



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 11, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Alderman Jim Costantino, Alderman Doug Shelton, Alderman Jeff Cannon

Not Present: Mayor Pro Tem John Linker

Staff: Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Aubrey Smith, Town Attorney Zachary Moretz, Finance Officer Shelly Shockley, Police Sergeant Richard Tester, Police Officer Joshua Atkins, Police Investigator Todd Taylor, Police Officer David Earnhardt

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 Shelton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

- 1) Regular Meeting August 14, 2023
- 2) Special Meeting Minutes August 31, 2023

B. Departmental Reports

C. Financial Reports

D. Community Appearance Commission Appointment

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

3. Citizen Comments:

- Marilyn Michael of 1309 Wrenwood Court thanked the Manager, Town staff, Mayor, Board of Aldermen, Rick Flowe of N-Focus, and the Planning Board led by Chairman Luhrs for all the hard work involved in developing the new Granite Quarry Development Ordinance.

4. **Town Manager's Update**

Manager Smith reviewed items from his report found in the agenda packet including a growth and planning update and an update on transformational projects. A meeting with Representative Warren earlier in the month regarding funding for the projects went well. Storm response and cleanup from first responders and Public Works was excellent. Tomorrow at the Faith Board meeting Manager Smith will follow up on the growth and non-annexation agreements. Manager Smith gave a brief reminder that staff and Board communications conducting town business are public records. The best practice is to conduct all town business over email and in open meetings as applicable; text messages are more difficult to retain. Manager Smith shared there is a temporary hiring and recruitment bonus in place for the PD.

Manager Smith called on Sergeant Tester who recognized Officer Earnhardt for being awarded his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the North Carolina Department of Justice Criminal Justice Standards Division. To earn the certificate Officer Earnhardt had to complete more than 960 hours of training beyond the required in-service.

Old Business

None

New Business

5. **Discussion and Possible Action** **Salary Adjustment for Retiring Employees Policy**

Manager Smith shared that during discussions on recruitment and retention with the League of Municipalities, he learned that the City of Burlington has had success with a policy that incentivizes advanced notification of retirement. A similar policy was drafted for the Board's consideration for use in the Town of Granite Quarry. During discussion Board members asked questions for clarification and stated their concerns with the policy. Mayor Barnhardt expressed an interest in recognizing years of service and the Board discussed possible changes to the current longevity program.

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion to table the policy until budget discussions. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

6. **Budget Amendment** **Town Hall Roof Repair**

The Board reviewed the budget amendment for Town Hall roof repair. There was discussion on the line for funding.

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2 as presented. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

7. **Proclamation** **National Day of Service and Remembrance**

Mayor Barnhardt read aloud the National Day of Service and Remembrance proclamation and proclaimed September 11, 2023 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

8. **Board Comments**

- Alderman Shelton asked whether it was time to do something with the Revitalization Team. Manager Smith shared there had been confusion in the past over the structure of the committee and that the original intent of the Revitalization Team was to advise on the Town Hall improvements. He stated that ideally a merchants group would become active and champion the development of a non-profit that could partner with the town on such projects as the downtown streetscape and Town Square. Alderman Shelton suggested making a decision regarding the status of the committee on next month's agenda. He stated he felt advisory boards and committees should be given very defined and specific mandates.

- Alderman Costantino pointed out the all-way stop is going up at Byrd Road and Faith Road.

9. Announcements and Date Reminders

A. Wednesday	September 13	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Executive Board
B. Thursday	September 14	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
C. Monday	September 18	6:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
D. Tuesday	September 19	3:30 p.m.	Revitalization Team
E. Thursday	September 21	7:30 a.m.	Power in Partnership Breakfast
F. Wednesday	September 27	5:30 p.m.	CRMPO TAC
G. Thursday	September 28	5:30 p.m.	Events Committee
H. Monday	October 2	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board

10. Closed Session

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143-318.11(a)(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to return to open session. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

During the closed session, the Board discussed the Town's stance on selling town-owned property. Once out of closed session, Alderman Shelton asked for a point of privilege to make a motion.

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion that the Town establish a policy to not sell any town-owned properties for the foreseeable future. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Barnhardt shared that during the closed session the following action was taken:

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion to decline the offer to purchase. Alderman Cannon seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Adjourn

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk