



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, February 5, 2018**

**Present:** Mayor Bill Feather, Mayor Pro Tem Jim LaFevers, Alderman Jim Costantino, Alderman John Linker, and Alderman Kim Cress

**Staff:** Mr. Phil Conrad – Town Manager, Ms. Tanya Word – Town Clerk/HR Officer, Mr. Scott Stewart – Deputy Clerk/Finance/HR Analyst, Mr. Jason Hord – Maintenance Supervisor, Ms. Shelly Shockley – Finance Analyst/Event Coordinator, Mr. Travis Barnhardt – Deputy Fire Chief, Mr. Wayne Trivett – Police Sergeant, Mr. Murphy Corl – Police Officer, Mr. Graham Corriher – Town Attorney

**Guests:** Mr. Mark Wineka, Mr. Zach Huddleston, Mrs. Sandra Shell, Mr. Ed Shell, Ms. Ashleigh Duncan, Ms. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Mike Brinkley, Mr. Jason Smith, Ms. Vonda Jenkins-Kimrey, Mr. Robert Anderson, Ms. Mary Ponds

**Call to Order:** Mayor Feather called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Moment of Silence:** Mayor Feather opened the meeting with a moment of silence. Mayor Feather also mentioned that there is a Granite Quarry Firefighter in the hospital with a medical issue and asked that he be kept in prayers.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Zach Huddleston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**ACTION:** Alderman Linker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

**ACTION:** Alderman Linker made a motion to approve the consent agenda with exception of the Maintenance Report. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Jason Hord reviewed the Maintenance Report for January as presented with the agenda. Mr. Conrad asked for an update on the bay door in the Fire Department. Mr. Hord explained that there was an accident that damaged the lower panel of the first bay door. Perry's Overhead Door has replaced the damaged panel and it is fully functional now.

Alderman Cress inquired about the reason for removal of rose bushes at the Town Square. Mr. Hord replied that there have been several residents that reached out to Town Hall and to him

personally regarding lack of visibility of oncoming traffic at the intersection due to the rose bushes. They have been transplanted to the Police Department side of Town Hall. Alderman Linker stated that the planters were going to be removed at some point as Downtown Revitalization plans involving that intersection would be placing something there more identifiable to the Town. Mayor Feather added that there are plans to update the traffic lights at that may require elimination of two of the planters anyway, and the Revitalization Team is working on a plan to place something else there that will be aesthetically pleasing for the Town. Phil Conrad also mentioned that Fire Truck 571 is in need of a part that was ordered and should be operational within the next week.

**ACTION:** Alderman Linker made a motion to approve the Maintenance Report as presented. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Citizen Comments:** Mayor Feather opened the floor for citizen comments, stating that there were three citizens signed up to speak.

Jason Smith presented an award making the following statement:

*Throughout the year the Hot Dog Shack and F&M Bank will team up to recognize members of the community here in Granite Quarry that contribute to efforts to make Granite Quarry a better place to visit, a better place to work, and a better place to live. This recipient is no stranger to this community. She is described by her friends and co-workers as a person whose leadership skills encourage others to follow her lead. Described as the most kind-hearted person that you will ever meet, by always putting others' needs before herself. The qualities of loyal, determined, kind, and patient were mentioned often when being asked about this leader. As the PTA President, she was in charge of organizing this year's Walkathon to celebrate 100 years of Granite Quarry Elementary School. It is my honor to present this Community First Award to Ms. Julie Humphries.*

Ms. Humphries accepted the award and made the following statement:

*It was a few years ago a couple of ladies back here convinced me to be a part of PTA and reluctantly I thought 'is this really going to be something that takes up my time?'. I have to say, like these ladies have heard me say a thousand times, that this is the most rewarding thing that I have ever done in my life. I'm fortunate to work with a group of fantastic ladies that make this so easy and so fun, and the people at Granite Quarry Elementary along with the community here, have just been a pleasure to work with. I couldn't work for a better Town and a better group of people than who I have grown up with all my life with here, and the new friends I have made here at the PTA. I really appreciate the award and it's just been a wonderful experience.*

Mayor Feather mentioned that the award was not shown on the agenda to make it a surprise.

