



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, February 12, 2024 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor Pro Tem Doug Shelton, Alderwoman Laurie Mack, Alderman Rich Luhrs

**Not Present:** Alderman John Linker

**Staff:** Acting 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, Police Sergeant Richard Tester

**Call to Order:** Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 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:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to approve the agenda with the exclusion of item 6. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**2. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of the Minutes**

1) Regular Meeting January 8 & 16, 2024

**B. Departmental Reports**

**C. Financial Reports**

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**3. Public Comments** – There were no public comments.

**4. Town Manager's Update**

Acting Town Manager Jason Hord shared highlights from the Town Manager's Update in the agenda packet including the status of the Granite Industrial sign, the wayfinding initiative, and the ongoing employment climate survey. He shared that there had been 146 replies to the Civic Park feedback survey. The goal is 150 responses. The survey will remain open through the end of the week.

## Old Business

### 5. Resolution Intent to Amend Charter and Set Public Hearing

Clerk Smith shared that the Resolution before the Board was drafted after the Board stated a desire to amend the charter by updating the name of the Board of Aldermen to “Town Council” and by changing the term of the mayor from two years to four years. The term limit change would take effect at the 2025 election. The Resolution, once adopted, will serve to notify the public of the Board’s intent to make the amendments to the charter and set a date for a public hearing at the next regular Board meeting, March 11, 2024, for members of the public to comment on the changes. Alderwoman Mack asked whether the clerk reporting to the Board had been added as a potential amendment. It was clarified that change was not allowed by ordinance and would need to be legislative. Mayor Barnhardt stated that she had reached out to local legislators and that to make that change a letter of intent from the town needed to be sent in prior to them going into short session.

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01 expressing intent to amend the charter and set a date for a public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

### ~~6. Discussion~~ ~~Town Manager Evaluation Process~~

## New Business

### 7. Ordinance Abatement 412 Lake Drive

Acting Manager Hord shared that Alliance Code Enforcement LLC, the town’s code enforcement contractor, had been asked to present but was not in attendance. ACE went through every step in the code enforcement process for the property in question without resolution. The next step in the process is to adopt the ordinance for abatement and tear down the structure. The costs would be passed through to the property owner.

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-02 to proceed to effectuate the purpose of the Granite Quarry Minimum Housing Code and GS 160D-1201. Alderman Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

### 8. Discussion and Possible Decision Board Branded Apparel

Mayor Barnhardt shared that she had spoken to Acting Manager Hord and suggested moving the discussion on the item to the planning retreat or budget sessions. There was Board consensus to discuss Board apparel during future planning retreat meetings.

### 9. Budget Amendment FY#4 Governing Body

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve Budget Amendment FY#4 as presented. Alderman Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

### 10. Budget Amendment FY#5 Legion Building Structural Inspection

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to approve Budget Amendment FY#5 as presented. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Acting Manager Hord shared that results from the inspection should be available by the February 22, 2024 Planning Retreat.

**11. Agreement**

**Municipal Agreement for TAP**

Acting Manager Hord summarized the project and purpose of the agreement and invited CRMPO representative Phil Conrad to provide more information. Mr. Conrad shared that there would be an 80% reimbursement for all facets of the project with the Town agreeing to administer the project and the DOT providing oversight. Board discussion included questions and clarification on the costs and project specifics.

Mayor Barnhardt invited Attorney Moretz to share concerns he had after reviewing the contract. His concerns included the length of the contract and large number of unknowns. He cautioned the Board to be cognizant of everything that could go wrong. Other specific areas of concern were the railroad crossing and right-of-way acquisition piece.

Finance Officer Shockley reminded the Board that the transfer to the CPO had previously been approved.

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to approve the Municipal Agreement for the Transportation Alternative Project for the Park Connection Sidewalk and authorize the Town Manager to execute. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**12. Proclamation**

**Black History Month**

Mayor Barnhardt recognized the proclamation for Black History Month.

**13. Board Comments**

- Mayor Barnhardt shared that last month at the MPO meeting a Board of Transportation member, Carl Ford, and Harry Warren were all present. Mayor Barnhardt also stated she would like the Board to consider scheduling a brief strategic planning overview since the item hadn't been visited at the previous meeting. She will reach out to Board members regarding availability. Mayor Barnhardt reminded Board members and the public that TAPs in the Park takes place every first Friday at Granite Lake Park. Mayor Barnhardt shared that March 6<sup>th</sup> the Town and State dinner is taking place at the Speedway Club and invited Board members to attend if they were interested. March 8<sup>th</sup> is the next Mayors' Roundtable.

**14. Announcements and Date Reminders**

<b>A.</b>	Wednesday	February 14	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
<b>B.</b>	Thursday	February 15	7:30 a.m.	Chamber Power in Partnership Breakfast
<b>C.</b>	Monday	February 19	6:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
<b>D.</b>	Wednesday	February 21	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Board of Delegates Meeting
<b>E.</b>	Thursday	February 22	9:00 a.m.	Planning Retreat
<b>F.</b>	Thursday	February 22	5:30 p.m.	Events Committee
<b>G.</b>	Saturday	February 24	9:00 a.m.	Crepe Myrtle Workshop – Civic Park
<b>H.</b>	Wednesday	February 28	5:30 p.m.	CRMPO TAC Meeting
<b>I.</b>	Monday	March 4	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
<b>J.</b>	Tuesday	March 5	6:30 a.m.	Primary Elections
<b>K.</b>	Wednesday	March 6	5:15 p.m.	Town and State Dinner
<b>L.</b>	Friday	March 8		Mayors' Roundtable

**15. Closed Session**

**Personnel**

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss the performance of an individual public officer or employee. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 -0.

*The Board went into closed session at 6:54 p.m.*

*The Board came out of closed session at 7:29 p.m.*

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to return to open session. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to amend Larry Smith's last day of employment to March 9, 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

### **Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Aubrey Smith*

Town Clerk