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Friday, May 15, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council to Meet Tuesday, May 19



The Athens City Council will hold its **regular session Tuesday, May 19, at 6 p.m.** in the **Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers at City Hall**. The meeting will open with the invocation, pledge of allegiance, and approval of minutes from the April 21 regular session and April 22 special called session.

Among the highlights on the agenda:

- **Athens City Primary School Report** under communications and presentations.
- **Consent agenda items** include approval of the Athens City Schools FY 2026-27 budget, authorization of a new city marketing and branding design with trademark protection, and a resolution to apply for federal Safe Streets for All grant funding for improvements along Congress Parkway and Decatur Pike.
- **Public hearings** on several ordinances, including one to create a new "Craft Beer Restaurant" classification, another updating parking requirements for drive-thru oil change facilities, and a budget amendment for the current fiscal year.
- **New business** will cover a proposed charter amendment regarding mayor and council compensation, updates to refuse collection service charges, and a complete rewrite of the city's towing service regulations. The council will also consider rezoning a 3-acre parcel on Denso Drive, a proposal from Gresham Smith Engineers for sidewalk design around McMinn County High School, recreation board appointments, and the first reading of the FY 2026-27 city budget and tax rate ordinance.
- Reports from the Finance, Fire, and Police Departments, along with the City Manager's program of work, will conclude the session.

Citizens are invited to attend and may offer comments during designated portions of the meeting.

THIS SATURDAY! Volunteers are invited to help place flags downtown at Market Park this Saturday at 8 a.m. as part of the city's 250th anniversary celebration.

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Athens, Tennessee

Citizens National Bank Collecting Gift Cards to Support Isaiah 117 House



The Athens branch of Citizens National Bank is collecting gift cards through July 31 to support the McMinn County Isaiah 117

House, which cares for children entering foster care. Isaiah 117 House provides a safe, home-like place for children during the transition, offering meals, clean clothes, hygiene items, and emotional support.

Because many children arrive with few belongings, gift cards help volunteers quickly purchase essentials such as clothing, shoes, food, and school supplies. The bank is accepting Amazon, Walmart, Hibbett, Shoe Dept., and Shoe Show gift cards at its Athens branch, 1305 Decatur Pike.

CNB hopes the community will join-in supporting one of the county's most important child advocacy programs.

Two Workers Suffer Severe Burns in Bradley County Industrial Accident

Two workers were hospitalized with severe burns Wednesday morning after an incident at Amaero Advanced Materials & Manufacturing on Innovation Drive in Georgetown. Cleveland Police say officers responded to reports of an explosion inside the plant, which employs more than 100 people.

One worker was taken by ambulance and the other by LIFE FORCE helicopter. Authorities say there is no danger to the public, but asked people to avoid the area Wednesday afternoon.

The Chattanooga Fire Department assisted when one of the injured workers arrived at Erlanger. Initial concerns about titanium dust exposure prompted a decontamination setup, but firefighters later determined the burns were caused by a lithium battery explosion. After confirming no hazardous materials were present, the patient was transferred to hospital staff for treatment.

The second worker was taken to a hospital in Atlanta for specialized care. No updates on their conditions have been released.

Source: [News Channel 9](#)

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Friday, May 15, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Church News & Events

