



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, January 8, 2024 6:00 p.m. &  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:00 a.m.**

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

**Staff:** Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Aubrey Smith, Town Attorney Zachary Moretz, Finance Officer Shelly Shockley, Fire Chief/Public Works Director Jason Hord, Police Chief Mark Cook

**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:** Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**2. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of the Minutes**

- 1) Organizational Meeting December 13, 2023

**B. Departmental Reports**

**C. Financial Reports**

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

**3. Public Comments**

Harry Marsh, owner of Balfour Quarry, introduced himself and stated he would like to become more involved with the town.

**4. Town Manager's Update**

Manager Smith reviewed items from his report found in the agenda packet and shared that a conditional offer had been extended to a police officer trainee who will start BLET January 24th. He informed the Board that there is a developing winter weather event forecasted for tomorrow, January 9, 2024 with a potential for high winds. The new graphics for police vehicles were presented. No board members stated any issues with the new design. Mayor Barnhardt asked that the police department consider transitioning all vehicles to a uniform design in the future.



**B. Public Hearing**

- 1) Opened: Mayor Barnhardt opened the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. Representatives of the applicant, Jerry Trier and Jeff Jones, shared that the church’s primary purpose for the change was to consolidate properties. One of the parcels is currently being used for a parsonage.
- 2) Closed: Mayor Barnhardt closed the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.

**C. Board Discussion and Decision**

Mr. Flowe stated that following any change a new Zoning Map would be created. Mayor Barnhardt and Alderman Linker stated they were in favor and didn’t see an issue with the rezoning. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton shared that he was in favor because the request was reasonable and consistent with the future planning. Alderman Luhrs shared that the request had been vetted and discussed thoroughly at the Planning Board level and he felt it was a plus for the community.

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to adopt Ordinance ZMA-2024-01-08 in the matter of the Wittenberg properties as presented. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**7. Annual Review**

**Rules of Procedure**

Mayor Barnhardt shared that the Rules of Procedure had been adopted by the Board within the last year after much review and discussion. The document will be reviewed at least biennially after each organizational meeting with the opportunity for additional discussion and/or changes as needed.

**8. Discussion and Possible Decision**

**Charter Amendment**

The Board revisited a presentation on the process and allowable charter revisions as first presented by NCLM’s Deputy General Counsel Tom Carruthers in October of 2023. It was stated that the Board would need to identify whether the changes would be made by ordinance and referendum or by ordinance only. Individual board members stated they were in favor of making the changes by ordinance only since the process would still be open to the public but more simplified. The potential charter changes discussed by board members included updating the name of the board from Board of Aldermen to Town Council as well as updating the mayor’s term from two years to four years. Another potential change that was brought up was whether the town clerk and finance officer should report directly to the Board.

**ACTION:** Alderman Luhrs made a motion to amend the charter by changing the name of the Board of Aldermen to Town Council and to change the term of the mayor from two years to four years. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 1 with Mayor Pro Tem Shelton opposed.

Discussion on the motion included Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stating a desire to delay the decision until after the group attended the Essentials of Municipal Government course and received current information regarding organizational reporting structure under a Council-Manager form of government. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stated a desire for board consensus to recess at the end of the current meeting and reconvene after the Essentials of Municipal Government training to discuss whether the Board also wanted to address changing the reporting structure of the clerk as part of the charter amendments. No opposition was voiced.



**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

*Alderwoman Mack and Alderman Linker were not present for the January 16, 2024 segment of the meeting.*

**Call to Order:** Mayor Barnhardt called the regular meeting recessed on January 8, 2024, back into session at 10:02 a.m.

**1. Discussion and Possible Decision Charter Amendment – Reporting Structure**

Mayor Pro Tem Shelton asked that Clerk Smith share information regarding the topic at hand. Clerk Smith shared that changing the charter to address the reporting structure or who the Board appoints needed to be done by a local act of the General Assembly and could not be done by ordinance and/or referendum. The charter amendments to the name of the Board and the mayor's term are allowed to be made by ordinance as discussed and decided upon at the previous meeting. The process to make those two changes will begin at the next regular meeting.

Mayor Barnhardt recommended that since conflicts and illnesses had come up for two of the Board members that the meeting be adjourned and the business revisited at a later time if the Board desired.

**Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting ended at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Aubrey Smith*

Town Clerk