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Tuesday, September 08, 2026

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Athens, Tennessee

Athens City Council Work Session Agenda, Meeting TODAY

The Athens City Council will hold a work session Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 5 p.m., following the Labor Day holiday. The meeting will include a presentation from the Senior Center and a full slate of discussion items ranging from infrastructure projects to fleet replacements.

Council will review a proposed amendment to the ARP Stormwater Grant Contract, increasing the agreement with Wilson Construction Group by \$213,330.70, bringing the total to \$2.24 million. Members will also discuss bids for demolition of condemned structures, the status of local street repair contracts, and a series of surplus property declarations—including multiple Public Works vehicles and equipment slated for sale through GovDeals.

The agenda includes approval to exchange a large quantity of surplus firearms held by the Athens Police Department for in-store credit at Craig's Firearms, which supplies the department's duty weapons and ballistic vests. Council will also consider purchasing several fleet replacement vehicles for Public Works and Sanitation through statewide contracts.

Other items include a resolution to accept the donation of a 1925 American LaFrance fire truck from the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, a proposal for mold remediation at City Hall estimated at \$33,651.29, and revisions to the employee handbook.

Councilmembers will offer updates on topics such as street lighting projects, Christmas lights at Regional Park, and garbage rate discussions. The session will conclude with citizen comments and board vacancy announcements for the Board of Adjustments & Appeals and the Historic Preservation Commission. *Source: Simon Rhodes, City of Athens*

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	•Thu: Athens Family Dollar	10:30-2
	•Fri: Sweetwater Main St Marketplace	10:30-2:30
	•Sat: Niota Fried Green Tomato Festival	10:30-5

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Tuesday, September 08, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

- Athens Regional Park will remain open Sept. 8–9 during paving work after crews adjusted plans on short notice. Visitors should expect construction activity and possible delays near the entrance and follow temporary traffic directions. Paving is weather-dependent, with work planned from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The City notes the project is time-sensitive for grant reimbursement and thanks the public for its cooperation.
- Athens Parks & Recreation will host a free Kids Halloween Movie in the Park on Friday, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Athens Regional Park Lake Pavilion. A 21' screen will show *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* and *Hocus Pocus*. Bring chairs or blankets; concessions will be sold.
- Visitors to McMinn County generated \$77.2 million in spending in 2025, up 0.7% from 2024. Tourism supported 612 local jobs and produced \$3.34 million in tax revenue, saving households an estimated \$367 in taxes. Statewide, Tennessee tourism reached a record \$32.5 billion, growing 40% since 2018, nearly double the national rate.

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Tuesday, September 08, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3 Athens, Tennessee

Community Rallies Around Boy Saved by Deputies



On August 25, 12-year-old Bryce Galyon suffered sudden cardiac arrest at his home near Fairview Baptist Church. His mother performed CPR with guidance from a 911 dispatcher until McMinn County deputies arrived within minutes,

followed by AMR paramedics and Englewood Fire & Rescue, who revived him with an AED before flying him to Dolly Parton Children's Hospital.

Doctors later diagnosed ventricular fibrillation and transferred Bryce to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, where he received an ICD device. Deputies who first responded even drove to Nashville to visit him, and when he returned home on Sept. 3, emergency crews organized a heartfelt escort and reception at the Eureka Trail. His mother, Katherine, said the family is overwhelmed by the care and support: "They saved my son's life, but they also showed us how deeply they care."

The story has been shared widely, including by Sheriff Joe Guy on social media and local TV outlets. Bryce, who loves attending WYXI live remotes, even joked during his hospital stay that he thought his "special visitors" might be WYXI's Brother Barry or Sister Stephanie. The Galyons remain grateful for the deputies, first responders, and community members who continue to check in and celebrate Bryce's recovery. *Source: Katherine Galyon*

McMinn County Arrest Reports

September 03, 2026

- Christina McAllister**, 43, of Etowah, charged with DUI.
 - Michael Gable**, 46, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for felony evading.
 - Holly Martin**, 41, of Riceville, charged with shoplifting theft of property. Bond \$4,000.
 - Ryan Costin**, 31, of Englewood, charged with failure to appear for driving on a suspended license, and failure to appear for financial law.
 - Michael Pendleton**, 50, of Athens, charged with domestic assault, and interference with 911 calls. Bond \$2,000.
 - James Pope**, 45, of Athens, charged with domestic assault by intimidation, and violation of probation for shoplifting. Bond \$4,000.
- Those accused are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**
Information gathered using public sources.





