

Friendsville Utility Board
Regular Meeting
April 4, 2024
Friendsville City Hall
Minutes

Present:

Mayor Steven Cardwell	City Attorney Rob Goddard
Vice Mayor Sandra Bell	Building Official Barry Ottinger
Commissioner Margaret Maze	City Engineer Bob Colvin
Commissioner Jonathan Newberry	Sergio Rios
Commissioner Shane Rogers	Steve Palmer
City Recorder Janet Ledbetter	
Executive Assistant Kim Rogers	

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m.
2. Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting by Commissioner Rogers, second by Vice Mayor Bell. Motion passed.
3. Public input not on agenda: none
4. Other business not on agenda: Commissioner Newberry said the sign in front of the operations building looked great. It had been covered up to be unveiled on April 26.

5. Discussion:

Kim Rogers discussed the recommendations from MTAS regarding utility rates. Brad Harris had told her that the city needed to raise rates 15% each year for 5 years since there hadn't been a rate increase since 2015. There was an option for a meter maintenance fee of \$2.00 per month to help pay for meters in the future. Motion to approve 15% raise on water rates by Commissioner Rogers, second by Vice Mayor Bell. Motion passed. The rate increase would begin July 1st. There wouldn't be a meter maintenance fee at this time.

TDEC/ARPA grant for utility update: Bob Colvin said he had met with the county to prepare the budget and it would be submitted to the state for approval. There would then be a preliminary engineering report to be approved, then the plans and specs would be submitted for the meters and water lines. The contract has to be signed and the work started by December 2024, and the work is to be finished and paperwork done by December 2026. Letters will be sent to affected homeowners to explain the process.

The board looked over the operations report and financial reports for March. Commissioner Rogers asked when the city was required to look at changing banks, because they are required every few years. He said that Smart Bank had reached out to him asking for the city's business again, so they needed to be notified when the city was researching banks again.

6. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Rogers, second by Commissioner Newberry. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



Mayor Steven Cardwell



City Recorder Janet Ledbetter