

**Glen Alpine Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting: June 4, 2019**

Present: Mayor Benfield, S. Perkins, T. Suttles, R. Cox, G. Meise, J. Falls
Clerk S. Farris, Attorney R. Denton

-Call to order

-Invocation

-Pledge of Allegiance

-Public Comments

-Jerry Beck – Inquired about property on Cemetery St that has very high grass, Captain Boliek explained that the bank had not taken over the foreclosed property yet, as soon as we are able it will get mowed and a tax lien will be placed on the property.

-Joe Greer- Stated that the Veterans Memorial looks good now. Need to let people know about budget meeting, only one day notice. People that do not own property or businesses in the town should not have a say in the Town's budget. Addressed comp time, are officers here tonight getting comp time? Asked an Alderman how much we have, 100 hours. Why are we hiring another officer, remembers when we had 1 then 2 then 3 then 4. Now we will have 5. Oak Hill, Salem, and Hildebrand do not have Police Departments, do we have a huge crime wave? Why are reserves in budget if they don't get paid? Asked an Alderman how many reserves we have, he didn't know. How does an Alderman not know? Why are patrol cars being driven home by officers that live outside town limits? How much does the town have in savings? Need to have last years budget side by side so people can see. Time clock, need accountability. How much time is spent on the budget, 1 day?

-Reid Scott- Concerned about budget, retirees can't afford, Police Department had a 21% increase from 2018, Fire Department had 57% increase, don't know of any businesses that could stay in business with kind of increase.

-Cristy Ramsey- Compared the Glen Alpine salaries to the Drexel salaries. Stated that she loves Glen Alpine and sleeps well at night knowing our Police keep us safe. Change is coming and there is nothing that can be done about it. Without growth, we will never get anywhere.

-Tommy Helms- As far as the Drexel budget, they have a \$4.8 million budget, they have water, sewer, their clerk has 25 employees, ours has 6 or 7.

-Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Falls, Passed 5-0

-Approval of Departmental Reports: Motion made by Meise, Passed 4-1

- After comment made by Suttles about Ladies Auxiliary should not be on the scene of a call, that this is a liability to the town, Chelsea Mackenzie asked to speak. He told her “No, you already had your chance.” Mayor Benfield told her to go ahead. She stated that the Ladies Auxiliary members are now firefighters as well, just to put that out there.

-Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Suttles, Passed 5-0

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Recycling** – Brian Adams explained issue with recycling, we are working on a solution at this time.
2. Meeting for June 25th, 2019 canceled due to no quorum being present
3. July 4th Parade, Thursday, July 4th 10:00AM
4. **Watermelon cutting for parade** – Clerk asked for each Board members help this year, Mayor stated that it is supposed to be the Mayor and Board doing this. Mayor offered his help. Attorney Denton offered to pay for the watermelons this year.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2019-2020 BUDGET

Budget Presentation – Mayor
Comments made by all of Aldermen.

ITEMS FOR DECISION:

1. 5% increase in pay, Alderman Cox wanted to recuse himself from this vote, Motion made by Perkins to recuse Cox, Passed, 4-0. Motion made by Falls to approve 5% increase, as was presented in budget proposal, Passed 4-0.
2. Set tax rate for 2019-2020 – Motion made by Falls to set tax rate at .35 cent, 2 cent decrease, Passed 5-0.

3. Approval of 2019-2020 Budget, Motion made by Falls to approve the budget as previously discussed with the changes brought about with the 2 cent decrease in taxes, that was proposed by Alderman Falls, Passed 3-2.
4. Budget amendments for year-end approval – Motion made by Falls to approve year end budget amendments, to be signed off by Mayor Benfield due to meeting canceled at the end of the month, Passed 5-0

Sharon McBrayer and Chrissy Murphy from the News Herald inquired as to why their public records request was in closed session, wanted state law that and General Statute that shows why this is in Closed Session, challenging the closed session. Attorney Denton stated that he had not been up here to see what we have and had asked the Clerk to compile every document with the name Tim Suttles on it and he was going to look at it in closed session to determine what we can release and send tomorrow. Ms. Murphy stated that she had corresponded via email six business days ago, so why was the information not gathered. Attorney Denton stated that he had not yet had a chance to look at it, requested it today. You will have something from me tomorrow. Ms. Murphy requested the NCGS that allows us to go in to closed session on this matter. Attorney Denton asked to have this taken off of closed session.

Motion made by Perkins to remove Public Record Request from Closed Session, Passed 5-0.

Motion made by Falls to go into Closed Session after 7 minute break, Passed 5-0.

Closed Session:

1. Awning/Walkway covering

Motion made by Perkins to go back to Open Session, Passed 5-0.

Alderman Meise had question about liability with Tasers if someone were to die, he was assured that the insurance company would handle and officers would be properly trained.

Motion made by Perkins to adjourn, Passed 5-0.