

Big Hickory Golf Course sees financial upswing, record play

MANCHESTER, Ky. —Big Hickory Golf Course is not only weathering storms—it’s thriving.

“It’s doing better financially than it’s ever done before,” Manchester Mayor Steve Collins told city council members during Thursday’s work session, offering a positive update on the course that has long been a topic of concern for the city.

Council members Charles “Dobber” Weaver and Dorothy Sizemore raised issues brought to them by residents, including questions about the course’s upkeep, access to the cart barn, and the long-term future of the facility.

In response, Mayor Collins pointed to unusually heavy rainfall this season—nearly two feet above the yearly average—as a primary reason for some course maintenance delays.

“The weather has definitely thrown us off schedule,” he said. “We’ve not been able to spray when we needed to, but it’s not just us. I’ve talked to other courses in the region, and they’re all facing the same setbacks.”

Despite the challenges, Collins praised the physical condition of the course.

“Considering the rain we’ve had, Big Hickory is in better shape now than at any point since I’ve been in office,” he said.

As for concerns about the cart barn being locked, Collins clarified the issue was caused by a new golfer who mistakenly locked the facility, unaware that it should remain open. That problem, he assured the council, has been resolved.

The mayor also addressed the question of whether the course might be sold, a topic that prompted the city to seek a formal appraisal.

“The course has been appraised at \$530,000,” Collins said. “If the city ever chooses to consider selling, that appraisal is the first required step. The valuation came in higher than many expected.”

More importantly, Collins emphasized, the course is no longer a drain on city finances.

“There was a time when we had to pull money from other accounts just to keep Big Hickory running,” he said. “That’s not the case anymore. The course is now operating in the black, and that’s allowing us to reinvest in improvements—like new golf carts and the paving of worn-down portions of the cart paths. The great thing is taxpayer money is not going to this course. It’s self-sustainable.”

A surge in play has been key to the turnaround.

“We are on pace to have more rounds played this year than ever before,” Collins said. “We’ve got golfers coming from three counties away, sometimes

multiple times a week. That kind of traffic turns the course into a tourism asset, not just a local amenity.”

Looking ahead, the mayor outlined plans for continued upgrades. If the financial momentum continues, the city may add golf simulators for winter use and a self-service kiosk and shed at the driving range.

“We want to give players options even when the weather doesn’t cooperate,” Collins said. “Big Hickory is becoming more than just a course—it’s becoming a year-round destination.”

The mayor said he feels the course is in a much better place now than it was when he took office two years ago.

“Financially the course is now in the black, something it had never done before,” he said. “The maintenance of the course is much better now than it has been. We have a lot of old equipment we need to look at replacing in the future and we’re having a hard time keeping employees. Once we get them trained it seems they leave. But, we’re working on that, and the course is not a financial drain on the city like it has been in the past. I think it’s progressing and has a promising future ahead.”