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Tuesday, September 08, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4 Athens, Tennessee

McMinn County Arrest Reports

September 04, 2026

Siddhartha Reddy, 37, of Niota, charged with domestic aggravated assault.

Cody Langford, 33, of Athens, charged with theft of property, Bond \$4,000.

Brandon Kimson, 32, of Athens, charged with state violation of probation for burglary.

Amanda Hyde, 43, of Athens, charged with violation of probation for leaving the scene of an accident. Bond \$1,690.35.

Marquez Fortson, 22, of Chattanooga, charged with aggravated assault, and assault. Bond \$62,000.

Tommy Cofield, 59, of Ruskin, Florida, charged with resisting stop, and public intoxication.

Jeremiah Arnwine, 23, of Athens, charged with assault. Bond \$2,000.

Stephen Harrison, 54, of Etowah, charged with domestic assault.

John Langford, 53, of Athens, charged with violation of probation for theft. Bond \$1,061.

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

September 06, 2026

Eddie Wilcox, 55, of Athens, charged with schedule 2 fentanyl for resale, and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$32,000.

Cody Hardy, 33, of Sweetwater, charged with criminal trespassing. Bond \$15,000.

James Shelton, 56, of Ten Mile, charged with driving on a revoked license. Bond \$1,000.

Dennis Butts, 43, of Etowah, charged with failure to appear for vandalism.

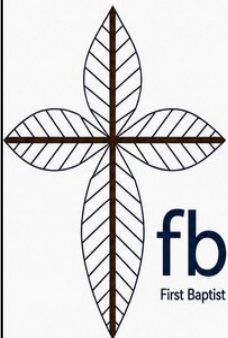
Mary Myers, 70, of Etowah, charged with DUI.

Christopher Graham, 38, of Knoxville, charged with driving on a revoked license, drug paraphernalia, driving an unregistered vehicle, violation of probation for theft, and theft of motor vehicle parts under \$1,000. Bond \$14,500.

Jason McDermott, 51, of Athens, charged with DUI, fourth offense, driving on a revoked license, and open container law.

Timothy Evans, 46, of Athens, charged with simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2 suboxone.

Megan Chariot, 36, of Athens, charged with shoplifting theft of property, driving on a suspended license, simple possession casual exchange of schedule 2, and failure to have insurance, Bond \$15,000.



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Tuesday, September 08, 2026 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Ruthie Marie Stephens, 83, of Niota, passed away on Saturday, September 5. She was a longtime member of West End Baptist Church, where her faith was an important part of her life. The graveside service will be 11:00 am, Wednesday, September 9 in Cedar Grove cemetery. [Lavcock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) is in charge of arrangements.

Anthony McMahan, 64, passed away on Saturday, August 5 in a Chattanooga health care facility. Survivors and arrangements to be announced. [M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home & Cremation Service](#) in charge of arrangements.

Regina Yvonne Thurman, 60, of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, August 26. A lifelong resident of McMinn County, Regina dedicated her working years to the Niota Textile Mills, where she was known for her unwavering spirit and strong work ethic. As a member of the Athens Free Saints True Holiness Church, she found a second family within her community and shared her faith with those around her. To honor Regina's life and legacy, a memorial service will be held at a future date, with details to be announced as her family finalizes arrangements [Companion Funeral Home](#) in charge of arrangements.

Lee Roy Hembree, 78, of Englewood, passed away on Friday, September 4. He retired from CSX Railroad after 25 years of service. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army having served in the Vietnam War. Graveside services will be 11:00 A.M. Thursday September 10 in McMinn Memory Gardens Veterans Field of Honor with Military Honors to follow. There will be no formal visitation. [Lavcock-Hobbs Funeral Home](#) is in charge of arrangements.

Larry Joe Miller, 69, of Englewood, passed away on Saturday, September 5. For most of his life, he worked as a truck driver. He was known for his wonderful sense of humor and was always ready with a joke or a funny story to make those around him laugh. Larry Joe also had a love for music, particularly the timeless sounds of Waylon Jennings and traditional country music. There will be no formal services at this time. [Companion Funeral Home](#) in charge of arrangements.

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