

Friendsville Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
April 2, 2026  
Friendsville City Hall  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

Mayor Steven Cardwell	Building Official Barry Ottinger
Vice Mayor Jonathan Newberry	Earl Fields
Commissioner Margaret Maze	Jackson Millard
Commissioner Dale Wilkins	Steve Palmer
City Recorder Janet Ledbetter	Robert Berlin
City Administrator Kim Rogers	Janet Walton
City Attorney Rob Goddard	

**Absent:** Commissioner Shane Rogers

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:02 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, present; Wilkins, present. Rogers was absent. Mayor Cardwell declared a quorum.

Kim Rogers mentioned she had put Ordinance No. 2026-02 regarding the emergency plan on the Utility Board agenda and found out it had to be passed during the Board of Commissioners meeting. Rob Goddard had told her that they could vote to move it over. Motion to move ordinance from the Utility Board agenda to the Board of Commissioners agenda by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed.

5. Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.
6. Public comment on agenda items: none

## **7. Discussion:**

**Second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-01, Updating Sections of Municipal Code Ordinances and 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 15, Motor Vehicles, Traffic and Parking**
- **Title 16, Streets and Sidewalk, Etc.**

**This will also allow the Blount County Circuit Court to hear the city's cases. Motion to approve ordinance on second reading by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed.**

**Resolution No. 2026-02, Authorizing the Submission of a 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for Community Infrastructure Improvements: If granted, this could be used for Academy Drive and Beals Lane improvements. Motion to approve resolution by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.**

**Resolution No. 2026-03, Authorizing LDA Engineering to provide services for the Community Infrastructure Grant Application and Project Implementation: Motion to approve resolution by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed.**

**Resolution No. 2026-04, Adopting a Debt Management Policy from Resolution 2011-04: This is to update the previous Debt Management Policy. Motion to approve resolution by Commissioner Maze, second by Vice Mayor Newberry. Motion passed.**

**Approving 2027 Planning Advisory Service with East Tennessee Development District: This is to approve the contract for the next FY. Motion to approve by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.**

**Ordinance No. 2026-02 to update Ordinance 2017-05, the Utility Emergency Plan: The plan was outdated and was adapted from another utility, so the contacts had to be changed from Knox County to Blount County. Motion to approve ordinance on first reading by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.**

Vice Mayor Newberry mentioned the heavy truck traffic on South Farnum, which is causing the pavement to break and slide downhill across from the church. He said he didn't know if they could do anything to discourage the big trucks since they didn't obey the 10-ton limit signs. He named several companies whose trucks he had seen. Rob Goddard said that the city could send letters to those companies to try to stop their drivers from using that route.

#### 8. Staff Reports:

**Administrator Updates:** The city had received a letter from the Tennessee Comptroller's Office stating that the city's website and any social media posts would have to be updated to comply with ADA requirements. Mayor Cardwell told Kim Rogers that it was a simple fix for a website designer. He also mentioned that the city was looking for a new IT vendor because there have been issues with the current one.

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

**Events:** Kim Rogers asked if the board would like to hold a homecoming this year. Vice Mayor Newberry said that people had been asking him about it. Mayor Cardwell told Kim that he would like to do it again, but only have it for a couple of hours, not all day. Kim also asked about moving the portable electric outlets for the food trucks from beside the Community Center to the property on the left side of the Barbershop/Beauty Shop. Mayor Cardwell said he liked the idea.

**Financial updates:** The board looked over the financial report.

**Grants:** The sidewalk construction has started up North Farnum. Kim said with the grant they could get flashing lights and reflective crosswalks. Bob Colvin had told Kim that if the sidewalk butts up to the pavement, the grant funds can be used for paving in that area. Some of the sidewalk grant can be used for sidewalks at the pavilion site. The LPRF administrator has to approve the contract before the pavilion project can begin. The pavilion that the city planned to build is too expensive, so Darrell Nitzschke has met with an Amish contractor who builds pavilions to see if it would be more affordable. The board agreed that they didn't want to build a plain metal building.

**Parks & Recreation:** Tee-ball and Wittle Weague were scheduled to begin the following week. There were 112 kids signed up.


**Planning:** There was no meeting in March.

Streets: Kim mentioned the projects that need to be done in the next budget year. Several drain tiles need to be replaced. There is now a gate from Hwy 321 to the Operations Center. City employees have been working on the ball field and doing ditching.

Janet Ledbetter mentioned the budget workshop. There is an issue with accounting of the sewer tap fees because the format that Muni-Link uses shows the accounts one way, but when the transactions are put in the LG software it doesn't compute correctly. MTAS is helping with the issue, but they are also confused. Once this issue is fixed, then the sewer budget revenues can be completed. Kim told the board that hopefully it will be corrected by the end of April, and a workshop could be held before the May meeting.

9. Motion to adjourn by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

  
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Mayor Steven Cardwell

  
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City Recorder Janet Ledbetter