Aubrey Smith made the following comments:

*My name is Aubrey Smith and I live at 606 Mulberry Lane. I would like to address the removal of the basketball hoops from the Granite Civic Park and whether the removal is temporary or permanent. If the removal is permanent, I'd like to know what we'll be replacing them with. My main concern is that for the Town of Granite Quarry to attract young families and sustain growth, we have to have things here that young people like to do. On the other hand, I do know that when we deal with having something in our Town that attracts adolescents, that we have to have a plan and certain interventions in place to deal with adolescent behavior. So, I just wanted to get that conversation started and maybe hear what the plan was for that area.*

Vonda Jenkins-Kimrey made the following comments:

*Good evening everyone. My name is Vonda Jenkins-Kimrey and I live on 621 Mulberry Lane. I am also here, as Aubrey is, to further some discussion, to find out more information about the removal of the poles at the basketball court that I find quite odd. I've driven by there several times because it's right in my neighborhood and there's poles there, and they want to have those removed. It doesn't make any sense to me. If we remove the poles because of whatever the stated reasons are, I can only imagine that it's because of adolescents not behaving the way they want to be. So, if you look at our park, over here's the volleyball and our picnic tables. Are we going to take those out because of bad behavior? Are we going to pull up the park benches because of bad behavior? What are we doing as our Town? Are we doing community watches if it's that bad? Have there been arrests? Have there been citations? Were these male, female, black, white? What were the issues? How is the community addressing that? Again, community watches. We have a Sherriff that lives across from those two poles now. What are we doing? I'd like to know that.*

Alderman Linker requested information about the reason the basketball goals were removed. Mayor Feather stated that the basketball goals had been removed on a previous occasion because there were issues of foul language, drug use, and other problems. After several years the decision was made to try putting the goals up again. These attract people from outside the community because there are not many places to play basketball in the county. Each time the goals are put back up, the area seems to develop the same problems with drug use and foul language again. There have been several complaints from citizens who try to use the park. This decision has been left under the Town Manager's discretion. Phil Conrad expressed that he was never comfortable taking opportunities away from young people, but he thought it was necessary to remove them to alleviate some of the current problems. Mayor Feather suggested getting recommendations about what should be done with the basketball court from the Parks and Recreation Board. Mayor Feather then requested an explanation of the issues around the basketball court from the Police Department.

Sergeant Wayne Trivett reviewed some of the issues that had occurred at the basketball court including alcohol containers found in waste cans, gang members from outside the community instigating fights with children who live in Granite Quarry, foul language, and suspected drug use. Sergeant Trivette reported that the last time the basketball goals were removed was after a gang member had knocked a man unconscious that was at the park while in town on military leave. The bathroom doors at the park were recently damaged badly enough to warrant replacement. At this time the shorter basketball goals for children have been left up.

Mayor Feather stated that he would like to see the goals back up at some point, but taking the goals down was the easiest way to relieve the situation. The Board of Aldermen agreed to review suggestions from the Parks and Recreation Board on what to do with the basketball court as a long-term solution.

**Guests and Presentations:** A representative of the Cold Storage project presented the following:

*Thank you for allowing us to speak. Good evening to everybody here in the Town. I am a representative of an industrial company. We are interested in building a cold storage facility here in the Town of Granite Quarry. We're trying to take an innovative approach in partnering with the Town of Granite Quarry. Hopefully with that concept we're looking to bring in 19 careers with phase one. Phase two we want to double that. For those of you that are not familiar with cold storages, there is a need statewide, not only statewide, but nationwide. You're familiar with names like Tyson, Case Farms right here in Morganton, chicken producers who produce their product and in turn have to store it. That need is great right now. Tyson builds their own facility, and their facility is at capacity. You've got local companies that are having to go out of state to find somewhere to store their product, then redistribute it right back to the same towns that they produced it in. So that's what we're looking to do, to come in and as the Mayor has said, we've been working on this project for eight years. We are at the brink of this project going forward and being done. Again, I hope to partner with the Town of Granite and we can continue to grow. I think this is something good for the community, we're excited about it, and I think it will be something great. It will put Granite on the map. That's something that everyone is looking for, there is a need for it, and I think it will be a great starting point for us. Thank you again for the opportunity.*

Mayor Feather thanked the representative for speaking and added the following:

*The industrial park has been an ongoing project working with Rowan County for several years. A request was recently forwarded to the county seeking a 60' by 600' land parcel be given to the Town to provide access to parcel 404-417 for an access road or extension to Chamandy Drive. Granite Quarry has presented the proposal to Rowan County jointly developing the area along Heilig Road and Faith Roads. Rowan County was working on grants for improvements of Chamandy Drive, water line extensions, and street lighting. We worked on that together. The Town of Granite Quarry proposed to allow water taps for the Gildan expansion, which we did. We adopted and maintain Chamandy Drive. That was one of the things whenever the road was put in, it was a state road, but only towns can maintain streets, counties can't, so that was one of the reasons we were involved. We extended the water line to the proposed Village at Granite subdivision and acquired parcel 404-147 and we acquired that by gift of the Town because of the water line and the development for Village at Granite and that was the adjacent property to the subdivision of the industrial park. The county would have requested voluntary annexation as part of the agreement along Heilig Road and give the property for access to parcel 404-417 when acquired. Granite Quarry acquired that property on August 2, 2017 and was deeded to the Town of Granite Quarry.*

