the meeting.

Justin Jackson, who was emergency management director at the time, was present at the meeting and said he would give a synopsis of what took place during the time surrounding the building collapse.

"The morning it happened, Tom was on the phone with

the insurance adjuster who represents the city and the property owners as well," Jackson said.

"He [Tom] was on speaker phone, and there were several of us around him," Jackson said.

He said the insurance adjuster told them he reached out to two different contractors and both declined to do the work. The insurance adjuster told them to find a certified contractor to do the job and proceeded to give them the insurance information.

During that discussion, Jackson said someone asked what contractor was considered for taking down the building at the other end of the square, and Heflin, Inc., was mentioned. Heflin Inc., was contacted and brought equipment in, but the property owners did not want to use that company and one of the contractors who initially declined the job agreed to take it on.

City Clerk Kaitlin Wilson read Dickson's statement aloud at the meeting. Part of the statement included the collapse impacted the intersection

of US Hwy. 51 and Hwy. 58. It disrupted traffic flow, and temporarily interrupted gas, water and electric services to surrounding areas. "Several local businesses were also affected," Dickson stated, "At that point, city officials and Hickman County Emergency Management responded promptly to address safety concerns and begin coordinating efforts to stabilize the area and restore utilities as quickly and safely as possible."

Council Member Jerome Jenkins asked the Heflin representative, "Was a contract signed between Heflin and the city?"

Finnell said, "Nobody from the city brought a contract. We had it in hand." Heflin had a contract for the property owners to sign.

Jackson said he took the contract to the property owners, but they would not sign it.

Finnell said, "We started mobilizing the day you called. We even brought in additional trucks." He said Heflin has come two previous times to assist the city and did not charge for it. "But this time it's cost

us money. I feel we need to be paid back." He said the bill now has an additional 10 percent added to the cost because of the "back and forth" that's been going on since July.

City Attorney Heather Johnson said their firm represents the city, and at this time could not advise the city pay for something for which there is no signed contract. She asked that Heflin's attorney contact her office. Finnell said he would also contact the Governor's office to talk to him about "ethics."

Jackson said he and Dickson responded, did everything by the book, "and if we had to do it again tomorrow, we would do it the exact same way."

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