

**Glen Alpine Board of Alderman**

**May 10, 2021 at 6pm**

**Present: Mayor Benfield, Clerk Lalonde, Attorney Denton, R. Cox,  
S. Perkins, G. Meise, T. Suttles, T. Helms**

**CALL TO ORDER**-Mayor

**INVOCATION**-Moment of Silence

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**-Motion made by Perkins to approve agenda passed 5-0

**APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS**-Motion made by Helms to approve Dept Reports-passed 5-0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**-Motion made by Meise to approve minutes-Passed 5-0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-**

**David Clontz-** Mr. Clontz is proposing on behalf of his siblings, to have a banner honoring his late mother, Ruby Clontz at the July 4th parade. They would like to carry the banner at the beginning of the parade & display the banner at the stage afterwards. The family wishes to thank the Town for renaming the parade in honor of their late mother.

**Sharon Mull-** Mrs. Mull is upset about Barry Deals residence. She works at Miss Emily's & is tired of seeing the nuisance. She stated that she is no longer proud of our Town due to the amount of junk that is displayed and several properties and wants something done to clean up the town.

**Frank Robinson-** Mr. Robinson stated that is disappointed with the board and says that they need to remove politics from their agenda. He also stated that Dept heads need to have the ability to spend their budget without being micro-managed, he agrees with lowering the taxes, and feels that the employees deserve raises because inflation is going up and is only going to get worse. Mr. Robinson says it is time to move the town forward and he is tired of seeing no progress. He encouraged the board members to get out and get involved with the community and start thinking about the community not just themselves.

**Tom Brittain-** Mr. Brittain stated the Greenwave Restaurant plans to re-open on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The firetruck that was sold, he donated to the Town for recreational use. Since the board voted to sell it, he wants a letter of donation from the town.

He also requested that if any money comes from ARP that the board will consider helping the Greenwave Restaurant. He said he feels the festival should only be on Friday night this year.

**Christy Ramsey-** see attached.

**Luke Boone & Thomas Reese-** These residents live on Pea Ridge St. Duke Power is doing work in that area, Duke is also buying some neighboring houses but not theirs. Duke will not work with them, and they are requesting that the Town to help. They want to know if the Town can put an ordinance in place prohibiting Duke from putting poles and stations next to their homes. Their biggest concern is their family.

#### MAYOR COMMENTS

##### **New Business:**

2021/2022 Budget

July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

Festival

Move August Meeting to 3<sup>Rd</sup> Monday (8/16/21)

ARP funds

Lowdermilk & Church Audit

Hartford Insurance

Carolina Paving

##### **Old Business:**

**Sale of old Firetruck-**The firetruck sold for \$8000, Tom Brittain requests that the Town use that money for beautification.

##### **Items for Decision:**

**Set Date for Budget Hearing-**Motion made by Cox to have hearing on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p Passed 5-0

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade-**Motion made by Meise to hold the parade on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am- Passed 5-0

**Festival-** Tabled.

**Move August Meeting to 3<sup>Rd</sup> Monday (8/16/21)-**Motion made by Cox to move the August meeting to 8/16, Passed 5-0

**Lowdermilk & Church Audit-**Motion made by Perkins to accept L&C Audit. Passed 5-0

**Hartford Insurance**-Motion made by Perkins to move to Hartford ins, passed 4-1  
Cox did not vote.

**Carolina Paving**-Motion made by Perkins to hire Carolina Paving for Pitts & Butler  
St, and Town parking lot, Passed 5-0

Motion made by Cox to adjourn; Passed 5-0

First a HUGE shout out to the GAPD & GAFD for showing up at my Mom's to help aid the EMTs that arrived on scene and found my sister's sugar had dropped to 30. When I arrived, Rodney & Blue and the young gentleman from the fire department were around trying to assist however needed. While the EMTs did their miracle, the others helped to keep my Mom's mind occupied to avoid her being worse upset in what could have easily led to death for my sister. To each of You, I say thanks from my family and me. We appreciate You all and all You do on the daily.

Now...I was sitting on my mom's couch last week and looked up toward Bryan's house and thought how I would always see him mowing this time a year. It made me sad to think how Covid 19 took him from us. Then I thought how lucky we have been that our town has fully functioned through the pandemic. We had almost every one of our police officers sick with Covid and there were only out the allotted time to heal and they were right back on duty. The fire department and the maintenance crew all had to risk infection by being around those with the virus BUT yet they made it to calls and or work every day. Melissa's husband had the virus and she worked from home and made sure the town ran efficiently. These are the heroes of Glen Alpine. They are the first to get up and go do what needs to be done. To think of all they do, how can a raise not be in order? Oh yes...the infamous dropping the taxes to help all the residents that are on Social Security that cannot afford their taxes. Well I have 2 people on SS I am positive that will pay a little extra to have these town employees compensated. I know I want to keep the employees in place and I don't mind paying for peace of mind. They all could easily go to other jobs and make more but choose to serve the people of Glen Alpine at lower wages. You cannot buy that type of loyalty...so what's a little raise to help these people cover the cost of living increase?

And also, while we are on the subject of the tax rate being lowered..You all have preached we have to have money to buy the new fire truck and truck to replace the aging ones on hand. This is not the time to lower the taxes. We did a small decrease in the tax rate in 2019 and that was a time we could afford to do so. Don't make it hard on the incoming board and to have to turn around and look like the bad guys because the rate has to go right back up.

This board needs to continue to work hard to make sure the town's best interest is in mind. And as far as a tax decrease goes, the new board coming in may be able to do so at some point and when they do...know You all had a part in it by "being the bad guys" at a time when it was necessary. It is not for glory that You serve but for the good for Glen Alpine as a whole.