

**Town of Alto
Regular Meeting
October 10, 2023
Minutes
Work Session 6:00pm**

Those in attendance:

**PJ Huggins, Mayor
Eddie Palmer, Mayor Pro-tem
James Turner, Post 2
Allen Fox, Council Post 3
Debbie Turner, Post 5
Josh Ivey, Police Chief
Lisa Turner, CFO
Jo Flores, Administration
Penny Rogers, Town Clerk**

A work session was held at 6pm to discuss current concerns and items on the agenda: recommendation from Robert Gutowski for the site plans for Dollar General; millage rate; Animal control; possible Saturday pet clinic coming in November or December; GMRC Christmas Conference; Cedar Creek property to be listed at \$75,000; new truck for water dept; Christmas event with tree lighting, Santa, singing, refreshments will be November 30th at 6pm; upcoming meetings: Budget meeting October 18th at 4pm-Public hearing November 14th at 6:45-Called meeting November 28th at 5:30pm; New insurance will begin November 1st; Spring Fling festival planned for May 4th.

Mayor PJ Huggins called the regular meeting to order at 7pm. There was a moment of silence in honor of Councilwoman Carolyn Cabe. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer prayed for the invocation and lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Huggins stated that (c) truck and (e) Cedar Creek property needed to be taken from the agenda. Councilman James Turner made a motion to approve the agenda with this change. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer seconded the motion.

Approved by all.

Councilman Allen Fox made a motion to accept the minutes of September 12, 2023 meeting. Councilwoman Debbie Turner seconded the motion.

Approved by all.

New Business:

State Representative Victor Anderson honored Town Clerk Penny Rogers with a Commendation from Governor Brian Kemp for 20 years of dedicated service and contributions to the Town.

Chief Josh Ivey recognized and honored Head TAC/Office Manager Cilia Jarrell and Municipal Court Clerk Karen Roy for completing the Criminal Justice Certification and their precise involvement with the GBI Audit. He emphasized great appreciation for their outstanding performance, accomplishments, and service to the Police Department.

Pro-tem Eddie Palmer made a motion to roll back the millage rate from 4.952 to 4.370. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion.

Approved by all.

Pro-tem Eddie Palmer made a motion to approve the site plans for Dollar General with the compliance of all the conditions listed. (see attached)
Councilwoman Debbie Turner seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Old Business: None

Recommendations from Officers, Departments and Attorneys:

Chief Josh Ivey presented the monthly police totals and the probation report.

Public Comments:

Resident Margaret Beaupre asked why citizens had to fill out a comment form the day before the meeting to be able to comment or speak? Mayor Huggins replied that it is required so that information requested can be researched, prepared and details given at the meeting. She then asked if she was going to be able to speak, Mayor said yes. Mrs. Beaupre proceeded to voice her concerns of animal control issues and requirements to go online to file a report for them to take action. Mayor Huggins addressed the meeting with Habersham Co. Animal Control stating that the required filing online is so they can have a legitimate violation that will hold up in court in which in turn any fines will come back to the Alto court instead of Habersham court.

Ronnie and Deanna Johns complained about the animal control issue of the neighbors' dogs that bark continuously at 450 and 500 Wade St.

Sheila Mathis also had a concern about the house behind her having puppies in an unsanitary area and not being taken care of.

Mrs. Beaupre inquired about the Dollar General? Mayor Huggins stated that the store is planning to move to the corner of Gainesville Hwy and Alto Mud Creek Road. She then asked about the houses that are in code violations. It was explained that SAFEbuilt is and has been issuing citations to the owners.

Christmas event will be held on November 30th at 6pm.

Councilman James Turner asked about Summit Drive paving? The response was that Thomason Construction will be coming at the end of the month or first of November. He then asked about the fire hydrants that are not working. Mayor Huggins said she would get that information from Supervisor Gary Kimbral.

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Pro-tem Eddie Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Debbie Turner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Approved by all.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny Rogers

Town Clerk