

Friendsville Utility Board
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 6:35 p.m.
2. Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting by Vice Mayor Newberry, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed.
3. Public comments on agenda items : none

4. Discussion:

Ordinance No. 2026-02 to update Ordinance 2017-05, the Utility Emergency Plan: was moved to Board of Commissioners agenda

Tennessee State Revolving Funds (SRF): State of Tennessee Representative Tom Stinnett has been working with the state to help get funding for the sewer grinder pumps with the SRF. Kim Rogers told the board she found out that it was a loan, not a grant, and would have to be paid back. She wanted to let Mr. Stinnett know how much they appreciated his effort, but that the city couldn't go that route at this time.

Utility Financial Distress Survey- Tennessee Comptroller: Kim discussed the survey that she had filled out for the state. She was concerned with it, but Mayor Cardwell and Vice Mayor Newberry told her they thought it was just a questionnaire, and that the utility was showing improvement.

5. Staff Reports:

Grants Update: Kim told the board that she had sent some invoices to Brian Baldwin at Blount County for payment but hadn't received a reply. Those were part of the Blount County/ARPA grant. Mayor Cardwell told her to copy him and Mayor Mitchell as well as Stacy Lawhorn and Quentin Caldwell with the next email. Kim said she asked for a detailed breakdown of where the city's funds had been spent. She also mentioned the conversation with Brian Baldwin where he told her and Sandy Bell that he would take some of Blount County's ARPA funds to pay for the line on 321 to loop the system. Mayor Cardwell said she should have gotten it in writing. He also said as long as the city kept the grant open, Blount County would have to talk to them because they would have to return all the funds if the grant isn't closed before the deadline. There are 7 customers left to be hooked up for the HUD sewer grant. Once that is finished, Foothills Paving will repair the affected roads.


Upcoming projects: The lead and asbestos lines have to be replaced . Lane Drive to S. Union Grove, Lane Drive from Finn Long to Hwy 321, E. Third Street to the water tank, E. College to Front & Spring Streets, and from the 3-way stop at N. Farnum to the second entrance to Disco Loop are all asbestos lines. There are several smaller lines feeding larger lines that need to be upgraded in the system, due to an increasing number of new homes.

Administrator Updates: none

Financial Updates: The board looked over the financial report.

6. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Maze, second by Commissioner Wilkins. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.


Mayor Steven Cardwell


City Recorder Janet Ledbetter