



**Town of Atoka Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 10, 2026, 6:30 p.m.**

The invocation was led by Pastor Nathanael Taylor of First Baptist Church of Atoka. All present joined in the pledge to the flag.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Akin at 6:36 p.m.

The Town of Atoka Board of Mayor and Aldermen met with the following:

Present: Mayor Barry Akin, Aldermen Chris Detje, Brett Giannini, John Harber, Jessie Poole and Chris Schaeffer.

Also present: Town Administrator Marc Woerner, Town Recorder Rachel Covarrubias, Town Attorney Amber Shaw, Police Chief Anthony Rudolph, Fire Chief Bill Scott, Parks Director Dorothy Isbell, Public Works Director Wesley Yarbrough and attached list.

Absent: Alderman Jeremy Lightsey

Public Comment:

1. Henry Suter at 37 Vernon thanked the Town and staff for supporting the Scouts. Mr. Suter inquired about the property tax resolution. Mayor Akin explained that the legislatures bill requires a cap on property tax, the resolution is expressing concern about restricting municipal governance.
2. Stephanie Bohrman at 125 Adkison Circle thanked Park and Rec and the Sons of the American Revolution for the dedication of the Liberty Tree. Mrs. Bohrman also spoke on personal heritage and encouraged celebration of Atoka and the United States.

Consent Agenda – Exhibits A through Exhibit K – Alderman Poole made a motion to approve the consent agenda except for Exhibit F. Alderman Schaeffer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution 26-03-01 – Affirming Local Control Over Property Taxes – Exhibit B – Alderman Poole made a motion in the consent agenda to approve. Alderman Schaeffer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution 26-03-02 – Modifying ARPA Spending Plan – Exhibit C – Alderman Poole made a motion in the consent agenda to approve. Alderman Schaeffer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution 26-03-03 – Grant Applications – Exhibit D – Alderman Poole made a motion in the consent agenda to approve. Alderman Schaeffer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution 26-03-04 – Benefits/Broker Consultant – Exhibit E – Alderman Poole made a motion in the consent agenda to approve. Alderman Schaeffer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Ordinance 26-03-01 – Final Consideration – Solid Waste Fees – Exhibit L – The Board had no objection to reading the ordinance by title only. The Town Recorder read the ordinance by title only. Alderman Detje made a motion to approve the ordinance on final consideration. Alderman Harber seconded the motion. Roll call: Detje-yes, Harber-yes, Giannini-yes, Schaeffer-no, Poole-yes, Lightsey-absent. Motion carried.





New Business:

Financial and Sales Tax Report – Exhibit F – Alderman Poole made a motion to approve as presented. Alderman Giannini seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Proclamation – Blue and Green Day – Mid-South Transplant – Exhibit M – Mayor Akin read the proclamation declaring the month of April be observed as Blue and Green Month.

Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention – Exhibit N – Mayor Akin advised that the proclamation will be presented at the April meeting.

Mayoral Appointment to Planning Commission – Don Schwartz – Mayor Akin appointed Don Schwartz to the vacant Planning Commission seat that was previously filled by Vicki Shipley who has retired.

Fire Apparatus Debt Report – Exhibit O – The Board reviewed the fire apparatus debt. No action needed, for information only.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

1. **Ordinance – First Consideration – FY26 Budget Amendment – Exhibit P** – The Board had no objection to reading the ordinance by title only. The Town Recorder read the ordinance by title only. Alderman Detje made a motion to approve the ordinance on first consideration. Alderman Poole seconded the motion. Roll call: Poole-yes, Schaeffer-yes, Giannini-yes, Harber-yes, Detje-yes, Lightsey-absent. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items from the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, Town Administrator

1. Mayor Akin informed the Board and citizens of the Liberty Tree dedication at Pioneer Park will take place on March 13th, at 11 am. The Food Truck Fest will be held at Nancy Lane Park March 14th from 11am – 5pm with an egg hunt and the Easter Bunny from 13:30pm – 2:30pm. There will be a giving away 2 tree saplings per household or until gone at the Scout Hut on March 21st.
2. Alderman Detje inquired about what needs to be done for the Fire Department to purchase turnout gear. Chief Scott requested the funds that were originally allocated for Station 2 concrete in the amount of \$56,582 to be reallocated to the purchase of turnout gear.
3. Alderman Harber made a motion to allocate the funds for Fire Department savings. Alderman Detje seconded the motion. Alderman Harber rescinded the original motion. Alderman Poole made a motion to authorize the purchase of up to 12 sets within this current budget year. Alderman Detje seconded the motion. Aldermen Detje, Harber, Poole and Schaeffer-yes. Alderman Harber-no. Alderman Lightsey-absent. Motion carried.
4. Alderman Detje asked that everyone keep our service men and women that are currently in harms way in your thoughts and prayers.
5. Administrator Woerner informed the Board of the following: if the Board could please utilize the microphones to ensure that anyone watching online can hear. The new Town app for the website is now live and able to be downloaded on both Apple and Android devices. Staff is requesting direction from the Board on a new timekeeping system that would essentially be a function of clocking in and out as well as scheduling. If the Board chooses to approve the agreement before March 31st the payment \$9,800 will not be required until FY27. Alderman Poole made

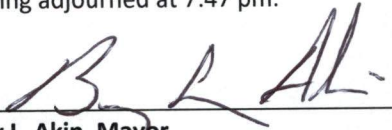


Town of **ATOKA**

a motion to approve with all costs being deducted out of the Finance and Administration budget. Alderman Giannini seconded the motion. Aldermen Poole, Giannini and Schaeffer-yes. Aldermen Detje and Harber-no. Alderman Lightsey-absent

6. Alderman Giannini informed the Board and citizens that the Tipton County EMA has a new alert system that has replaced Code Red. To receive the alerts, you go to titponco.com, there is no sign up required, scan the QR code and you will be able to receive weather alerts.

Alderman Harber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Schaeffer seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.


Barry L. Akin, Mayor


Rachel Covarrubias, Town Recorder

