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Monday, July 06, 2026

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Fire Crews Battle Farrell Street Blaze; Niota Police Chief Rescues Occupant



Fire crews from across McMinn County responded Wednesday, July 1, to a structure fire in the 300 block of East Farrell Street in Niota, where extreme heat and heavy smoke made conditions especially challenging. Before firefighters arrived, Niota Police Chief Brandon Jenkins reached the scene, entered the burning structure, and rescued an occupant still inside. Jenkins was treated for smoke inhalation by AMR and released on scene.

Fire personnel from Niota, Clearwater, Athens Rural, North McMinn, Englewood, and Athens City worked for nearly three hours to bring the fire under control. AMR remained on scene to provide medical support, and Haz-Mat crews resupplied air tanks for firefighters. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

With the day's heat index reaching 105–110°F, responders faced dangerous conditions. Community members stepped in to help, providing cold drinks, snacks, and encouragement throughout the afternoon.

The Niota Volunteer Fire Department expressed gratitude to all assisting

agencies and to departments that provided county coverage during the incident, including Riceville, Christianburg, and Notchey Creek FD. *Source: David Prater, Niota FD. Photo by Abby Newberry, Niota FD*

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- Fri: Sweetwater @ Little Drugs 10:30-2:30

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Monday, July 06, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

Planning Commission to Review Rezoning and Final Plat Requests July 6

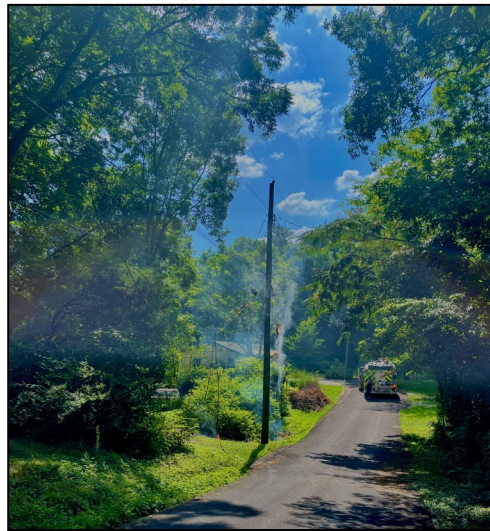
The Athens Municipal-Regional Planning Commission will meet Monday, July 6, 2026 at noon in the City Hall conference room (assuming a quorum) to consider several items of new business, including a rezoning request and a final plat approval.

Commissioners will first review and vote on minutes from recent work sessions and the May 4 regular meeting before moving into agenda action items. A rezoning request from Jose Medina-Mendoza and Yessica Medina Contreras will be heard, seeking to change a 0.31-acre parcel at 219 Spruce Street from I-1 Light Industrial to R-2 Medium Density Residential. Public comments will be accepted before the commission makes its recommendation.

The commission will also consider final plat approval for property owned by Ann Lynn B. Crawford at 1506 and 1420 Railroad Avenue, combining three lots into two on a 0.55-acre tract zoned B-1 Local Business District.

The meeting will conclude with petitions from the audience and staff reports. *Source: Anthony Casteel, City of Athens*

Power Line Incident Sparks Small Fire on Hamilton Street



A dropped power line ignited a small grass fire last Monday afternoon on Hamilton Street in Englewood, after the line caught a TDS phone line around 4:30 p.m.

Responding agencies included Englewood Police, Englewood Rural Fire, Notchey Creek Fire, AUB, and TDS Telephone, who quickly contained the scene and addressed the downed lines.

Photo by Lynn Ingram, Englewood Rural FD



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Monday, July 06, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

July 02, 2026

- Bristol McKeon**, 35 of Decatur, charged with violation of probation for possession of paraphernalia, Bond \$1,244.45.
- Cassandra Mantooth**, 44 of Delano, charged with DUI, Bond \$2,000.
- Kayla Green**, 24 of Athens, charged with assault, and disorderly conduct, Bond \$1,500.
- Justin Marcy**, 21 of Athens, charged with Assault, Bond \$1,000.
- Savannah Villarreal**, 21 of Athens, charged with Assault, Bond \$1,000.
- Charles Young**, 67 of Lafayette, Georgia, charged with assault, reckless driving, and reckless endangerment, Bond \$7,500.
- Jeremy Wattenberger**, 37, of Riceville, charged

July 03, 2026

- with violation of probation for schedule 2, simple possession, casual exchange of fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia, Bond \$10,000.
- Katelyn Deal**, 24 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for shoplifting, and Shoplifting theft of property, Bond \$2,000.
- Krista Green**, 41 of Athens, charged with domestic assault, Bond \$1,000.
- Dawn Felix**, 43 of Athens, charged with schedule 2 meth, drug paraphernalia, and driving on a revoked license.

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

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Monday, July 06, 2026

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

Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

July 02, 2026

Travis Savage, 32 of Etowah, charge with simple possession of schedule 2 fentanyl.

Robert Brown, 46 of Lakeville, Maine, charged with DUI, Bond \$1,000.

Angel Alvarez, 43 of Athens, charged with failure to appear for possession of paraphernalia, and violation of probation, Bond \$22,195.90.

David Neal, 24 of Athens, charged with shoplifting, theft of property, and theft of motor vehicles, Bond \$7,000.

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

Obituaries

Jesse Roy Allmon, 82, passed away on Thursday, July 2, 2026. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

Nicky Earl Wade, 79 of Athens, Tenn. passed away Friday, July 3, 2026 at his residence. He was a native and life-long resident of McMinn County. He retired from Heil Corp. after 33 years of service as a Welder Fabricator. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army having served in the Vietnam War. Graveside services will be 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, July 8, 2026 in McMinn Memory Gardens. Visitation is Tuesday from 5-7 Tuesday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home; who is in charge of arrangements.

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