- [Celebrate Recovery](#) meets every [Tuesday](#) at 6:00 pm at Woodward Ave. Church of God in Athens They also meet every [Thursday](#) at 6:00pm at Watts Bar Community Church in Decatur and Thursdays at **6:30 pm** at [Spirit City Church North Etowah](#).
- The Senior Adult Choir of First Baptist Church of Athens will be presenting a patriotic performance on Sunday evening, May 17th at 6:00 in the sanctuary. Entitled, "America - A Pilgrim's Prayer, A Patriot's Dream", this program honors God's leading in our nation's freedom as America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.
- Mt. Verd Baptist Church will host a **Community Revival May 17-22**. Services begin **Sunday at 6 PM** and **Monday through Friday at 7 PM**. Each evening will feature a different guest speaker.
- [St. Mary's Legacy Clinic](#) offers free mobile medical care for the uninsured. Anyone who is medically uninsured is eligible to receive care. *St. Mary's Catholic Church (1291 E Madison Ave, Athens) is the McMinn County location and accepts patients every 3rd Thursday of the month.*
- The Kingsmen will be in concert at Solid Rock Baptist Church (4975 Highway 11S, Calhoun) on Saturday, May 16 beginning at 6:00 pm. *See ad below for full details.*
- Lane's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Niota will celebrate Pastor Hugh Dixson's 12th Anniversary on Sunday, May 17. The 11 a.m. guest speaker will be Rev. Alvin Gwathney of Wallace Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Knoxville. Everyone is invited, and area pastors are welcome to stay for lunch with Pastor Dixson. No afternoon service will be held.
- The inaugural Christian Men's Prayer Dinner will occur on Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m. at Gondolier Pizza & Steak House in Athens. This ecumenical prayer dinner is open to all men of Christian faith and those who want to establish a relationship with Jesus. This is an opportunity for working men to enjoy the fellowship experienced during the group's monthly prayer breakfasts. For more information call Marcus Guinn at 423-507-7769 or send an email to:
marcusguinn@gmail.com

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Friday, May 15, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

May 13, 2026

Trey Ellis, 30 of Decatur, charged with failure to appear for disorderly conduct, and failure to appear for domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.

Jaylee Moore, 18 of Etowah, charged with assault, contributing, reckless endangerment, no weapon or injury. Bond \$3,000.

Pamela Huston, 57 of Etowah, charged with shoplifting, and theft of property, Bond \$2,000.

James Phillips, 53 of Niota, charged with violation of probation for theft, failure to appear for drug paraphernalia, evading arrest, schedule 2 meth, and falsification of a drug test result, Bond \$22,580.

Jake Kabodix, 35 of Athens, charged with misuse of 911, Bond \$1,000.

Anthony Johnson, 40 of Riceville, charged with driving on a revoked license.

Zachary Lane, 22 of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for forgery.

Johnny Flowers, 50 of Cleveland, charged with driving on a revoked license, and child support, Bond \$9,000.

Justin Shelton, 24 of Etowah, charged with state violation of probation for schedule 6 resale.

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

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Friday, May 15, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

New State Record Largemouth Bass Confirmed by TWRA



Pictured L-R: Fishing guide Hensley Powell, Darren Nunley and Tennessee Wildlife Officer Shawn Edgmon

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has confirmed a new state record largemouth bass, the first time the record has been broken in more than a decade.

Darren Nunley of Whitwell landed the record-setting fish on Feb. 28 while fishing on Nickajack Reservoir. The bass weighed 15 pounds, 7½ ounces and measured 27 7/8 inches, surpassing the previous record of 15 pounds, 3 ounces

caught by Gabe Keen in 2015—a catch that itself had broken a 60-year-old record.

Nunley hooked the fish around 8 a.m. using a jackhammer chatterbait, paired with 17-pound fluorocarbon line and a Shimano reel. The bass was weighed on a certified scale at a Whitwell grocery store, and TWRA later confirmed the record after genetic testing of a fin clip, with the results finalized on May 9. The catch now stands as the largest largemouth bass ever recorded in Tennessee.

Source: TWRA, Photo by Hensley Powell

Obituaries

Margaret Denise Manis Derrick Underdown, 62, of McMinn County, passed away on Wednesday, May 13. She retired from Thomas and Betts after 25 years of service. Visitation will be held at Ziegler Funeral Home on Sunday, May 17 from 5:00-7:00 PM. Burial will be held at a later date at South Liberty Cemetery. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Margaret Denise Manis Derrick.

Patricia Ann Isenhower Patrick, 92, of Texas, formerly of Etowah, TN, passed away, Monday, May 11, 2026. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturday, May 16, 2026, in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. A graveside service and interment will follow the visitation at Green Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of arrangements.

Virena Marie Robison, 60, of Decatur, passed away on Monday, May 11. Virena was of the Pentecostal faith and had a deep love for prayer, lifting up every need and every person she held dear. Virena was known for being sweet, feisty, and a little stubborn at times, but she had a heart full of love that she shared generously with those around her. At this time, no formal services are planned. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is honored to assist the family during this time.

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