**MINUTES**

**Town of Atkinson**

**Regular Meeting & Budget Hearing**

**June 30, 2021 – 7:00 PM**

**Honorable Mayor Wendell Newkirk; Honorable Mayor Pro tempore Dee Turner; Commissioner Denise Lewis; Commissioner Bryan Stewart; Commissioner Gary Alsup**

**Town Clerk, Becky Lanier**

**Robert Kenan, Town Attorney**

**(Mayor Newkirk, 3 commissioners, Becky Lanier, Town Clerk and Robert Kenan, Town Attorney were in attendance)**

1. **Honorable Mayor Wendell Newkirk called the 06/30/2021 Regular Meeting to order.**
2. **Commissioner Gary Alsup led the prayer.**
3. **Commissioner Denise Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
* **06/03/2021 Regular Meeting : Motion Commissioner Brian Stewart 2nd Commissioner Gary Alsup Motion Carried 4-0**
* **06/24/2021 Budget Workshop Meeting : Motion Commissioner Denise Lewis 2nd Commissioner Bryan Stewart Motion Carried 4-0**
1. **Approval of the Agenda:**
* **Motion Commissioner Denise Lewis 2nd Commissioner Bryan Stewart Motion Carried 4-0**
1. **Public Comments:**
* **Penny Stith main concern is Code Red and where we stand with it. Also if monies are allocated to a specific line item and it doesn’t get used, does it get put back into the general fund? Fire Chief Jason Turner explained Code Red and where we are at this moment with it. Penny was advised that the monies allotted that are not used do go back into the general fund.**
* **Kelly Wade spoke on behalf of the recent Domestic Violence that happened in the Town of Atkinson. She also added that she was the one who placed the Memorial in the Park for the victims of domestic violence. Kelly said that she has to add three more names to the memorial and Brandi Prices name would be one of them. Kelly will also be providing information to the Town and to the Fire Department on domestic violence.**
1. **Jon Brewer spoke about a newspaper/news media article from 2019 about Pender County Sheriff’s Office partnering with the Town of Atkinson and putting a satellite office here within the Town Hall. Mr. Brewer states that there is no such of an office and nothing had been done about it. He was informed that there was one located in Town Hall.**
2. **Public Information:**
* **None**
1. **Public Hearing:**
* **For the 2021-2022 Budget General & Water**
* **The floor was opened up for the Public Hearing for the 2021-2022 Budget for the General and Water Fund. Some of the citizens were concerned about the park and the upgrades needed for it. Commissioner Dee Turner explained that she was working with someone who is upgrading another park and that we may have the option to obtain the playground equipment, she isn’t sure about the price at this time. Commissioner Dee Turner also added that the park needs a fall zone around the equipment.**
* **The Town of Atkinson is only receiving 89% of taxes owed to us.**
* **The Fire Department receives a fire tax of about $14,000.00 and Eddie Barnhill explained that these taxes are earmarked and restricted for the Fire Department.**
* **Powell Bill monies are to be spent only on Town roads and ditches NOT DOT RDs.**
* ***Commissioner Denise Lewis made the motion to accept the 2021-2022 Budget for the General Fund it was 2nd by Commissioner Bryan Stewart Motion Carried 4-0***
* ***Commissioner Denise Lewis made the motion to accept the 2021-2022 Budget for the Water Fund it was 2nd by Commissioner Gary Alsup Motion Carried 4-0***
1. **Fire Department: (Fire Chief Jason Turner)**
* **See Attachment**
* **Fire Department inspection in on September 8th. They are working hard to get things ready for this.**
* **Turner commented that we are working on Code Red.**
* **Bryson Stewart showed a piece of equipment that was just purchased by the AVFD. Fire Chief Jason Turner explained that the equipment was the Jaws of Life and what it was used for. He also explained that the cost of the piece of equipment was over $9000.00 and that the funds to purchase it came out of the fund raiser monies not the taxes collected.**
1. **Financial/Clerk Report: (Becky Lanier, Town Clerk)**
* **None**
1. **Library Report: Commissioner Gary Alsup(Becky Lanier gave report due to Gary’s absents)**
* **Cards 3**
* **Visitors 45**
* **Books 26**
1. **Maintenance Report: (Commissioner Bryan Stewart)**
* **See attached Envirolink Report**
* **Aaron Floyd gave a report on the tasks that he performed for the town.**
1. **Old Business:**
* **None**
