



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 14, 2025 6:00 p.m.**

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

Staff: Town Manager/Fire Chief Jason Hord; Town Clerk Aubrey Smith; Town Attorney Zachary Moretz; Finance Director Shelly Shockley; Police Chief Todd Taylor; Public Works Director Colton Fries; Planning, Zoning, and Subdivision Administrator Richard Flowe; Office Assistant/Event Coordinator Debbie Loflin-Benge

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: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to approve the agenda with items F. Budget Amendment FY 2425 #9 and G. Resolution 2025-03 opposing HB765 added to the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

- 1) Regular Meeting March 10, 2025
- 2) Budget Retreat March 27, 2025

B. Departmental Reports

C. Financial Reports

D. Community Appearance Commission Rules of Procedure

E. Community Appearance Commission Appointment Recommendation

F. Budget Amendment FY2425 #9 Public Works Truck

G. Resolution 2025-03 Opposing HB765

During discussion on the motion Council Member Linker asked for clarification on wording in Part II (7) of the Community Appearance Commission's proposed Rules of Procedure. After discussion there was consensus to leave the wording as it was written. Council Member Linker also stated that he was in favor of the CAC members receiving stipends.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve the consent agenda subject to discussion. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Public Comments

- Frank Merrell of the Sons of the American Revolution presented a certificate of commendation to the Town in recognition of exemplary patriotism in the display of the flag of the United States of America on the Legion Building grounds.

4. Town Manager's Update

Manager Hord shared highlights from the Town Manager's report in the agenda packet including an update on the pre-application meeting with the Cannon Foundation regarding funds for Civic Park improvements. Manager Hord spoke with a Woodson Foundation board member regarding a grant request for \$50,000. Chief Taylor created online forms to request police reports or residence checks that have been added to the town website. An RFQ for on-call engineering firms has been put out for bids. Planning staff had several pre-application meetings for potential industrial growth. Garbage carts being left at the street after trash pickup continue to be an issue. Code enforcement is working on awareness and correction of the issue. The Circle K at Rowan Summit opened at the end of March. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled towards the end of April.

5. Public Hearing

Zoning Text Amendment 2025-04-14 Stormwater

A. Staff Summary

Mr. Flowe introduced the Zoning Text Amendment to make updates to the Granite Quarry Development Ordinance regarding stormwater. Mr. Flowe explained the reasoning behind the amendment and provided background on why the State first started to allow local stormwater review. He shared that the State now has adequate personnel and can complete the review more quickly than the Town. The amendment would repeal and replace Article 19 and would make changes to Article 16 sections 16.2-12, 16.2-14, 16.2-17, and 16.2-20. The amendment would also reduce the setback from the right-of-way of I-85 in the C-85 District from twenty-four feet to eight feet as recommended by the Planning Board at its March 3, 2025 meeting.

B. Public Hearing

- 1) Opened: Mayor Barnhardt opened the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.
 - There were no comments from the public.
- 2) Closed: Mayor Barnhardt closed the public hearing at 6:21p.m.

C. Council Discussion and Decision

Council Member Linker expressed concern with water/sewer connections for infill development and asked where the decision-making power would lie. Mr. Flowe stated the decision would be made at the town level. Manager Hord has spoken with SRU regarding the approval process. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton questioned a reference in Part 4 of Article 16.2-17 (A) to part (B). Mr. Flowe suggested the motion to adopt the ordinance include removal of the phrase "as defined in (B) below". There was discussion regarding testing old pipes. Attorney Moretz suggested there may be a need to look again at revising the SRU agreement.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to adopt Ordinance ZTA 2025-04-14 with removal of the phrase discussed (*"as defined in (B) below"* from Part 4 (A)). Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

None

New Business

6. Budget Amendment Special Projects

The Budget Amendment for special projects was presented as a result of discussion at the March 27, 2025 Budget retreat regarding moving funds from the Special Projects line to complete cosmetic upgrades in the front office.

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to approve Budget Amendment FY24-25 #8 as presented. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Police Department Salary Adjustments

At the March 27, 2025 Budget retreat the Council requested that staff review ways to make some of the items proposed for the next budget year work within the existing budget. The proposed adjustments to Police Department salaries were provided.

Police Chief	15%	11,507.40	2,212.96
Police Investigator	10%	5,192.50	
Police Sergeant	10%	6,082.99	1,169.81
Police Sergeant	10%	5,916.02	1,137.70
Police Officer	7%	3,634.14	698.87
Police Officer	7%	3,789.79	728.81
Police Officer	7%	3,296.77	633.99
Police Officer	7%	3,390.95	652.11
Police Officer	7%	2,355.35	452.95
Police Officer	7%	2,355.35	452.95
Potential Police Officer	7%	2,355.35	452.95
Potential Police Officer	7%	2,355.35	452.95
		52,231.96	8,140.15

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to approve Police Department Salary Adjustments effective April 27, 2025. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Police Vehicle

Manager Hord presented the figures to purchase additional police vehicles within the current fiscal year. There was Council consensus to purchase two new police vehicles to replace two of the older vehicles and make repairs to others with funds in the existing budget.

9. Proclamations

Mayor Barnhardt recognized the proclamations below.

- A. Health-First Municipality
- B. National Child Abuse Prevention April
- C. Professional Municipal Clerks Week May 4-10
- D. National Nurses Week May 6-12

10. Council Comments

- Council Member Linker gave kudos to Finance Director Shelly Shockley and called attention to the earned interest on the Town's investments.
- Council Member Luhrs stated he would like to discuss the Byrd property and Faith Road property at future meetings. Mayor Barnhardt suggested the next strategic planning session.

- Mayor Barnhardt stated she and Manager Hord spoke with the lobbyist this morning and that the group would be visiting Raleigh this Wednesday. She stated the visit was coming at a great time after the passing of the budget and asked if another council member would like to attend in Mayor Pro Tem Shelton's place.

11. Announcements and Date Reminders

A. Thursday	April 17	7:30 a.m.	Chamber Power in Partnership Breakfast
B. Thursday	April 17	9:00 a.m.	Budget Workshop
C. Friday	April 18		Good Friday – Town Offices Closed
D. Wednesday	April 23	5:30 p.m.	CRMPO TAC
E. Saturday	April 26	1:00 p.m.	Arts in the Park
F. Monday	May 5	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
G. Monday	May 5	6:15 p.m.	Board of Adjustment
H. Tuesday	May 6	5:30 p.m.	Events Committee

Recess

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion for a short recess. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting back into session at 7:09 p.m.

12. Closed Session

Acquisition of Real Property & Attorney-Client Privilege

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to go into closed session (*pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143-318.11(a)(5) to instruct the public body's negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease and N.C. General Statutes Section 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body*). Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The Council entered into closed session at 7:09 p.m.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to come out of closed session. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The Council returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.

No action was taken during the closed session.

Adjournment

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith
Town Clerk