

**Town of Alto
Regular Meeting
September 13, 2022
Minutes
(Work Session 6:00pm)**

Those in attendance:

**PJ Huggins, Mayor
Eddie Palmer, Mayor Pro-tem
James Turner, Council Post 2
Allen Fox, Council Post 3
Josh Ivey, Police Chief
Lisa Turner, CFO
Penny Rogers, Town Clerk**

The Alto Town Council held a work session before the regular meeting on September 13, 2022. VA Representative Ed Hendricks came before the Council to request support for the CBOC, Community Based Out-Patient Clinic. He stated that they are trying to get a facility in this area, perhaps the old Ingles building in Cornelia or somewhere in the Baldwin area. There are 5000 Veterans in Habersham and 10,000 in the surrounding counties. They desperately need a closer clinic for the Veterans to go to and won't have to travel so far. The goal is to get as many signatures as possible on a petition to get it started. He encouraged everyone to participate in the effort. Officials checked out the mysterious hole that someone made at Alto Street and Wheeler Circle; no one knows anything about it and Town employees did not do it. CFO Lisa Turner discussed the finances. BC Grant Road project has to be started by April 2023. Matt Stickney, EPD, is sending forms to possibly seal off Apple Pie Well and drill another one. Supervisor Gary Kimbral and Donald Wade attended the meeting with Congressman Andrew Clyde's representatives concerning the Railroad issues to try to get the old bridge over the railroad on Wheeler Street fixed. Mayor Huggins and Gary Kimbral had a meeting with Ronnie Cantrell concerning the Winds Drive issue. He will be working on the prep for it to be paved. Wynn Shoals Road may be conveyed to the Town from Banks County so we can take over it. Officials were in agreement to begin the annexing process.

The meeting was then called to order by Mayor PJ Huggins. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer delivered the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilman James Turner made a motion to approve the agenda. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer seconded the motion. Approved by all.

The minutes of the August 09, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Councilman Allen Fox made a motion to accept the minutes. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer seconded the motion. Approved by all.

New Business:

Pro-tem Eddie Palmer encouraged everybody to participate in signing the petition in support of a Veterans Clinic facility in this area. It is much needed and would be a great accomplishment to have.

Pro-tem Eddie Palmer made a motion to sponsor 2 students (\$150 each) in the request from Habersham County for Senior students in the Youth Leadership Program. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Old Business: None

Recommendation from Officers, Departments and Attorneys:

Chief Josh Ivey presented the monthly PD totals. He informed the Officials that the K-9 Project may be ready by October.

Public Comments:

Margaret Beaupre, 426 Wade St., asked why the speed bumps were not put where she had requested them? She was told that the contractor looked the area over and suggested the best placement of the speed bumps according to their expertise and water run off of the road. Debbie Turner, 220 Cook St., stated that the ones requested on Cook Street weren't put where they requested them either. The Contractor gave his professional opinion there as well.

Mrs. Beaupre inquired about the new inspector and when he is going to look at the complaints she turned in and why can't the employees pick up trash on the sides of the road during the day. Mayor Huggins stated that the inspector has been contacted and has begun to schedule everything; and Probation Officer Chris Simmons is starting to assign some of his clients to pick up the garbage.

Councilman James Turner asked why the new council wasn't sworn in at this meeting. Mayor Huggins informed him that the Ordinance they adopted states that the seats will be filled on or about November 15, 2022 therefore, the following meeting from that date is when they will be sworn in; Appropriate steps have to be followed: no one ran against either candidate, qualifying was for the November election to be sworn after that. He then asked why did we have a special election if we can't fill the seats and have a full council? The Mayor replied that the seats were vacant, there wasn't a general election for any seats this year therefore, it had to be a Special Election in order for those two seats to be filled, but proper steps have to be followed. He asked for the November meeting to be postponed until they can bring in the new Officials, it was stated that they would look into it. He then asked when Mr. Burton is coming to do the audit. CFO Lisa Turner replied that as soon as everything is completed for them to begin, they will come.

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**Councilman James Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pro-tem
Eddie Palmer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.**

Approved by all.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny Rogers

Penny Rogers

Town Clerk