1. **New Business:**
* **2020-2021 Budget Ordinance Amendment(s)**
* **Donald Sullivan vs. Town of Atkinson in State and Federal Court. Amendment total $8,925.00, Moore & Kenan total $2,550.00 and Marshall Williams & Gorham $6,375.00. *Motion to appropriate the sum of $8,925.00 from the Town’s General Fund and transfer such sum to the Legal Services Line Item within the 2020-2022 Budget and to increase the Legal Services Line Item within the 2021-2022 Budget by the sum of $8,925.00 and that this 2020-2021 Budget Ordinance Amendment shall become effective as of June 30, 2021 was made by Commissioner Dee Turner and 2nd by Commissioner Gary Alsup Motion Carried 4-0***
* **Moore & Kenan past due professional legal services that were rendered to the Town of Atkinson for July 2018 through June 2019 totaling $9,000.00 and July 2019 through June 2020 totaling $9,000.00 for a grand total of $18,000.00. *Motion to appropriate the sum of $18,000.00 from the Town’s General Fund and transfer such sum to the Legal Services Line Item within the 2020-2021 Budget and to increase the Legal Services Line Item within the 2020-2021 Budget by the sum of $18,000.00 and that this 2020-2021 Budget Ordinance Amendment shall become effective as of June 30, 2021 was made by Commissioner Dee Turner and 2nd By Bryan Stewart Motion Carried 4-0***
* **Resolution(s)**
* **The Town of Atkinson has previously failed to reconcile its public water enterprise general account ledger with its public water enterprise bank account over a period of fiscal years resulting in there being a difference of $8,441.00 between the amount shown on the Town’s public water enterprise general account ledger and the amount monies held within the Town’s public water enterprise general bank account this was based upon the advice of the Town’s Auditor Austin Eubanks to request that the Town of Atkinson’s governing body adopt a resolution. *Motion was made that the Town of Atkinson’s governing body authorizes the Town’s Finance Officer to write off the sum of $8,441.00 from the Town’s public water enterprise general account ledger so that the balance within the public water enterprise general ledger balances with the monies held within the Town’s public water enterprise bank account effective as of June 30, 2021 was made by Commissioner Dee Turner and 2nd by Commissioner Gary Alsup Motion Carried 4-0***
* **The Town of Atkinson has previously failed to reconcile its general ledger with its bank balance over a period of fiscal years resulting in there being a difference of $104,661.00 between the amount shown on the Town’s general ledger and the amount of monies held within the Town’s general bank account this was based upon the advice of the Town’s Auditor Austin Eubanks to request that the Town of Atkinson’s governing body adopt a resolution. *Motion was made that the Town of Atkinson’s governing body authorizes the Town’s Finance Officer to write off the sum of $104,661.00 from the Town’s general ledger so that the balance with in the general ledger balances with the monies held within the Town’s general bank account effective as of June 30, 2021 was made by Commissioner Dee Turner and 2nd by Commissioner Bryan Stewart Motion Carried 4-0***
* **Atkinson Fire Department Amendment**
* **Atkinson Fire Department has requested an Budget Amendment in the amount of $21,186.60 that was moved from FD General Fund Line Item to the Debit Service Line Item for the payoff of their 2008 International Pumper/Tanker this motion was made by Commissioner Bryan Stewart and 2nd by Commissioner Gary Alsup Motion Carried 4-0**

***Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Commissioner Denise Lewis and 2nd by Commissioner Gary Alsup Motion Carried 4-0 8:30pm***

***Motion to go out of Closed Session was made by Commissioner Dee Turner and 2nd by Commissioner Denise Lewis Motion Carried 4-0***

**After our closed session the board continued with our meeting.**

* **Board members brought up community issues and discussed what needed to be done.**
* **All complaints must be put into writing and the board must review it.**
* **The Board suggested that we ask the Sheriff to come and give a report about our area. Mayor Newkirk is going to get in touch with Sheriff Allen Cutler.**

***Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Commissioner Dee Turner, 2nd by Commissioner Gary Alsup Motion Carried 4-0***