

**Town of Atkinson**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**November 7, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

**Honorable Mayor Jason Spivey; Honorable Mayor Pro Tempore Bryan Stewart; Commissioner Denise Lewis; Commissioner Gary Alsup; Commissioner Penny Stith**

**Town Clerk, Becky Lanier**

**Town Attorney Robert Kenan**

**Attendance:**

**Mayor Jason Spivey - Absent**

**Mayor Pro-Tempore Bryan Stewart – Absent**

**Commissioner Denise Lewis**

**Commissioner Penny Stith**

**Commissioner Gary Alsup**

**Town Clerk/Finance Officer Becky Lanier**

**Town Attorney Robert Kenan**

- 1. Commissioner Gary Alsup called the 11/07/2024 Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm**
- 2. Commissioner Gary Alsup led the prayer.**
- 3. Commissioner Denise Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - 10/3/2024 Regular Meeting: Motion to approve the October 3, 2024, minutes was made by Commissioner Stith and seconded by Commissioner Lewis Motion Carried 3-0**
  - 09/17/2024 Special Meeting: Motion to approve the September 17, 2024, minutes was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Stith Motion Carried 3-0**
- 5. Approval of the Agenda:**
  - Motion to accept the agenda with changes was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Stith Motion Carried 3-0**

6. **Public Comment:**

- Pender County Sheriff Deputy Dorran expressed the need to have more deputy exposure in the town. Deputy Dorran is a K-9 officer and oversees all K-9 training. Deputy Dorran has asked if the town would be willing to let him use the towns grounds and facilities during the training period which will take place in February 2025. There will be approximately 30 officers and 20 dogs in the training class.
- Cassie Messer read a letter concerning the dismissal of Fire Chief Jason Turner.
- Linda Debose stated that she agreed with everything that Cassie Messer read in her letter.
- Jack Turner stated that he is disappointed in this group of people. He asked why Jason Turner was not included in any meetings. He also stated that he has been involved on town government for over 50 years and he hasn't ever seen anything like this, he is disappointed in the process that has taken place and will be getting a letter of resignation together to send to the planning board.
  - Attorney Robert Kenan informed Jack Turner that the governing board has the right to remove any department head of the town.

7. **Public Information:**

- Not currently.

8. **Financial/Clerk Report: (Becky Lanier, Town Clerk)**

- High water sign stands
  - *Commissioner Lewis made a motion to spend up to \$800.00 for the sign stands that cost \$45.00 seconded by Commissioner Stith and Motion carried 3-0*
- Insight Planning Contract Amendment
  - *Commissioner Stith made a motion to not sign the Insight Planning Contract Amendment \$5,000.00 seconded by Commissioner Lewis Motion Carried 3-0*
- Animal Control asked if they could set a post with an animal chip reader with instruction on what to do if someone finds a stray animal at the Town Hall.
  - *Commissioner Stith made a motion to allow Animal Control to proceed with placing the chip reader at Town Hall seconded by Commissioner Lewis Motion Carried 3-0*

9. **Old Business:**

- **Cafeteria:**
  - The next stage of the restoration is in the works.

- **NC State Budget:**
  - All paperwork had been completed and submitted. The Clerk will reach out to see where we are in the process of collecting the monies.
- **Christmas Parade:**
  - Is in full swing and is coming along.
- **Audit Discrepancies:**
  - Attorney Kenan sent the letter.

**10. New Business:**

- None currently.

**11. Inspections Department: (Inspector Louis Hesse)**

- **Building:**
  - Everything is quiet currently.
- **Fire Inspections:**
- **FEMA Ordinance: will need to have this approved at next board meeting.**

**12. Planning Director: (Gilbert Combs)**

- Mr. Combs will be reviewing the UDO and communicating with the board. Gilbert presented the board with UDO meeting dates. The Special Meetings are for the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners to discuss and go through the UDO's. The meeting dates are as follows November 21<sup>st</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> each meeting will begin at 6pm and last approximately one hour.
  - ***Commissioner Stith made a motion to adopt the special meeting dates November 21<sup>st</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> each meeting will begin at 6pm for the Unified Development Ordinance Seconded by Commissioner Lewis Motion Carried 3-0***

**13. Fire Department: (Fire Chief Jason Turner)**

- See attachment.
- No response on the information for the truck donation to Western NC Fire Department.

**14. Parks and Recreation: (Denise Lewis)**

- No update currently.

**15. Library Report: (Commissioner Gary Alsup and Commissioner Penny Stith)**

- Atkinson Library Monthly Report

**16. Maintenance Report: (Commissioner Bryan Stewart)**

- Mr. Cary Rivenbark Maintenance Supervisor asked to purchase a bagger for the mower. Mr. Cary had an estimate from White Tractor for \$1595.00 plus tax.
  - Commissioner Stith made a motion to purchase the bagger and to not spend over \$2000.00 Monies to come out of line item 1505120  
Commissioner Lewis seconded Motion Carried 3-0
- The ditch behind Town Hall needs the bulk heads repaired. We need estimates on the work to be done.

**Motion to go into Closed session was made by Commissioner Stith and seconded by Commissioner Lewis Motion Carried 3-0 Started 7:50pm**

**Motion to go out of closed session was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Stith Motion Carried 3-0 Ended 8:35pm**

**Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Commissioner Alsup seconded by Commissioner Stith Motion Carried 3-0 Meeting ended at 8:35pm**