

**Town of Alto
Regular Meeting
December 10, 2024
Minutes
(Work Session 6:00pm)**

Those in attendance:

**Gail Armour, Mayor
Eddie Palmer, Pro-tem
PJ Huggins, Post 1
James Turner, Post 2
Allen Fox, Post 3
Debbie Turner, Post 5
Sean Rogers, Officer
Lisa Turner, CFO/HR
Penny Rogers, Town Clerk
Absent: Chief Josh Ivey**

A work session preceded the meeting in which current items on the agenda were discussed: Laurel Ellison has asked if the Town has any objections to consolidating BC Grant Precinct with the South Precinct; Resolution with Hab Co to participate in a fire consolidation feasibility study was discussed, this will not obligate the Town in any way. It was stated to stay with Baldwin unless they go with County; Construction company is starting to move in equipment for the Apple Pie Ridge project; per retreat concerning a future well site, Mayor Armour has not found any potential property for a site, so she suggests purchasing a water storage tank instead. Town owns 4.75 acres at Gilstrap well that may be favorable for a tank. All were in favor of a potential new water tank just questioned the size needed. She suggested purchasing the Scada System to monitor the tanks, but Officials weren't in favor due to high cost; discussed moving the generator to BC Grant well if EPD allows it, if not, possibly move to City Hall, so daily operations could continue if power is out; EPD required inventory service line project has been submitted and accepted by the State; Mayor stated that Attorney Syfan is looking at all property plats concerning the Wade Street turnaround project. Some Officials were in favor, but some were debating, saying where's the money coming from? All were reminded that LMIG will cover the cost. It was stated that we need to make a list of all the streets that are in need and get started on fixing them; Agenda and minutes need to be updated on the website; a moment of silence was given for the deceased and the ones in surgical situations; raising water rates was debated on: Auditor suggested an increase to keep up with inflation and not to fall behind. One suggestion was to lower the base and increase the usage cost, so those that use more will pay more.

Following this, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Gail Armour. The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was delivered and led by Eddie Palmer.

The agenda was presented to the Council for approval. Mayor Armour stated that (d) Resolution to participate in a fire consolidation study with Habersham Co and (e) Resolution to add PTSD to GIRMA, needed to be added under New Business. Councilman Allen Fox made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion. Approved by all.

The minutes of the November 12, 2024, meeting was presented for approval. Councilwoman Debbie Turner made a motion to accept the minutes. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer seconded the motion. Approved by all.

New Business:

Pro-tem Eddie Palmer made a motion to adopt the 2025 Budget Resolution. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Officer Sean Rogers presented the first reading of the 2025 General Election Ordinance. The election will be held November 4, 2025, from 7am-7pm. Post 1 currently held by PJ Huggins, Post 3 currently held by Allen Fox and Post 5 currently held by Debbie Turner will be up for election. Each will be for a 4-year term beginning around January 2026 through December 31, 2029. Qualifying will be Monday, August 18, 2025, through Friday August 22, 2025. Each seat has a fee of \$35.00. Qualifying will be held at Habersham County Elections in Clarkesville from 8:30am-4:30pm daily, except Friday ends at 12noon.

Councilwoman Debbie Turner made a motion to table the McDaniel shop project. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion. Approved by all.

The Resolution to participate in a fire consolidation feasibility study with Habersham County died on the table due to no motion made.

Councilwoman PJ Huggins made a motion to accept the Resolution to add PTSD coverage to GIRMA per HB 451 mandate. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Old Business: None

Recommendations from Officers, Departments, and Attorneys: None

Public Comments: None

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Pro-tem Eddie Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.
Approved by all.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny Rogers
Town Clerk