



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 10, 2024 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor Pro Tem Doug Shelton, Council Member John Linker, Council Member Laurie Mack, Council Member Rich Luhrs

Staff: Interim Town Manager/Fire Chief/Public Works Director Jason Hord; Town Clerk Aubrey Smith; Town Attorney Zachary Moretz; Finance Officer Shelly Shockley; Police Chief Mark Cook; Planning, Zoning, and Subdivision Administrator Richard Flowe

Call to Order: Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Moment of Silence: Mayor Barnhardt led a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Barnhardt.

1. Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

- 1) Regular Meeting May 13, 2024
- 2) Budget Workshop May 21, 2024
- 3) Budget Workshop May 22, 2024

B. Departmental Reports

C. Financial Reports

D. Reappointments – CAC, PB, & ZBA

E. Contract with Eddie Carrick, CPA, PC for audit of accounts for FY 23-24

F. Resolution for ABC Designated Official

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to approve (*the consent agenda*). Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

4. Town Manager's Update

Manager Hord shared highlights from the Town Manager's Update in the agenda packet. He and the planning department have had several meetings regarding potential projects. Manager Hord gave kudos to Finance Officer Shockley who has been working to upgrade vendors to ACH payments after initiating the process and working with FMS and F&M to get it up and running. Manager Hord

commended the Fire and Police departments for collaboration on a joint training on forced entry. The Planning Board looked at Granite Quarry's sphere of influence and began review of Article 8. The roof of the Civic Park shelter was repaired recently. Office Assistant Debbie Loflin-Benge has been working hard on the upcoming staff appreciation event and had over 50 people sign up. The resident dumpster event was successful with more participants than last year. Code enforcement vendors will be transitioning this month.

Stewart prepared a bid package for the parking lot repairs of the Civic Park. Manager Hord suggested that if the Council was not ready to move on the project, it should be held until the PARTF grant results are known, but will put it out for bid if the Council desires. There was discussion on whether the cost could be taken out of Transformational Projects. Finance Officer Shockley stated it could be completed using the funds within the Transformational Projects and reminded the Council that there were contingency funds available as well. There was a consensus from the Council to put the project out for bid.

5. Public Hearing **Budget FY 24-25**

A. Staff Summary on Budget Message

Manager Hord summarized the budget message as presented and pointed out that, per the Council's direction, the drafted version did not reflect any increase in the tax rate but did include an increase in the Environmental Fee from \$12 to \$13. Manager Hord reviewed capital outlay items and restated that no funds would be budgeted for capital reserve.

B. Public Hearing

- 1) Opened: Mayor Barnhardt opened the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.
 - There were no comments from the public.
- 2) Closed: Mayor Barnhardt closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.

C. Council Discussion and Decision

Council members discussed their individual opinions on the proposed budget.

Council Member Linker stated he would like discussion on whether to put money into the Capital Reserve fund. He stated he was still in favor of a two-cent increase based on projects that need to be completed in the town.

Mayor Barnhardt stated that based on the increases in operational expenses over the last year, a two-cent increase wouldn't even cover the difference.

Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stated, assuming a reasonable increase in operational costs in the next year, the next budget would need more than \$300,000 which would require a seven-cent increase. He suggested leaving it like it is this year and then preparing the public over the next year for a large increase for the fire truck. He was opposed to making any changes to the proposed budget.

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to adopt Budget Ordinance 2024-03 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Shelton, Council Member Luhrs, and Council Member Mack in favor and Council Member Linker opposed.

Old Business

6. Consideration of Regular Meeting Schedule Change

Manager Hord summarized the item continued from the May meeting. He stated that the town's planning consultant would be available the second Thursday of each month. Manager Hord stated he did review the contract per Council Member Luhrs's request and there was no requirement for meetings mentioned.

Council members discussed different options for meetings to try to resolve or mitigate the conflict. Council Member Luhrs requested a commitment to attend Council meetings be reflected in the N-Focus contract.

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to amend the regular meeting schedule by changing the day of the regular meetings to the second Thursday of each month beginning in July 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1 with Council members Luhrs, Linker, and Mack in favor and Mayor Pro Tem Shelton opposed.

New Business

7. Training and Travel Request **Council Member Mack, NC BEMO Conference**

Council Member Mack submitted a request for training and travel related to the upcoming NC BEMO Conference for Council approval per the policy. Clerk Smith pointed out that two separate amounts were listed for the hotel expenses for either a two-day or three-day hotel stay for the Council to consider.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve Council Member Mack's request for travel and training at the NC BEMO Conference with a two-day hotel stay. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

8. Consideration and Possible Action **Master Sign Plan Approval – Granite Ind. Park**

Manager Hord summarized the request submitted on behalf of the town for the Granite Industrial Park sign.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion (*to adopt the Master Sign Plan Approval for Granite Industrial Park as presented*). Mayor Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

9. Budget Amendment **Civic Park Shelter Roof**

Mayor Barnhardt stated that updates had been sent out and the Council was familiar with the necessity for the request.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #8 for the Civic Park roof repairs as requested. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

10. Proclamation **Juneteenth**

Mayor Barnhardt recognized the proclamation for Juneteenth included in the agenda packet.

11. Council Comments – There were no Council comments.

12. Announcements and Date Reminders

A.	Wednesday	June 12	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Executive Board
B.	Wednesday	June 12	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
C.	Thursday	June 13	6:00 p.m.	Rowan Municipal Association

D. Friday	June 14	8:00 a.m.	Mayor's Roundtable
E. Sunday	June 16		Father's Day
F. Wednesday	June 19		Juneteenth
G. Thursday	June 20	7:30 a.m.	Chamber Power in Partnership Breakfast
H. Wednesday	June 26	5:30 p.m.	CRMPO TAC Meeting
I. Monday	July 1	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
J. Monday	July 1	6:15 p.m.	Board of Adjustment
K. Tuesday	July 2	5:30 p.m.	Events Committee
L. Thursday	July 4		Independence Day – Town Offices Closed

13. Closed Session

ACTION: Council Member Mack made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege. Council Member Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The Council went into closed session at 6:51 p.m.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to return to open session. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The Council returned to open session at 8:21 p.m.

No action was taken in closed session.

Adjournment

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk