

**Friendsville Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
May 2, 2024
Friendsville City Hall
Minutes**

Present:

Mayor Steven Cardwell	Tanner Jones
Commissioner Shane Rogers	Nick Bright
Commissioner Jonathan Newberry	Janet Walton
Commissioner Margaret Maze	Debbie Bentz
City Recorder Janet Ledbetter	Dana Bentz
Executive Assistant Kim Rogers	Errol Johnson
City Attorney Rob Goddard	Trevis Gardner
Building Official Barry Ottinger	

Absent: Vice Mayor Sandra Bell

- 1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Janet Walton led the Pledge of Allegiance and said a prayer.**
- 2. Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting by Commissioner Rogers, second by Commissioner Newberry. Motion passed.**
- 3. Public input not on agenda: Janet Walton told the board that May 2 was the National Day of Prayer. She explained how it was established to be held on the first Thursday of May, and recited the prayer that was written for this year's observance.**
- 4. Other business not on agenda: Kim Rogers mentioned a possible sinkhole the city may need to repair on Bonnie Kate Ln. The road was scheduled to be paved by Weston Paving, but the hole would need to be filled first. There had been a water leak in that area in the past. City employees will find out what they need to do to repair it and will take care of it. Kim also asked the board if they would be willing to lease the city garage to BJ Knight. She has been renting a building next to Friendsville Market, and they are ending her lease, so she asked to rent the garage. She restores furniture and doesn't have a**

storefront so it would be a perfect location for her business. There is a section that is boarded up because the floors are falling in, so she said she would replace the floors. She also told Kim she wanted to add a bathroom and would pay for it herself. There is sewer access, but no sewer pump. The city would have to put in a pump. Commissioner Newberry said that he would be okay with that, and Commissioner Maze said it would be better if someone was using the building. Barry Ottinger said there would have to be a Certificate of Occupancy before she would be allowed to use the building, to ensure her safety.

Kim also presented a quote from East Tennessee Development District for planning services. They quoted \$8,400 for a 14-month contract. Half of that payment would be charged when the contract was signed, and the other half would be due July 1 of 2025. There is enough money in the budget to pay for the contract. The current contract with Blount County is \$5,250.

Commissioner Newberry said he wasn't satisfied with Blount County's planning services. Mayor Cardwell said he would like to meet with them and then have a vote at the June meeting if they want to switch.

5. Discussion:

First reading of Ordinance No. 2024-01: FY 2024-2025 Budget: Motion to approve on first reading by Commissioner Newberry, second by Commissioner Rogers. Motion passed.

Changes to policy manual: Kim Rogers told the board that Vice Mayor Bell wanted to add some changes to the employee policy manual, but she was absent, and no one had enough time to look over the changes, so Kim asked them to postpone the discussion until the next meeting.

Road repairs to Hardin Cemetery Ct.: A gentleman had called who had relatives buried at the cemetery at the end of Hardin Cemetery Ct. They are unable to get to the cemetery because the road is in bad condition, and also because the homeowner at the end has a trailer and several cars in the way. The road is partially paved, and the rest is gravel. According to the property data map, the road goes on outside the city limits, but the cemetery is within the city limits. Commissioner Newberry said the city could at least temporarily repair any potholes and put in some gravel. Mayor Cardwell asked

if the cemetery was maintained. Kim said it wasn't, and they had asked if the city would maintain it. She told them the city wasn't responsible for maintenance of the cemetery, so they will find someone to take care of it, but they need to be able to get to it. Mayor Cardwell told Barry Ottinger to find out what codes the city needs to enforce on maintaining the cemetery.

6. Staff reports:


Planning: There was no meeting in April.

Administration: The board looked over the Budget to Actuals. Janet Ledbetter told them the state had added a new electric vehicle fee, which would go into the General Fund.

Events: none

Parks & Rec: The ball games are going great, and there have been several sponsors step up to help with the costs of the program.

7. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Rogers, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.



Mayor Steven Cardwell



City Recorder Janet Ledbetter