

**Glen Alpine Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting: September 3, 2019**

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

-Call to order

-Invocation - Pastor Boyd Biggerstaff, Praise Assembly

-Pledge of Allegiance

-Public Comments

- **Tommy Helms**- Yeah, my name is Tommy Helms, yeah me and Terry Pendley are running for the board. At last month's meeting y'all set here and pointed me and Terry out about starting rumors and lies. Bob I was disappointed when you posted this right here on Facebook, if any of you want to read, right here's a copy. Said that we want to side with Mr. Suttles to do a firing range. Now you talk about lies and rumors, there's no way that I am siding with Tim or anybody else in this town to open up a firing range. Where you came up with that, don't know don't care. Now let's get to the Fire Department. You said we want to shut it down. I spent 39 years of my life building this Fire department to what it is. Assistant Chief from 85 until I retired, under Jerry Causby's wing. He was the Chief. Every bit of equipment out there, every (inaudible), we was buying it. Now to sit here and tell lies that we want to shut this thing down, ain't nothing but a lie. Lets get this straight people. All right, Police Department. The way you talk we gonna shut Rodney down and give it to the county. That's about as close to a lie as you can come to. Am I for six cars, no I'm not. They's a lot of people in here in this room that ain't for it. So from here on out, before anything is posted, how about coming and asking me and Terry our opinion, and face the truth and post the truth out here instead of lies. That's all I've got to say.

- **Chelsie Mackenzie** – I want to start by saying thank you to everybody that made the back to school bash for the kids at Glen Alpine a success. We were able to collect a lot of school supplies for the kids and teachers, with the help of the auxiliary, police department, fire department. Sheila, Sherry, Bob and Jack all came out and helped. It meant more to the teachers because we were able to help them with the supplies that they need. A lot of this came out of our own pockets. So, thank you guys.

-Karen Suttles – see attached

-Jimmy Wakeford – I have more of a positive spin when I look at the town. You have signs going up, you have builders that want to start building in Glen Alpine again. You've got big developers looking for land in Glen Alpine. We are a great community. I talked to Mayor Bob earlier to maybe going back to the pre-agenda meetings. The board is fairly non-promising right now. You have some people working real hard, making these great changes in town, you have got a good solid budget now, but y'all need to start working together. Glen Alpine's in great shape and you've got a lot of opportunity right now. But in a lot of ways, I feel like the town just keeps rehashing the same old stuff over and over. When I first got on the board and you were probably on the board with me, we talked about a speed bump. You remember that Fluff? Six months of talking about putting a speed bump in, you guys can do better than that, ya know? That's all I've got to say for right now.

-Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Cox, Passed 4-1

-Approval of Departmental Reports: Motion made by Perkins, Passed 5-0

-Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Suttles to table until corrected, Passed 5-0

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Inventory** – Inventory is being worked on by all departments at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Praise Assembly Church wishes to set an appreciation day – Sheila** – Perkins stated that Praise Assembly wanted to something in appreciation for all of us at the Town, she will get with them and find out when and let everyone know.
- 2.
3. **Request from Tom Brittain & Merchants** – Letter concerning a request for an ordinance concerning businesses. After discussion by the board members, decision made to send to the Planning Board to review for suggestions and to send a response letter to merchants that we are taking it under advisement.

-Alderman Suttles asked to speak before going in to closed session. As Tim Suttles sitting here on this Board, if I have said anything to anybody in this town that has offended you, I am sorry, but life needs to go on and we need to take care of business in this town. As far as the fire department, I put my life, blood, sweat and tears in it. Ain't no way I want to see it tore up. That's all I have to say.

- Alderman Meise asked to speak. On a positive note, how many people like that sign out there? Can I get a vote? All right, ain't that positive? Give everybody a hand.

- Motion made by Cox to go into Closed Session, Passed 5-0
- -Motion made by Perkins to go into open Session, Passed 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. **Personnel Issue(s)**

ITEMS FOR DECISION:

1. **Appoint Fire Chief** – Motion made by Suttles to appoint Adam Marlowe as Fire Chief with 6 month probation period that we as the board get together and write up the expectations that we expect of the fire department and rules an regulations that we go by, and pay will be retroactive back to the first of July where it starts the first six months to the first of the year. Passed 5-0.

-Motion made by Perkins to go into open Session, Passed 5-0.

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

My name is Karen Suttles and I would like to address the information that Mayor Bob Benfield posted on social media about the upcoming election. He stated in the last meeting for folks to try and keep a clean election. However, he is the one posting things on social media that are untrue and quite frankly he knows they are not true.

It actually amazes me that anyone would believe any of the nonsense that has been posted. There is no way anyone would want to see the fire department disband and cause our homeowners insurance go up two or three fold. My husband served 20 plus dedicated years in the fire department and retired from it. Also, no-one has never said they would like to have the police department disband either. Why would anyone want to disband the police department? Just because someone differs on opinion as far as spending in a department does not mean one wants to disband it or is against it.

My husband nor I have spoken about building a shooting range on our property. This is also one of the other fabrications written in the post. Though I assure you it would be safer than folks who are out there driving impaired or under the influence.

Mr Mayor if an incumbent is seeking reelection don't you think their role as alderman in the last four years should stand as reason to reelect. Why aren't you posting these positive things? What have they done to be reelected? If fabricated things about alderman Suttles, candidate Helms and candidate Penley is all you have to say - then that says a lot.

Mayor, You really shouldn't have to make up fairy tales on others to try and make another candidate look like the better option. It really doesn't make them look better - nor does it make you look good either. Like I said they should be able to stand on their on merit.

Also I would like to address a town employee who is posting job related information on their personal Facebook page that is derogatory toward the citizens of this town. This individual has also placed minutes on line that had confidential erroneous closed session information on them for all the public to see.

Only after inquiry about them being posted were the closed session information removed. These meetings are private but yet it is OK to post them on line? Might I add this information was added to already approved minutes of one of the meetings. Thereby, altering already approved information. Just because the town web page was down isn't an excuse to post this kind of information.

In the last meeting, during an open meeting, alderman Suttles asked the town clerk a question and instead of answering his question, she handed him the packet to search for the information. When he looked for the information and asked if it was correct she then stated it was - which indicated she knew the answer in the first place.

Why is this type of conduct and behavior being allowed or condoned?

Lastly there is also false information being spread about the two percent tax decrease. If looking at the minutes under number two, that is where the vote occurred and it was a 5-0 vote. All five aldermen voted for the tax decrease. Number three was where two of the alderman did not vote for the budget that included another police car and another policeman.

Thank you for your time...