

**Town of Alto
Regular Meeting
April 09, 2025
Minutes**

Those in attendance:

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

A work session preceded the meeting at 6:00pm to discuss current issues: Mayor Armour gave words of encouragement from Ecclesiastes 12 stating that all things done for selfish reasons is in vain, but we should do all things for God and those that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength; all the limbs have been cut at the playground that were discussed before; Apple Pie Ridge project is now halfway through the 2nd phase with 2400' added; a huge leak was found on Apple Pie Ridge Road that has been the culprit of the lower levels in the tanks, it is now fixed; Mayor did a pre-application and has been working on getting grants for the SCADA funding. She got 3 quotes: Global Logic \$39922.90, Mission Communicating \$30485.40 and Zeil Technology \$69300.00. With the first two, contractors would have to be hired to install and service. She stated that David at Midway Electric said he could do it for \$5500.00. The last quote, Zeil, has everything included, they do it all and no contractors would be hired; Leobardo Lara requested a variance for less than an acre to put a mobile home on, that he is considering purchasing from Sheila Mathis. He wants to make sure that he can have a home before actually buying it. It was stated that a variance had been granted before for the same reason at S Grant St. After a discussion, Officials were in agreement to allow it that if a perk test was approved and they operate within the codes; Officials asked employee Skylier Coalley from the water department what he thought about SCADA. He stated that they used it when he worked for Lula and it was a big plus. He recommends it for several reasons: it would alert them when a pump goes down, it helps with control and maintenance of the water, it monitors wells, would be very efficient in which would cut down on man hours therefore cutting overtime and payroll, would save money and time. He highly recommended it. Mayor stated that it is definitely needed for the system upgrade and for a potential new tank possibly on the 4.75 acres of the prison land that was awarded to the Town. When asked when she would know if the pre-app is accepted, she said she didn't know for sure. It was suggested to contact other cities that use SCADA to see their

experience with it; After a discussion of the playground fence project, it was favored by all to go with Southern Company for a 6' black chain link fence; questions were raised about 448 Grant Street: Fred Martinez bought it and is putting a shop in back with a small office/apartment in front, the inspector is working with him now concerning all his plans.

The meeting was then called to order by Mayor Gail Armour. The invocation was delivered by Eddie Palmer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was presented to the Council for approval. Mayor Armour stated that (b) Variance on Wade St property needed to be added under New Business. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer made a motion to approve. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion. Approved by all.

The minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting were presented for approval. Councilwoman PJ Huggins made a motion to accept the minutes. Councilman Allen Fox seconded the motion. Approved by all.

New Business:

The council decided to switch the Executive Session which was the first item listed and do the added Variance before the Session. Councilwoman PJ Huggins made a motion to allow the variance for the property on Wade St of less than an acre to be able to move in a home contingent the approved perk test. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Pro-tem Eddie Palmer made a motion to exit the meeting and enter into an Executive Session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (6) concerning personnel. Councilwoman PJ Huggins seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Officials left the room and went into the Executive Session.

Officials came back into the room about an hour later. Councilwoman PJ Huggins made a motion to re-enter the meeting. Councilman James Turner seconded the motion. Approved by all.

Mayor Armour stated that no action was taken in Session.

Old Business

Councilwoman Debbie Turner made a motion to award Southern Fence Company to install the fence at the playground with the black chain link for \$18215.00 with \$3000.00 to remove old fence. Pro-tem Eddie Palmer seconded the motion. Approved by all

Recommendations from Officers, Departments, and Attorneys:

Chief Josh Ivey presented the monthly PD and Probation totals.

Public comments:

John DeLauder, 326 Cornwall Place, inquired where the new tank would be located? Mayor Armour told him that was undetermined at this time. He then asked what was going on at the end of Guston St and the corner of Alto Mud Creek and Dollar General? The Mayor stated that it was street repairs on Guston and Habersham County is doing a safety project at the intersection of Alto Mud Creek and Gainesville Hwy.

Sheila Mathis, 173 Wade St, wanted to verify that the variance for her Wade St property of less than an acre had been granted? She was told yes if the perk test is approved.

Councilman Allen Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Debbie Turner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Approved by all.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny Rogers
Town Clerk