*The Town of Granite Quarry has fulfilled all of the proposed items of understanding at this time and would like to formally request the property access. The Town of Granite Quarry has invested over \$500,000 of infrastructure in that area and that benefits both the Town*

*and the County and a tax base of 250 residential homes and commercial development. The Town now has a potential business that would like to locate on this site and access is imperative to continue discussions. They would like to have this property to use and purchase it from us. In that request we cannot do too much until we have access to that property, so what we're doing is requesting access to the property so we can work with this. So, in consideration of this request, and the continuing relationship of the development of Granite Industrial Park, we are formally requesting that access. We have sent that to the County Commissioners for request, and also our Board Members have it, so basically what we're doing we're trying to help this development along with allowing a piece of property to be purchased and gain access to it, which is what the County agreed to do before we started this several years ago. I would hope the County would grant that. It's an expansion of an industrial park; bringing jobs, businesses, and things in an area where it fits.*

There is not a known time frame for Rowan County to respond to the request for access to the property. Alderman Linker suggested that maybe there needs to be a meeting with the County Commissioners. Mayor Feather has plans to meet with the County Chairman and hopes to review the matter at that time.

### **Town Manager's Update**

#### **2018 Board Retreat Update:**

Mr. Conrad expressed excitement about the upcoming Board Retreat, also stating that the agenda was nearly finalized. The department heads have been working on information for the annual capital improvement program. Mr. Conrad stated that as soon as all information is compiled it will be shared with the Board in preparation for the retreat. There will be a couple of outside speakers for the retreat and there also will be presentations from staff. Day one is Friday and will be primarily focused on presenting information and Saturday will be more ongoing discussion with the Board. Alderman Linker requested a flipchart and tape to post ideas on the wall as they are discussed. Mr. Conrad agreed that would be a good idea, particularly for Saturday, to assist with mapping out key issues and developing consensus.

#### **Action Needed: Policy Change**

A memo was presented from the Town Clerk reviewing the Bereavement Policy of the Town. There have been recent occasions to purchase flowers for funerals. The current funds allowed for flower purchases did not reflect inflationary cost of flowers. The request is to increase the threshold for bereavement flowers from \$65 to \$100 and flowers for those hospitalized from \$30 to \$40.

**ACTION:** Alderman Linker made a motion to approve the Bereavement Policy modification as presented. Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

#### **Contract for Accounting Services of Martha Cranford:**

Mr. Conrad presented a contract proposal with Martha Cranford, who is a professor at Rowan Cabarrus Community College. Ms. Cranford would assist Shelly Shockley with the transition to the bookkeeping role and reviewing finance records of the Town during this transition. The contract covers her service for two to three hours per week over a six-month period. Alderman LaFevers confirmed with the Manager that funds were available in the budget to cover the cost. Mayor Feather added that Shelly is more of a bookkeeper and Ms. Cranford is a resource with more of a Finance background.

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers made a motion to approve the proposal from Martha Cranford as presented. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

## Old Business

### a. Fisher/Brinkley Property Update

Mr. Conrad, after direction from the January Board Meeting, spoke with Mr. David Brinkley. Mr. Paul Fisher had offered his part ownership of the property to the Town. Mr. Brinkley indicated that at this point he was not interested in donating his portion of the ownership to the Town. The Board discussed potential options regarding the offer of donation of half ownership of the property.

**ACTION:** Alderman Cress made a motion that the Town not accept the donation. Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mayor Feather requested that the Town Manager explain the decision not to accept the donation to Mr. Fisher.

### b. Board Direction on Potential Property Sale of Town Sport Field

There is a letter of interest from Mr. Marcel Renn regarding purchase of the Town Sports Field property. Alderman Linker asked if the property was going to be developed or if it was needed by the Town. Mayor Feather explained that the initial intent for that property was to contribute a location for youth activities. Alderman Costantino mentioned he would like to hear from Arin Wilhelm on the matter. Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers suggested that the Granite Quarry Athletic Association meet with the Park and Recreation Committee and plan what to present to the Board at a future meeting before consideration of any alternatives for that property. Alderman Cress expressed concern about security and restrooms for the athletic field. The Board decided to take no action at this time with the possibility of revisiting the issue in the Fall.

