



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY  
TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
STRATEGIC PLANNING  
Thursday, October 24, 2024 2:00 p.m.**

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

**Staff:** Town Manager/Fire Chief Jason Hord; Town Clerk Aubrey Smith; Interim Police Chief Todd Taylor; Public Works Director Colton Fries

**Call to Order:** Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 1:59 p.m.

**1. Goals and Objectives of Session                      Manager Hord**

Manager Hord addressed the Council and stated that the goal of the meeting was to discuss current projects and to provide the Council with progress updates.

**2. Current Strategic Goal Progress                      Manager Hord**

Manager Hord reviewed the current strategic goals and reviewed the indicators of progress for each.

**A. Growth**

The GQDO is complete. Staff has been promoting proactive community engagement. There has been increased visibility of the PD in the community. Retaining staff has been successful overall.

**B. Parks and Recreation**

Phase I of the Civic Park parking lot is complete. The design phase of the Civic Park remodel is underway. The PARTF grant award is an excellent starting point for funding the park improvements. The initiation of private partnerships is underway. There was discussion on the signature event, The Granite Fest, and how well it went this year.

**C. Economic Development**

The Town has adopted a Master Plan and a Bike and Pedestrian plan in recent years. Reactivating the Merchants' Association remains a goal. The Granite Industrial Park sign plan and cost estimate have been received. The non-annexation agreement with Salisbury was completed and growth is happening. There is a need to discuss non-annexation agreements with Faith, East Spencer, and Rockwell. The Council completed an incentive agreement with Amrep.

**D. Community Engagement / Communication**

Internal communications have improved. The mid-week update emails from Manager Hord have been well-received. The town-run Facebook page has launched. Newsletters are being sent out quarterly. Volunteers are engaged and active. The Police Department's annual participation in National Night Out has resumed.

**3. Current Project/Goals Tracking                      Manager Hord**

Manager Hord handed out the project tracking spreadsheet and pointed out specific items. Council members would like completed projects to be shown as well. Mayor Barnhardt stated a desire to have projects addressing the community outreach and engagement strategic goal.

**4. Goals and Initiatives from RMA                      Mayor Barnhardt**

Mayor Barnhardt updated the Council on the conversation at the last Rowan Municipal Association meeting regarding goals and initiatives. Each municipality will submit 1 to 3 large-scale projects to put in a portfolio that will be a living document for state leaders to reference if funding opportunities arise. Ideas discussed for featured projects included the Town Hall upgrades (specifically Police Department expansion as a phase), Civic Park creek/stormwater improvements, industrial park growth, downtown development, and a potential project for sidewalk repairs throughout town and extension on Bank Street/Legion Club Road and South Main Street. It was agreed that a common problem throughout the state is Powell Bill funding.

**5. Capital Improvement Plan Review                      Manager Hord**

Manager Hord stated one of the largest things that is requested and/or required when seeking grants is a Capital Improvement Plan. He proposed putting a plan in place that showed 5-to-10-year items. A capital budget (capital reserve fund) is necessary to fund the plan. There was Council consensus to begin developing a Capital Improvement Plan.

**6. Police Fleet Assessment Update                      Interim Chief Taylor**

Interim Chief Taylor spoke on the request to remove 161 and 172 from rotation in the Police Department's fleet of vehicles. He stated the cost is roughly \$60,000 per vehicle for the desired 2024 Ford Interceptors. Two would get the department back on track on the replacement schedule, three would be ideal. After discussion regarding growth and future needs, there was Council consensus to order two vehicles. A budget amendment will be placed on the November meeting agenda.

**7. Street Sign Initiative Update                      Manager Hord & Director Fries**

Manager Hord displayed the street sign design to the Council and stated a budget amendment would be necessary to purchase the signs in the current budget year. The Council stated a desire to increase the font size of the "Granite Quarry". There was a consensus to place a budget amendment on the November meeting agenda.

**Special Request**

Manager Hord stated that a request had been received to allow sheep to graze on the Town's Faith Road property. Mayor Barnhardt stated a desire for Manager Hord to consult with the Town Attorney and bring an update back to the Council.

**8. Town Council Comments**

- Council Member Linker stated a need for an architect to revisit the old drawings to see if they meet the current space needs.
- Mayor Pro Tem Shelton suggested a meeting a future meeting solely to plan for future resources.
- Mayor Barnhardt shared a few ideas:
  - Staff appreciation lunch/breakfast open to committee members and community partners
  - Land acquisitions and partnerships for industrial park
  - Police department official contract (3- or 5-year plan) with Faith; Long-range plan and forecasting growth

- CAC block work or beautification projects
- Town Hall security upgrades (key card or fob)
- GQ SOLID choice award for recognition of the embodiment of GQ SOLID values at Council meetings
- Council Member Linker stated a need to keep up with code enforcement and make it a priority. He stressed an emphasis on items that would improve on quality of life.
- Council Member Luhrs stated a desire to do a tour of town parks and properties. He stated a need to discuss acquisition and sale of property.
- Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stated there was still a need to develop a Friends of the Park committee.
- Council Member Mack stated a desire to get involved with Rowan-Salisbury Community of Schools upcoming events. She will send the information about getting involved next year.

### **Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Council Member Luhrs made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting ended at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Aubrey Smith*

Town Clerk