



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PLANNING RETREAT
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 26, 2024, 3:00 p.m.**

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

Staff: Acting Town Manager/Fire Chief/Public Works Director Jason Hord, Town Clerk Aubrey Smith; Public Works Crew Leader Colton Fries

Call to Order: Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. Department Presentations

A. Fire

Chief Hord presented to the Board the Fire Department's mission statement and goals included in the presentation. He shared the accomplishments from the past year including the number of calls responded to, continued work with Safe Kids, working closely with mutual aid partners, maintaining staffing, public education events, and work with RSSS on student shadowing day. He shared Fire Department goals and objectives for the next year including growing the level of services, sustaining the ISO Class 1 rating, and furthering community outreach through public education. The Fire Department is seeking the following service level changes: the addition of three full-time firefighters, the utilization of part-time firefighters to cover weekend shifts/open full-time shifts, and to the design of a new fire engine to replace E571 as it moves to E572. The current wait time for a fire engine from order to delivery is 48 months.

The Board discussed the life expectancy of a fire truck and options for replacement/updates. More details will be provided during budgeting discussions.

B. Public Works/Parks and Recreation

Chief Hord shared Public Works' accomplishments from the past year including implementation of a new work order system, replacement of trash carts in-house in partnership with Waste Management, and adding weekend staffing for parks. The key initiatives for the next year include weekly quality control meetings, continued implementation of the iWorQ work order system, additional weekend parks staff, replacement of the 1994 Ford dump truck, and increased training for personnel.

Chief Hord shared the Parks and Recreation Department's goals and accomplishments for the year including continued work towards overall park cleanliness, engagement in the Civic Park Master Plan, and working with Healthy Rowan to develop park mapping and signage related to fitness and health. Goals for the upcoming year include completing the Civic Park Master Plan, completing

construction on the Civic Park overflow lot/repaving the existing lot, restriping the Lake Park parking lot, continued work on Centennial Park drainage, planning for the Legion Building, and implementation of the iWorQ program for inventory. The service level changes requested for the next year will include adding an additional part-time public works staff during high-traffic times, increasing daily tasks at the parks, and allowing reporting through the iWorQ system.

2. Town Manager Search

Clerk Smith shared information received from municipalities that recently underwent the search for a new manager showing what services each firm provided. There was Board discussion on considerations for the search including whether a candidate should be familiar with North Carolina government and statutory requirements. Clerk Smith will reach out to four firms to request a scope of services and references from each.

3. Board Comments

Board members shared and discussed their personal lists for additional priority and project ideas including:

- code enforcement
- street paving
- Christmas lights
- replacement of the dump truck
- purchasing a fire truck
- updating street signs throughout the town with a more personalized template
- applying for a PARTF grant
- implementing town-run social media
- the ongoing TAP project
- continuing to improve Granite Fest
- neighborhood captains/wards
- resolving the addressing issue
- non-annexation agreements with Faith and then East Spencer, possibly Rockwell
- ZBA readiness
- Preemptive ordinances to address safety issues associated with panhandling and homelessness
- Town Hall renovations and space needs
- a strategic property in downtown since a recent change in ownership took place
- a joint EMS station

Individual items may be revisited either in the budget discussions or will be brought up at a regular meeting for further Board discussion, consensus, and possible action.

Adjourn

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

The meeting ended at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk