

Glen Alpine Board of Alderman

June 9th 2025 Meeting minutes

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was led by Pastor John Terry. Following the invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve agenda was made by Alderman Miller, and approved unanimously.

Approval of the Departmental Reports

Captain Trull presented the police department report, noting a significant increase in activity. He reported that compared to the previous year when they had 54 total reports for the first five months, they currently have 74 reports, representing a 50% increase. He distributed reports showing both the monthly activities and the first five months of the year for review.

A representative from the fire department was also present to answer questions.

Alderman Scott asked a question regarding the Police report. Why was one of our officers at 2201 S. Sterling St which is Phiffer Wellness Center. Capt Trull said he would have to look at that particular call. Clerk Reed said 2201 S. Sterling St is Grace Hospital address. Capt Trull confirmed yes it was involuntary commitment at the hospital. Alderman Scott said he can't understand the Fire Dept report. He said there is no way to know where calls were made and how long they were there.

Chief Marlowe explained the system is new and asked for some time to learn how to use it. This is the first report using the new program that the board approved for him to purchase.

Motion to approve the departmental reports was made by Alderman Frady, and approved unanimously.

Approval of Last Month's Minutes

Motion to approve last month's minutes was made by Alderman Scott, and approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Several citizens addressed the Board during public comment.

Tim Suttles, citizen suggested that the town consider dissolving its charter and returning to county governance, noting that this would eliminate the need to pay for town maintenance, police, and other services since residents already pay county taxes.

Stan Benedict, citizen spoke about trail work in progress and upcoming events. He mentioned significant repair costs for pump equipment, including an \$8,900 repair for a giant pump and a \$3,800 repair for a downstream box. He also expressed interest in grading work and mentioned an upcoming event on Saturday at 10:30

Phillipe Rosse with ASI Ed Services gave an update on grants he is trying to pursue for the town, police and fire departments.

Curt Willis with WPCOG-Code Enforcement gave an update on Code Enforcement cases in the town. He mentioned there may be a request for a Public Hearing and if so it will require Board of Adjustment to make a decision.

Clerk Reed commented that there should be a fee for that.

Curt Willis said yes but the board needs to have a fee schedule which he hasn't seen.

Clerk Reed said she thinks most towns charge about \$300.

Curt Willis agreed.

Discussion: CAG Ventures (Pump Street Repairs)

Alderman Scott explained that a resident has been experiencing water issues at his property on Pump Street for years and has requested the Board's assistance. The resident wants the entire Board to visit his property during a rainy day to observe the severity of the water problems.

The Board discussed whether the town has an obligation to fix the issue. Alderman Boone expressed concern that if the town intervenes, it might take on responsibility for problems that might stem from Highway 70, potentially creating liability if the town's actions cause problems for other properties. Alderman Miller noted that the problem started after the state repaved Highway 70, prior to COVID.

There was debate about whether the water was coming from Pump Street or Highway 70, and whether the town had any obligation to investigate or address the issue. The Board discussed the possibility of having Chris with CAG Ventures, who had worked on previous town projects including a sinkhole, examine the situation with the resident.

No formal action was taken on this agenda item.

Discussion: Facebook Live (Will the town continue or not?)

The Board discussed whether to resume Facebook Live broadcasts of meetings. Several Board members expressed support for doing so, noting that it had created an expectation among citizens that meetings would be available online.

There was discussion about technical requirements, including the need for someone to operate the equipment, start and stop the broadcast appropriately (especially for closed sessions), and the possibility of using existing equipment versus new options. The Clerk noted she was not an IT person and lacks expertise in this area and with Facebook.

Alderman Boone suggested using the existing PTZ camera and microphone equipment already in the town hall, while another mentioned the possibility of simply using a cell phone as had been done previously.

Alderman Miller made a motion to move from item for Discussion to Decision. Passed unanimously.

Meeting Date Changes (Clerk asking to change due to schedule conflict)

Clerk Reed requested changing the meeting dates from the second week to the third week of the month, starting in September. She explained that she cannot attend the August 18th meeting on the third week due to a clerk conference, and she will be on her honeymoon on September 8th, returning to work on the 15th.

Motion to change the Board meeting dates to the third week of the month beginning September 15, 2025, was made by Alderman Perkins, and approved unanimously.

Schedule 4th of July Parade

The Mayor reported speaking with representatives from the women's club and Ruritans about coordinating the Fourth of July parade and the Miss Turkey Tail event. The Mayor also noted interest from citizens in organizing a "Turkey Trot" run on the morning of the parade, from 7:30 to 8:30 AM.

The proposed route would start at the doctor's office parking lot, go down Catawba Street to Turkey Tail Street, then back up Catawba to the doctor's office. The Mayor indicated that police and fire personnel were already scheduled for the parade and would need to arrive earlier to provide security for the run.

Motion to approve the Turkey Trot run from 7:30 to 8:30 AM on July 4th, contingent on police and fire department availability, was made by Alderman Boone, and approved 4-1, Alderman Perkins voted No.

Town Hall Cleaning Contract (See quotes)

The Board briefly discussed cleaning quotes for the town hall. Currently, maintenance staff performs the cleaning, but there was discussion about freeing them up for other maintenance tasks by contracting out cleaning services.

Motion to table the discussion on cleaning contracts was made by Alderman Scott , and approved unanimously.

Supervisors Meeting/Inventory Review

Alderman Perkins proposed scheduling a quarterly supervisors meeting that had been previously agreed to but not held. The purpose would be to discuss job descriptions, policies, and procedures with department supervisors. She emphasized that this would not be a personnel discussion about individual employees but rather about department operations and expectations.

After discussion about timing, the Board agreed to hold the meeting on June 30th after the already scheduled policy and procedure meeting. There was also a suggestion to ask supervisors to write their own job descriptions for the Board to review.

Motion to hold a supervisors meeting on June 30th after the policy and procedure meeting was made by Alderman Perkins, and approved unanimously.

Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Budget

Clerk Reed presented the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget, highlighting the following:

- The recommended general fund budget totals \$1,360,034
- The proposed tax rate is 26 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation
- Total property valuation for Burke County is \$130,670,912
- Sales tax is projected at \$550,000
- Departmental allocations:
- Police Department: \$597,381
- Fire Department: \$159,805
- Public Works: \$342,948
- Administration: \$260,100
- Fund balance appropriation: \$36,734
- Water revenues and expenditure: \$21,240

The Board noted that there was one correction needed in the budget document regarding incorrect dates that would be fixed before the document was signed.

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 budget as presented was made by Alderman Perkins, and approved 5-1. Alderman Scott voted No.

Motion to adjourn was made by an Alderman Miller, and approved unanimously.

Closed Session (NCGS 143-318.11 Personnel Matter)

Motion to enter closed session under NCGS 143-318.11 for a personnel matter was made by Alderman Miller , and approved unanimously.

The Board & Police Chief entered closed session and discussed police department staffing and scheduling issues, including concerns about whether officers should be salaried or hourly employees, and how to handle the 84 hours that officers work in a two-week period compared to the 80 hours they are paid for as salaried employees.

Upon returning to open session, the Board proceeded to the public hearing for the budget.