

Friendsville Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
May 7, 2026
Friendsville City Hall
Minutes

Present:

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

Absent: Vice Mayor Jonathan Newberry

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. Janet Walton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Ms. Walton led the invocation.
4. Roll call: Cardwell, present; Newberry, absent; Wilkins, present; Maze, present; Rogers, present.
5. Motion to approve minutes from Public Hearing April 2, 2026, by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed.
6. Motion to approve minutes from Regular Meeting, April 2, 2026, by Commissioner Maze, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.
7. Public comment: none
8. Discussion:

Second reading of Ordinance No 2026-02 to update Ordinance 2017-05, the Utility Emergency Plan: Motion to approve on second reading by Commissioner Rogers, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed.

First reading of Ordinance 2026-03: FY 2026-07 budget: Motion by Commissioner Rogers to pass with the intent of an across-the-board flat rate employee raise of 2.5%, with merit raises of up to 2.5% based on the City Administrator's and Mayor's recommendation and approval if the employee is not topped out. The budget allowed for a 5% raise for all employees. Commissioner Maze asked if the 2.5% rate would be averaged. Commissioner Rogers said they would do an average of the lowest and highest paid employees so everyone would get the same amount. Second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.

9. Tabled discussion: none

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

Planning: The Planning Commission did not meet in May.

Parks, Recreation & Events: T-ball pictures have been made, and there was only one rain date that had to be made up. CCI wants to do a community project, and they would like to sponsor the painting of a mural on the playground wall. Kim Rogers said she would like to have a Homecoming in conjunction with the pavilion opening once it is finished.

Administrator Updates: Grants, Streets, Upcoming Projects: The HUD sidewalk project is about 75% complete. The remaining project areas are at North Morgan, the sidewalks at the pavilion area, and the sidewalk in front of the Beauty Shop. Kim Rogers told the board that the grant states they can use it for paving if it touches a sidewalk. That would include resurfacing North Morgan. North Young also has to be redone because the road is completely gone. Kim said she hoped the grant funds would cover that. College Ave. is part of the sewer, so the Blount County/ARPA grant would cover paving for that street. Kim mentioned her meeting with the designer, engineer, and builder to discuss the plans for the pavilion. It will be an A-frame with wings and a metal roof. Kim suggested putting in a kitchenette/concession area with a window,

and the electrical systems would also be installed inside that area. There will also be a 12x12 stage, and the builder has suggested using Trex for the floor. The total area will be about 1600 sq. ft., and it is Amish-built.

Kim said she had a meeting scheduled regarding the cybersecurity grant. It would pay for the computers that need to be updated to Windows 11. She hoped it would cover the cost of moving the IT coverage to Allevia. The city was still under contract with VC3, but Kim was disputing the contracts because the onboarding didn't begin for several months after the contracts were signed, so VC3 claimed the city had more time left than they should have. The Voice contract didn't go into effect for over a year after signing. Employees are still having issues with IT that should have already been fixed.

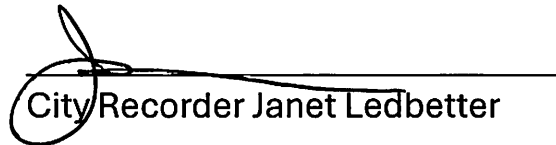
Employees have been long arming the roads. All of the welcome signs have been stolen and will have to be replaced.

Financial updates: The board looked over the financial report.

10. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.



Mayor Steven Cardwell



City Recorder Janet Ledbetter