## New Business & Action Items:

### a. Action Needed: Change to Required Signatures on F&M Accounts

The account signatures will be Mayor Feather, Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers, Tanya Word – Town Clerk, and Scott Stewart – Deputy Clerk.

**ACTION:** Alderman Costantino made a motion that we adopt the signature cards as presented. Alderman Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

### b. Action Needed: Accept the Locally Administered Project - State Contingency Agreement between NCDOT and Granite Quarry (WBS: 47726)

This project is regarding upgrade to Veronica Lane and requires input and signatures of the residents on construction easements.

**ACTION:** Alderman Linker made a motion to accept the project. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**c. Action Needed: Accept the Locally Administered Project – State Contingency Agreement between NCDOT and Granite Quarry (WBS: 47727)**

This project is for improvements on Highway 52. This is funding from NCDOT and requires no funding from the Town. This will improve curbs and sidewalks. There is nothing in NCDOT funding for the planting strip between sidewalk and curb, so that part will involve a cost to the Town.

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers made a motion to accept the project. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**d. Action Needed: Disposal of Maintenance Surplus Property**

The Maintenance Department had three items listed including a Giant Leaf Vacuum, a Staples paper shredder that no longer works, and a Delta bench grinder that was an issue during a safety inspection. Mr. Hord explained that the damage to the leaf vacuum was to the shaft, but the motor would run. The Giant unit is outdated and there could be safety issues with repairing it and continuing to use it. Mr. Hord also mentioned a used leaf vacuum that had been leased when the old vacuum had problems. This unit is now available for purchase and will be discussed further at the upcoming budget meeting.

**ACTION:** Alderman Linker made a motion to dispose of the items as requested. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Conrad explained that GovDeals had been used to dispose of most items and had been a success.

**e. Action Needed: Disposal of Police Surplus Property**

The Police Department requested disposal of a white 2007 Crown Victoria with 136,000 miles and 18 studded tires that only fit that vehicle.

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers made a motion to accept the disposal of items as requested. Alderman Cress seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**f. Action Needed: Budget Amendment Request 12A – To move funds between budget line items within the Police Department to cover overspent accounts during the operation of the department (fiscal year 2017-2018)**

Ms. Shockley explained that a previous budget amendment had allocated funds from the Chamandy Drive accident, however the previous Finance Officer moved funds to an incorrect account. This amendment will correct that previous action to put funds in the correct account.

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem LaFevers made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 12A. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**g. Black History Month Proclamation**

Mayor Feather presented a proclamation to recognize February of 2018 as Black History Month in the Town of Granite Quarry.

**h. Notice to Government Entities Receiving Court Costs and Fines – Graham Corriher**

Graham Corriher – Town Attorney reviewed a memo sent by the Administrative Office of the Courts that was sent to all government entities that benefit from court costs. The

Budget Act of 2017 now requires that any judge considering waiving court costs to give any government entity that may be affected by that fifteen-day notice and the opportunity to object or consent to the waiver. The only part of these court costs that the Town of Granite Quarry would receive is in the case that a Granite Quarry Officer made the arrest. The net effect to the Town is a very small amount of money per case resulting in approximately \$5 to \$7 if waived. Mayor Feather asked if anyone wanted to pursue that process for \$7. Mr. Corriher mentioned that with a Joint Authority between Granite Quarry and Faith there would potentially involve two Town Attorneys. The Town of Faith may need to vote on this matter as well.

**ACTION:** Alderman Costantino made a motion to waive these potential fees. Alderman Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Mayor's Notes:**

- Mayor Feather read a letter to Mr. Byrd apologizing for the delay in making a decision whether to accept the donation of his property to the Town and explaining the reason for the delay. The Board agreed by consensus to send the letter.
- Mayor Feather asked for one of the Aldermen to attend the CCOG Board Orientation & Refresher on February 7. Alderman Cress agreed to attend.
- Mayor Feather asked Shelly Shockley to review the Parents Night Out event scheduled for February 16 at 6:30 PM. Ms. Shockley stated that there no one had signed up to participate yet, but there is a capacity limit of 25 so it wasn't heavily advertised. It is currently on the marquis at Town Hall, there are flyers out now, and it went on Facebook today. This is the first time for this type of event.
- Mayor Feather also mentioned the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities Regional Conference, which will be April 12 at the Harris Conference Center in Charlotte.

**Adjournment:**

Alderman Costantino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Alderman Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Scott Stewart*

Deputy Clerk