NOTICE					Colonial Light	100 Watt HPS 9,500 Lumens	\$	8.63	\$	9.05
In accordance with the requirements of the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) as set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 17 and 807 KAR 5:007, Section 3, of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, notice is hereby given to the member consumers of Jackson Energy Cooperative Corporation (“Jackson Energy”) of a proposed rate adjustment. Jackson Energy intends to propose an adjustment of its existing rates to pass through the rate increase of its wholesale power supplier, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc., pursuant to KRS 278.455(2), by filing an application with the Commission on or after August 1, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00215. The application will request that the proposed rates become effective on or after September 1, 2025.					Colonial Light	175 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$	10.29	\$	10.79
					Interstate Light 400 Watt HPS	50,000 Lumens	\$	23.99	\$	25.15
					Colonial Light	70 Watt HPS 4,000 Lumens	\$	12.74	\$	13.35
					Pole	15 ft Aluminum Pole	\$	5.29	\$	5.54
Rate	Code	Item	Present	Proposed	Pole	30 ft Wood Pole	\$	4.63	\$	4.85
Residential Service	10	Customer Charge	\$ 30.50	\$ 31.97	Pole	30 ft Aluminum Pole for Cobra Head	\$	25.19	\$	26.40
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.10610	\$ 0.11121	Pole	35 ft Wood Pole	\$	9.04	\$	9.48
Residential Off Peak ETS	11	Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.06108	\$ 0.06402	Pole	35 ft Aluminum Pole	\$	30.48	\$	31.95
					Pole	35 ft Aluminum Pole for Cobra Head	\$	29.96	\$	31.40
Commercial Service < 50 kW	20	Customer Charge	\$ 40.72	\$ 42.68	Pole	40 ft Wood Pole	\$	10.37	\$	10.87
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.09839	\$ 0.10313	Pole	40 ft Aluminum Pole	\$	34.81	\$	36.49
Commercial Off Peak ETS	22	Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.05903	\$ 0.06187	Pole	40 ft Aluminum Pole for Cobra Head	\$	60.66	\$	63.58
					Pole	45 ft Wood Pole	\$	12.49	\$	13.09
Large Power Loads 50 kW +	40	Customer Charge	\$ 58.75	\$ 61.58	Pole	50 ft Wood Pole	\$	17.44	\$	18.28
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.07538	\$ 0.07901	Pole	Power Installed Foundation	\$	8.66	\$	9.08
		Demand Charge per kW	\$ 6.80	\$ 7.13	The effect of the change requested, in both dollar amounts and as a percentage, for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply is set forth below:					
Large Power Rate 500 kW +	46	Customer Charge	\$ 1,754.33	\$ 1,888.33	Rate Class	Code	Increase Dollars	Increase Percent		
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.06014	\$ 0.06473	Residential Service	10	\$ 3,796,443	4.40%		
		Demand Charge per kW	\$ 7.06	\$ 7.60	Residential Off Peak ETS	11	\$ 9,754	4.30%		
Large Power Rate 500 kW +	47	Customer Charge	\$ 1,754.33	\$ 1,915.24	Commercial Service < 50 kW	20	\$ 366,643	4.38%		
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.06122	\$ 0.06684	Commercial Off Peak ETS	22	\$ 66	4.35%		
		Demand Charge	\$ 7.06	\$ 7.71	Large Power Loads 50 kW +	40	\$ 353,987	4.41%		
		Contract per kW	\$ 9.80	\$ 10.70	Large Power Rate 500 kW +	46	\$ 559,283	6.86%		
		Demand Charge Excess per kW			Large Power Rate 500 kW +	47	\$ 439,473	8.13%		
Schools Churches Halls Parks	50	Customer Charge	\$ 23.20	\$ 24.32	Schools Churches Halls Parks	50	\$ 128,434	4.41%		
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.10534	\$ 0.11041	All Electric Schools AES	52	\$ 43,316	4.42%		
All Electric Schools AES	52	Customer Charge	\$ 57.73	\$ 60.51	Lighting		\$ 147,290	4.80%		
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.08891	\$ 0.09319		Total	\$ 5,844,689	4.74%		
Lighting Cobra Head Light		400 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$ 17.73	\$ 18.58	The amount of the average usage and the effect upon the average bill for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply is set forth below:					
Cobra Head Light		200 Watt HPS 22,000 Lumens	\$ 18.35	\$ 19.23	Rate Class	Average Usage (kWh)	Increase Dollars	Increase Percent		
Cobra Head Light		250 Watt HPS 27,500 Lumens	\$ 14.81	\$ 15.52	Residential Service	10	999	\$6.57	4.40%	
Cobra Head Light		400 Watt HPS 50,000 Lumens	\$ 15.37	\$ 16.11	Residential Off Peak ETS	11	768	\$2.26	4.30%	
Security Light		175 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$ 10.41	\$ 10.91	Commercial Service < 50 kW	20	1,364	\$8.42	4.38%	
Flood Light		400 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$ 20.03	\$ 20.99	Commercial Off Peak ETS	22	661	\$1.88	4.35%	
Flood Light		1,000 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$ 40.95	\$ 42.92	Large Power Loads 50 kW +	40	40,444	\$191.14	4.41%	
Security Light		100 Watt HPS 9,500 Lumens	\$ 10.41	\$ 10.91	Large Power Rate 500 kW +	46	1,062,832	\$6,079.16	6.86%	
Flood Light		250 Watt HPS 27,500 Lumens	\$ 16.39	\$ 17.18	Large Power Rate 500 kW +	47	891,607	\$6,189.76	8.13%	
Flood Light		400 Watt HPS 50,000 Lumens	\$ 19.67	\$ 20.62	Schools Churches Halls Parks	50	1,901	\$10.76	4.41%	
Security Light		70 Watt LED Security Light	\$ 10.25	\$ 10.74	All Electric Schools AES	52	36,011	\$156.94	4.42%	
Flood Light		129 Watt LED Floodlight	\$ 16.14	\$ 16.92	Lighting		NA		4.80%	
Cobra Head Light		70 Watt LED Cobra Head	\$ 11.83	\$ 12.40	A person may examine the application and any related documents Jackson Energy has filed with the PSC at the utility’s principal office, located at 115 Jackson Energy Lane, McKee, Kentucky 40447, (606) 364-1000.					
Acorn Light		70 Watt LED Acorn Head	\$ 16.50	\$ 17.29	A person may also examine the application: (i) at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; or (ii) through the Commission’s website at http://psc.ky.gov. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Commission through its Web site or by mail to Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.					
Acorn Light		175 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$ 18.49	\$ 19.38	The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Jackson Energy, but the 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 Commission at 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.					
Acorn Light		100 Watt HPS 9,500 Lumens	\$ 12.94	\$ 13.56						