

Glen Alpine Board of Alderman March 2026 Meeting Minutes

Present: Mayor Kevin Herron, Luke Boone, Reid Scott, Sheila Perkins, Chad Wykle, Jason Miller, Clerk Carswell and Attorney Rob Denton

CALL TO ORDER at 6pm

INVOCATION Pastor John Terry

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA J. Miller made motion to approve, All in favor

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS L. Boone made motion to approve, All in favor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES J. Miller made motion to approve, All in favor

2 items were approved and added to the agenda.

1) Kevin Herron asked to add the sell of one of the fire trucks-Fire Dept

2) Clerk Crystal Carswell received a call from Burke Co Planning Dept earlier in the day asking to add an emergency animal fostering situation to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stanley Benedict- stated he wants the best for the town and he appreciates what everyone does here. He spends time online and he listens to people. He spoke to Jeff from the Pharmacy and asked him directly if the town had any responsibility for his business closing and he said it was an absolute no. He stated it was mainly due to larger pharmacy companies being his competitor and cost of operations.

Paisley Hembree- she lives in the town and expressed her appreciation for all emergency personnel in Glen Alpine and surrounding communities.

Curt Willis, WPCOG Code Enforcement, Curt Willis could not be here due to another obligation with another municipality.

Phillipe Rosse, ASI Consulting

P. Rosse stated he is available as a backup to the WPCOG and NC Commerce or any other state or federal agencies that are offering grants. He agrees that the town is on a good path for moving forward.

J. Miller asked him if we move forward with larger grants if he is willing to assist as needed and can we reach out for support.

P. Rosse said yes.

New Business:

Decision

***Code Enforcement Contract with WPCOG, 2-year renewal total \$23,164 (\$11,582 yearly)**

K. Herron stated for the amount, he highly suggests they renew this.

S. Perkins made motion to renew the contract for Curt Willis to support the town with Code Enforcement for another 2 years. She added that a lot of progress has been made in the last 2 years because we have him. All in favor.

***VEDIC-\$1700 yr contribution, ask for vote to resume contribution (has been budgeted since 2019)**

K. Herron stated he thinks this is a valuable organization and he feels like we should contribute. He knows the program is based in Valdese but they assist throughout the county and other towns. It gives our existing business owners an opportunity and be a incentive for new businesses in our town. He said for \$1700 it is worth it.

J. Miller asked if we contributed last year.

Clerk Carswell stated no, the board voted not to.

C. Wykle asked if there was a timeline on this.

Clerk Carswell said she is currently working on budget, so she just needs to know whether to pay this or not. She added with an empty downtown this could be a program that could help someone open a business here. It assists with purchase of commercial property also.

S. Perkins said she knows that we contributed for all those years but doesn't think it has helped our downtown.

Clerk Carswell stated the program may not have helped a business here but possibly citizens of our town work at places that they have helped or travel to a restaurant they have helped and spend money there.

S. Perkins said she asked the VEDIC reps last year for names of businesses they helped but they couldn't provide that and they also couldn't provide information on the direct influence it had on Glen Alpine.

R. Scott said he agrees with Sheila.

Clerk Carswell stated that some of the information is confidential.

L. Boone stated he thinks offering a \$1700 grant opportunity from the town would be a good alternative. If nobody applies for it, another \$1700 added the following year.

J. Miller stated he would like to know how they had impacted the town also.

K. Herron asked who and how they would decide who will get the \$1700.

J. Miller said we would.

Clerk Carswell asked the board what the process will be to receive the \$1700.

L. Boone said they could decide based on the business. He said the money would be given back to the community.

R. Denton stated to not put themselves in a discrimination situation.

Clerk Carswell told the board to be diligent about giving out money and they may need to get some guidance from the auditors.

S. Perkins said it could be a grant.

Clerk Carswell stated they should probably ask the auditors before making that kind of decision.

R. Denton said he agrees with the Clerk to reach out to the auditors before doing anything like that.

L. Boone made a motion to not contribute \$1700 to VEDIC this year and the board explores the opportunity for the \$1700 to be used to benefit a town business. J. Miller seconded. All in favor.

