



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 11, 2024 6:00 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, Town Attorney Zachary Moretz, Finance Officer Shelly Shockley, Police Chief Mark Cook, Fire Captain Buddy Miller, Firefighter John Walters

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: Alderwoman Mack made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

- 1) Strategic Planning February 7 & 9, 2024
- 2) Regular Meeting February 12, 2024
- 3) Closed Session February 12, 2024 (*handout*)
- 4) Planning Retreat February 22, 2024
- 5) Planning Retreat February 26, 2024

B. Departmental Reports

C. Financial Reports

D. Appointment of Planning Board members to the Board of Adjustment (*added as a handout*)

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the addition of the recommendation from the Planning Department (*to appoint the current Planning Board members to the Board of Adjustment as well and request that the ETJ Planning Board members be appointed by the County Commissioners and to change the Board of Adjustment's regular meeting time to the first Monday of each month*). Alderman Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Public Comments

Gail Gurley of 116 N. Cleo thanked the Board and town staff for their work on getting the abatement of 412 Lake Drive taken care of.

4. Town Manager's Update

Acting Town Manager Jason Hord shared highlights from the Town Manager's Update in the agenda packet including that Stewart will be able to complete the PARTF grant on behalf of the town. The encroachment agreement for Wayfinding signs from DOT has been forwarded to Tourism for next steps. The Ninja Course agreement has been accepted by the vendor after Attorney Moretz requested changes. Manager Hord recognized personnel achievements including Alex Loflin being promoted to full-time Public Works Technician, the hiring of part-time police officer Nicholas O'Brien, and the awarding of the certificate of Certified Local Government Finance Officer to Shelly Shockley. Manager Hord took a moment to recognize Fire Officer of the Year/ Veteran Firefighter of the Year Buddy Miller and Rookie Firefighter of the Year John Walters.

5. Guest Presentation

Healthy Rowan and Municipality Collaboration

Courtney Meece, Community Health Manager & Healthy Rowan Executive Director, shared her presentation on Municipality Walking Maps. She shared that Healthy Rowan would pay for a sign for the Lake Park and would only be asking the town to pay for concrete to put it in the ground. Any requests for changes could be emailed directly to her. Director Meece shared that the funding comes through every year and the sign could be updated in the future. Only one sign will be installed at this time. Usage of the park can be tracked with the fitness tracker for analytics. Director Meece also shared that the County is partnering with municipalities to spread the message about the 988 hotline. Decals have been designed and branded for the town vehicles.

6. Public Hearing

Charter Amendment

A. Staff Summary

Clerk Smith summarized that at its meeting February 12, 2024, the Board adopted Resolution 2024-01 stating intent 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. Following tonight's public hearing, the Board will consider the ordinance to amend the charter at its April 8, 2024 meeting.

B. Public Hearing

- 1) Opened: Mayor Barnhardt opened the public hearing at 6:28 p.m.
 - Marilyn Michael of 1309 Wrenwood Court – spoke in favor of the amendments.
 - Jeff Cannon of 524 N. Salisbury Avenue – spoke against the amendments, specifically the change to the term of the mayor.
- 2) Closed: Mayor Barnhardt closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

B. Board Discussion

Board members discussed their individual opinions on changing the mayor's term to four years. Discussion included concerns over consistency/continuity on the Board, the opportunity for residents to have input via elections, the time it takes for board members to adjust to the office, and the importance of staggering terms.

Old Business

7. Discussion

Town Manager Search Update

Clerk Smith shared that she reached out to four firms regarding the scope, pricing, and references for conducting the Town Manager search and updated the summary chart for comparison. It was recommended that the Board set a time to interview one or more firms. After discussion, there was Board consensus to start by interviewing Centralina. Attorney Moretz suggested that he be tasked with developing an employment contract. He stated Board members could let him know what they would like to be included or left out of the contract.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to set up an interview with Centralina and have Attorney Moretz begin contract amendments. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

New Business

8. Discussion and Direction Board Travel Policy

Clerk Smith shared that members of the Board recently stated a desire to have a policy in place that would guide Board travel and reimbursement with clear regulations that could be applied consistently. A draft policy was presented for feedback. After discussion on the necessity of a second, board-specific policy it was decided that instead the current section of the Personnel Policy would be amended to include language regarding Board approval of elected official travel requests. The requests would go through the same pre-auditing process as any other request.

9. Voting Delegate NCLM Board of Directors

Clerk Smith shared that the NCLM announced the electronic nomination and election process for the 2024 Board of Directors. Each municipality was asked to identify a voting delegate to place the Board's vote on the slate of candidates via electronic means. The slate of candidates will come before the Board for review once it is finalized in April.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to appoint Mayor Barnhardt as the Board's NCLM voting delegate to submit the Board's vote for NCLM's 2024 Board of Directors. Alderman Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

10. Proclamation Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor Barnhardt recognized the proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

11. Board Comments

- Mayor Pro Tem Shelton requested changing April's Regular Meeting to Friday, April 5. Clerk Smith will check to make sure the charter amendment process timeline won't be affected. The Board can adopt an amended schedule at the Budget Workshop if necessary.
- Mayor Barnhardt shared that the date originally identified for the Budget Workshop was filling up with other events and asked whether everyone would be able to attend the Budget Workshop on Wednesday, March 20th instead. There was consensus to set the Budget Workshop for 3/20/24 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

12. Announcements and Date Reminders

A.	Wednesday	March 13	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Executive Board Meeting
B.	Wednesday	March 13	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
C.	Thursday	March 14	6:00 p.m.	Rowan Municipal Association Dinner
D.	Saturday	March 16	9:00 a.m.	Mulch Giveaway at Quarry
E.	Monday	March 18	6:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
F.	Wednesday	March 20	1:00 p.m.	Budget Workshop
G.	Thursday	March 21	7:30 a.m.	Chamber Power in Partnership Breakfast
H.	Tuesday	March 26	11:30 a.m.	Rowan EDC Annual Meeting
I.	Wednesday	March 27	5:30 p.m.	CRMPO TAC Meeting
J.	Thursday	March 28	5:30 p.m.	Events Committee
K.	Friday	March 29		Good Friday – Town Offices Closed
L.	Sunday	March 31		Easter
M.	Tuesday	April 2	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board

13. 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 4 -0.

The Board went into closed session at 7:16 p.m.

The Board came out of closed session at 7:41 p.m.

ACTION: Alderman Luhrs made a motion to return to open session. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

ACTION: Alderman Luhrs made a motion to change Acting Manager Hord's status to Interim Town Manager until a full-time Town Manager is hired with the previously agreed upon salary conditions and full authority of a Town Manager with the understanding that when his time in the role ends, he will continue in the role of Public Works Director and Fire Chief. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Adjournment

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 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk