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Monday, June 22, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council Approves Budget, Hears Updates on Downtown Grants and July 4th Celebration

The Athens City Council met Tuesday, June 16, approving a full consent agenda, advancing several ordinances, and hearing updates on downtown development and the city's upcoming Independence Day celebration.

During special presentations, Amy Sullins, interim director of Athens Main Street, announced the organization's upcoming 10th anniversary and noted it has received \$300,000 in downtown improvement grants. The official announcement of those grants will take place June 25 at the Courtyard on Jackson behind Pie Hound. Parks and Recreation Director Matt Siniard also briefed the council on plans for the city's July 4th Drone and Fireworks Show, calling it a major community celebration.

Council unanimously approved all items on the consent agenda, including Athens City Schools budget amendments and resolutions, the Athens Utilities Board FY 2027 budget, purchases of a new fire engine and police vehicles, new duty weapons for the police department, an SRO program grant application, a contract increase for the Heritage Park project, and the reappointment of Jona McKeehan-Garrett to the Planning Commission.

Three ordinances were considered on second reading. The council unanimously approved Ordinance 1156, updating towing service regulations, and Ordinance 1157, rezoning a three-acre parcel on Denso Drive and George R. Price Boulevard from industrial to business use. After extended discussion, the council approved the FY 2026-27 city budget (Ordinance 1158) on a 3-2 vote, with Mayor Eaton and Councilmember John Duggan opposed.

Under new business, the council unanimously awarded the bid for Fire Station No. 3. No action was taken on a proposal for additional parking at Cook Park. The council also voted 4-0, with Councilmember Sherlin abstaining, to have Interim City Manager Bridget Roberts continue in the role until further notice.

Departmental reports were presented with no major updates, and the meeting concluded without additional citizen comments.

2 DUDES BBQ & CATERING
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- Tue: Loudon: 600 Gamble St (Old Food City) 10:30-2
- Wed: Etowah: Across from Johnsons 10:30-2
- Thu: Athens @ Family Dollar 10:30-2
- Fri: Sweetwater @ Little Drugs 10:30-2:30

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ENGLEWOOD CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY 1986-2026

JUNE DAYS

SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2026

PANCAKE BREAKFAST 7:30AM

LIVE MUSIC 8:30AM-NOON

ANTIQUE CAR SHOW 9:00AM

CONCERT ON MAIN STREET 7:00PM

COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE-SUNDAY
ENGLEWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH @ 6PM

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Monday, June 22, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee

ACT to Conclude Table Read Season with *A Little Talk*



Athens Community Theatre will close its 2025–26 Table Read season next month with a reading of “A Little Talk” on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 7 p.m. at The Arts Center in Athens. All table reads are free and open to the public.

The session will be led by ACT member Kathryn Hunter. *A Little Talk*, written by Susan C. Hunter, is

a collection of short pieces featuring adult characters of all ages. The works range from humorous to serious, with a PG-13 advisory for mature language.

ACT leaders say table reads offer an easy, low-pressure way for newcomers to experience community theatre. Participants may choose to read a role or simply listen, and can change their level of involvement at any time. The program also helps ACT preview potential future productions and explore more niche titles.

Anyone interested in receiving updates about upcoming table reads may email operations@athensartscouncil.org to join the notification list.

Community News You Can Use

- AUB’s June Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23 at 5:00 p.m.
- United Way of McMinn & Meigs Counties will host “Treats of Kindness Day” on Friday, June 26, 2026, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at Food City of Athens. Free Mayfield ice cream will be offered with a pay-what-you-can donation model, supporting United Way programs across both counties. All ages are welcome. Details at united-waymm.org or 423-745-9606.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, sports results or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: wyradio@gmail.com

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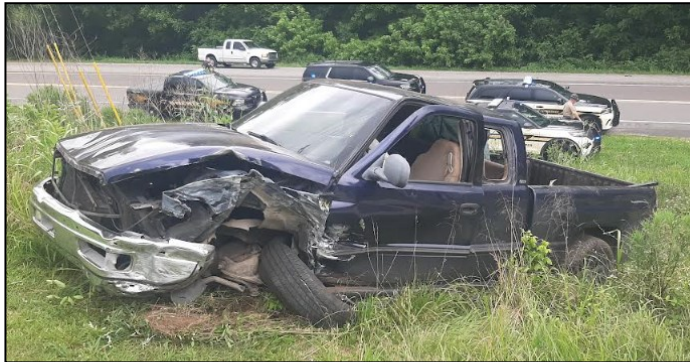
*Click for details.

Monday, June 22, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Head-On Crash Injures One on Hwy. 305 Near Niota



A head-on collision between a Dodge Ram and a Dodge Dart slowed traffic Thursday afternoon on Highway 305 at County Road 195 in Niota. The crash occurred around 3:30 p.m., according to responders.

At least one person suffered minor injuries and was taken to Athens emergency room by AMR. The McMinn County Sheriff's Office, AMR, Tennessee Highway Patrol, and firefighters from Clearwater and Niota fire departments responded to the scene. Larry Henderson of Clearwater Fire Department oversaw operations.

THP Trooper Preston Meadows is leading the investigation.

Photos by David Prater, Niota Rural FD

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Monday, June 22, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

June 18, 2026

Casey Davis, 27 of Etowah, charged with evading arrest, casual exchange possession of meth, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 fentanyl, driving on a revoked license, vandalism \$1000 to \$2500, simple possession of schedule 2 fentanyl and meth, drug paraphernalia, and tampering with evidence, Bond \$77,000.

Holly Womack, 50 of Riceville, charged with simple possession of schedule 2 meth and morphine, simple possession of schedule 6 marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and theft of property \$1,000 to \$2,500, Bond \$43,000.

Gabriel Hurlbut, 21 of Athens, charged with aggravated assault, Bond \$15,000.

Gavin Webb, 26 of Athens, charged with aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, being in possession of more than 25 files, Bond \$40,000.

Huey Green, 27 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for theft, \$10,000 to \$60,000, and evading arrest, Bond \$2,000.

Mary Russell, 58 of Georgia, charged with state violation of probation for forgery.

Jameson Smith, 45 of Sweetwater, charged with burglary, Bond \$30,000.

Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Information gathered using public sources.

RACING TOWARD JESUS

Join the race to find victory in Jesus!

- **Kick-Off Thursday June 25th @ 6:30PM**
- **Friday June 26th 5PM-8PM**
(Registration @ 4:30PM)
- **Saturday June 27th 10AM - 1PM**

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24
"KNOW YE NOT THAT THEY
WHICH RUN IN A RACE RUN ALL,
BUT ONE RECEIVETH THE PRIZE?
SO RUN, THAT YE MAY OBTAIN."



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Monday, June 22, 2026

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Roy T. Stanley, 76, of Athens, passed away on Thursday, June 18 at his residence. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens.

Roy Perian, 77, passed away on Wednesday, June 17. Roy was a proud Vietnam veteran who honorably served two years in the Army. Beyond his military service, Roy found joy in restoring old Ford trucks, woodworking, and spending time outside surrounded by tractors and the beauty of nature. Private services will be held. Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Kenneth Ray Ramsey, 66, of Sweetwater, passed away on Tuesday, June 16. Kenny loved fishing and spent many hours on the banks of the local rivers. Special thank you to Dr. Lawrence James and staff at Sweetwater Hospital, Adoration Hospice Care, and all the Hospice nurses that cared for him. Family and Friends will hold a memorial service at a later date. Companion Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements.

Charles "Charlie" Leonard, 91, of Athens passed away on June 13, at his home. Charlie was a member of Genesis Baptist Church at the time of his passing. He owned and operated Charlie's Auto and Transmission for decades in addition to being a successful real estate developer. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is honored to serve the family during this time.

Ray A. Melton, 84, of Decatur, passed away on Thursday, June 18. He was an accomplished builder and was gifted in working with wood. After teaching for some years at Bearden High School in Knoxville, he moved back to Meigs County and served as K-12 principal for a decade, followed by working for many years as Supervisor of Instruction with the Meigs County Board of Education. He was a current member of Genesis Baptist Church in Athens. A Family Funeral Service will be held at 11:30 am on Tuesday, June 23 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The family will receive friends from 12 noon - 2 p.m., following the service. Burial will take place at Edgemon Cemetery in Ten Mile. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Melton family.

Rev. Charles George "Dump" Armour, 76, of Decatur, passed away on Friday, June 1. Dump was a proud veteran of the United States Army and dedicated his life to serving his community. He worked as a cattle farmer and was known for his spirited horse trading, finding joy in spending time at the stockyard. Dump was a member of Meigs Lodge #213, F.& A.M. for 46 years and a member of Alhambra Shrine- Chattanooga. A Masonic Funeral Service will be held at 7 p.m., on Monday, June 29, 2026 at Walnut Grove Baptist Church, with a funeral service to follow. The family will receive friends from 4 - 7 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Armour family.

Etowah Second Annual Area Wide Gospel Meeting

PREACHER'S CHOICE

June 22-23, 25-27 @ 7:00 PM nightly

Desserts each evening following the service. Everyone is invited to join us for good food and good fellowship!

Monday

What's the Matter with the World? - David Henry Sweetwater

Tuesday

Substance and Evidence - Joe Guy - Patty

Thursday

I Died Last Night - Mike Williams - Liberty Hill

Friday

Blinded By Satan - Mark Stephenson - Etowah

Saturday

What it Means to Serve in the Lord's Army - Stephen Null - Madisonville

Etowah Church of Christ, 501 Athens Pike, Etowah



Come pray with us on Wednesday July 8 at 2:00 in the Blue Room inside the downtown Athens Courthouse.

Please join us for a 30 minute prayer for repentance and revival in McMinn County.