

Friendsville Utility Board
Regular Meeting
January 12, 2026
Friendsville City Hall
Minutes

Present:

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| Mayor Steven Cardwell | Building Official Barry Ottinger |
| Commissioner Shane Rogers | Nicole Swint- Rodefer Moss |
| Commissioner Margaret Maze | Pattie Kuhn |
| Commissioner Dale Wilkins | Shelley Rios |
| City Recorder Janet Ledbetter | Sergio Rios |
| City Administrator Kim Rogers | Jeff Howe |
| City Attorney Rob Goddard | |

Absent: Vice Mayor Jonathan Newberry

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m.
2. Motion to approve minutes from December 4, 2025 meeting by Commissioner Rogers, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed.
3. Public comments on the agenda items: none
4. Discussion: none
5. Staff Reports:

Grants Update: The Blount County/ARPA downtown waterline project is 90% finished. Once the line is finished on W. College Ave, the customers can be hooked up to the new line. Kim Rogers told the board that she and former Vice Mayor Sandra Bell had met with Blount County regarding the ARPA project. Afterwards, she spoke with Brian Baldwin out in the hallway, and he told her not to worry, that Blount County would pay for boring of the water line across 321 with their ARPA funds. However, Kathy Darnell told Darrell Nitzschke that they were finished and wouldn't be paying for anything else. Kim was going to follow up with Brian regarding their conversation on the subject.

There are 18 new customers completely hooked up to the sewer through the HUD project. There have been delays due to the government shutdown and illness in the electrician's family. There are 4 more left to hook up on N. Farnum, and there are 3 on the road behind the school, which were added to the grant even though they were along the original line because the new line added along that street by the grant goes by their homes. Kim said she wasn't sure if they wanted to be hooked up. Once the homes are hooked up in that area, the contractor will move to Hill St. to install the grinder pumps there. The sewer fees have been added to the bills for those along that line.

Upcoming projects: The downtown water line replacement is ongoing. Kim said she hoped they could add Pine & Front Streets and E. College Ave. if funds allow. The Vernie Lee extension was finished. Blount County told Nitzschke that they had to put in a ditch where they hadn't been one before. They also requested to put matting instead of straw. Kim told them that Blount County never required the city to use matting, so to only use straw. They had already put in a ditch when she spoke to them.

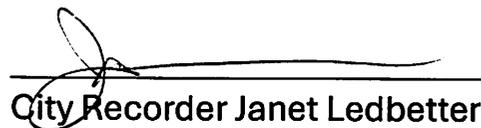
Administration: Kim discussed the website. She had put information regarding the lead and copper letters that customers were receiving, which asked about the material of the customer's service line from their house to the meter. She also added a section about the new meters, when and why there were rate increases, and a link to the Comptroller's office. Water loss was 19%.

Financial Report: The board looked over the financial report, and there were no questions.

6. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Rogers, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Mayor Steven Cardwell



City Recorder Janet Ledbetter