Discussion

*NC Commerce/WPCOG Update, K. Herron and C. Wykle

K. Herron stated town reps have met with WPCOG and received some guidance and direction on the town applying for grants. He stated we seem to be on track and should be able to move forward with those in the coming weeks.

C. Wykle provided an update on NC Commerce planning to be here on April 13th. He said positive meetings had occurred between himself, the mayor and Clerk Carswell with several reps from WPCOG. He explained that the town and other major reps are working on a 5 year plan which will involve the council and the community. He stated this is all exciting news and it would cause a positive impact on the town. NC Historic Preservation is planning to visit and take

a look at the downtown buildings.

S. Perkins asked if we can connect with all these individuals without Burke River Trail being involved.

C. Wykle said yes.

K. Herron said they are all excited to see enthusiasm from Glen Alpine.

K. Herron and C. Wykle explained that next month Phill Boggan will present the 5 year plan for economic development. All the key players work hand in hand and are excited to help the town.

*Fencing at the Park

L. Boone commented that the park is looking great but he is still concerned about the lack of fencing in the area closest to the railroad track. He asked if we can install a gate or something for safety.

*GA Park Rental Agreement

K. Herron explained that residents are starting to call wanting to rent the shed. We just need some clarification on what the board wants to do about this.

R. Denton suggested calling City of Morganton for a copy of the rental agreement they use.

*Digital Eyes Contract

J. Miller stated with the meeting coming up next month, he feels like recording it or making it live is important. He is asking the board to allow him to purchase a camera that will suffice until the contractor is finished and has everything up and running.

J. Miller made motion to move this item for Decision. Seconded by L. Boone. All in favor.

J. Miller made motion to proceed with the purchase of a Facebook camera with a budget of \$500. Seconded by C. Wykle. All in favor.

*250th Burke Co/Glen Alpine Parade

K. Herron explained that Ed Phillips with Burke Tourism had reached out to him and Crystal about Glen Alpine hosting the Americas 250th since we already host the July 4th parade. He stated City of Morganton has offered to assist with officers for road patrol and safety. He said it may require a different route depending on the amount of involvement.

Clerk Carswell said a parade committee would be great so she has some help with this that would include better organization. She also explained how jammed it gets on Pollard and if we have more involvement this year then another route may be necessary. She explained that the fire trucks, trailers and floats have a hard time getting turned around at the end of Pollard Ave.

Chief Penley & S. Trull explained several different routes have been discussed. C. Penley said in order to use Hwy 70 we'll have to get permission from NCDOT.

Several council members discussed food trucks that will not compete with Foxhole Pizza.

K. Herron said lets all work together to make this a success.

*Sale of Fire Truck

K. Herron stated he spoke to Adam Marlowe and they have a fire truck they would like to surplus.

R. Denton asked if the truck was worth less than \$30k.

K. Herron said possibly.

K. Herron said he will speak to Adam Marlowe and have him get an appraisal on it.

R. Denton told K. Herron to keep in mind if its over \$30k different rules apply so they will need to know this information before moving forward.

*Town Resident fostering 2 pigs taken from a "animal hoarding" situation-this resident contacted by the county to help and they are asking for flexibility here. Temporary animal welfare placement. The county is asking for support from the town officials about this situation. 201 Davis Street

K. Herron and Chief Penley stated pigs are not allowed in town limits so if we follow the ordinance this is not allowed.

S. Perkins made motion to move to Closed Session, J. Miller seconded, All in favor.

Adjourn at 7:30pm

143-318.11(a)(4) Closed Session

R. Denton explained that Curt Willis has asked that he speak to the board about whether they would prefer to do a lean on the property that was demolished on Old Mill Street. He said the owner inherited the property from his ex-wife and he is wanting to clear this with the town. He

has (2) options which is to add a lien to the property or create a contract to get paid back by Mr. Dustin McCormack. He said the town will probably get their money back quicker this way. He added that if he doesn't pay the contract then they could still pursue the lien.

K. Herron asked R. Denton if he had looked over the contract from Keith Lawson. R. Denton said he would take a closer look and get back to him.