

Friendsville Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
March 5, 2026  
Friendsville City Hall  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

Mayor Steven Cardwell	Building Official Barry Ottinger
Vice Mayor Jonathan Newberry	Robert Beelin
Commissioner Shane Rogers	Earl Fields
Commissioner Dale Wilkins	Steve Palmer
City Recorder Janet Ledbetter	Janet Walton
City Administrator Kim Rogers	Shelly Rios
City Attorney Rob Goddard	Sergio Rios

**Absent:** Commissioner Margaret Maze

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Janet Walton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Ms. Walton also led the invocation.
4. Roll Call: Cardwell, present; Newberry, present; Maze, absent; Rogers, present; Wilkins, present.
5. Motion to approve minutes from February 5 regular meeting by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Rogers. Motion passed.
6. Public comment on agenda items: Janet Walton, 564 Bales Hollow Rd., asked when the downtown construction would be finished. Kim Rogers told her that the water rehab was 99% finished. They only had to install grinder pumps on West Hill Ave. for the sewer and tie them onto the line, but the sidewalk project would take a while longer. The roads will be repaired where the cuts were made, and the city is applying for a grant to get them paved.
7. Discussion:  
Resolution No. 2026-01: Establishing payment processing policies following the federal discontinuance of the penny: The policy allows for options such as

requiring exact change, giving credit for overpayments and allowing underpayments to remain a balance due, or rounding up or down to the next \$.05. Motion to approve resolution by Commissioner Rogers, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.

Approval of new policy and procedure, following Federal Discontinuance of the Penny: Kim Rogers told the board that they could discuss it now or wait until the next meeting. Vice Mayor Newberry said he thought they could approve it and if any adjustments needed to be made later, they could go back later and do so. Motion to approve the policy by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.

First reading of Ordinance No. 2026-01: Amending Ordinance No. 2017-04 Authorizing Blount County Sheriff's Department to Enforce Specific Ordinances of the City of Friendsville:

- Title 10, Animal Control
- Title 11, Municipal Offenses
- Title 13, Property Maintenance Regulations
- Title 16, Streets and Sidewalk, Etc.

Motion to approve ordinance on first reading by Commissioner Rogers, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.

Approval of Friendsville 2020 LPRF grant (Park improvement project bid award): In the bid packet, the restroom was allotted \$150,000, and the pavilion was only estimated at \$50,000. Kim said the city was going to do a change order and use the entire amount for the pavilion, leaving out the restrooms. Nitzschke Communications came in with the lowest bid at \$340,246.25. Part of the sidewalk grant that was allocated to West Hill Ave would instead be used for the sidewalks and concrete slab at the pavilion. Motion to accept the bid from Nitzschke by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Rogers. Motion passed.

8. Tabled discussion: none

9. Staff Reports:

Administrator Updates: The fiber internet has been hooked up at City Hall. The plan is 50mbps, which VC3 thought would be sufficient. It has been slower than the previous plan, so it would need to be upgraded to 100. Comcast is

giving a \$150 credit for 3 months since the city hadn't budgeted for this. In July the bill will go up \$145 more per month. There is also an issue with a copper line inside the building that is apparently causing a problem. There was a discussion about changing internet providers as well as IT services. The bridge inspections were completed by the state. The bridges at South Farnum and Baldwin Rd. need to be cleaned around and repaired. The distribution truck is in the shop because the transmission has to be replaced. It is still under warranty.

Codes: The board looked over Barry Ottinger's report.

Events: none

Financials: The board looked over the financial report.

Grants: were addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

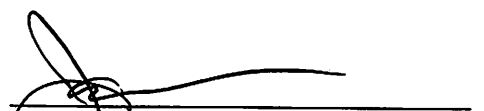
Parks & Recreation: There are already 52 children who are signed up for the T-Ball and Wittle Weague. In-person signups were scheduled for the following 3 Saturdays.

Planning: They met for a short meeting in February, and they discussed a subdivision of property at the corner of S. Farnum and E. Main, which separated the commercial from the residential side. They also discussed a subdivision on Lane Drive. The Planning Commission meeting is now being held on the third Monday of the month due to the planner's schedule.

Streets: Crews have been ditching and cleaning out drain tiles.

10. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Rogers, second by Vice Mayor Newberry. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

  
Mayor Steven Cardwell

  
City Recorder Janet Ledbetter