



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 12, 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: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a closed session item for economic development purposes [*§ 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations*]. Council Member Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

- 1) Regular Meeting April 14, 2025
- 2) Budget Retreat April 17, 2025

B. Departmental Reports

C. Financial Reports

D. Resolution for Adoption of County Hazard Mitigation Plan

E. Contract with Eddie Carrick, CPA, PC for audit of accounts for FY 24-25

Mayor Pro Tem Shelton confirmed there was nothing new in the audit contract. Mayor Barnhardt asked why the County did not present the Hazard Mitigation Plan and was told by Manager Hord that they had not been asked to.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Public Comments- There were no public comments.

4. Guest Presentation- There were no guest presentations.

5. Town Manager's Update

Manager Hord shared highlights from the Town Manager's report in the agenda packet including that the mulch giveaway was a success and that there is still mulch available. The installation of GQ-branded signs is ongoing. Public Works and the Police Department took delivery of vehicles last month. The Technical Review Committee reviewed the plans for Chick-fil-A and the County released the covenant restrictions for the lot. Public Works Director Colton Fries and Manager Hord had discussions with DOT regarding flooding on Old 80 near the train tracks. Code enforcement efforts on trash carts are underway and the situation is improving. The Litter Sweep had 17 volunteers who collected 16 bags of trash. The Easter Egg Hunt held by Granite Quarry merchants had a good turnout. Smoke Alarm Saturday will be held June 7th to install smoke alarms for those who need them thanks to a grant that was awarded to the Fire Department. Circle K will have its grand opening and ribbon cutting this Friday at 3:00 p.m. Arts in the Park was a success with a good crowd. Duke Energy returned results from the feasibility study at \$4.2 million. The total project, including streetscapes, will be around \$9 million. The Fire Department is doing annual hydrant maintenance. Residents are encouraged to let their water run for a few minutes after hydrants near them are flushed.

There was Council consensus to hold a strategic planning meeting May 20, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Notices will be posted. There was Council consensus to allow the Faith Road property to be cut for hay once a hold harmless agreement is signed.

6. Employee Recognition

GQ SOLID Award

Mayor Barnhardt shared that the GQ SOLID award is a quarterly recognition program developed to honor employees who go above and beyond in their roles. These outstanding individuals consistently demonstrate exceptional work ethic, initiative, teamwork, and a positive attitude that uplifts their department and the entire organization. To be selected, an employee must show consistent dependability, initiative beyond their regular duties, and serve as a role model for others. Winners are chosen by an Employee Committee based on nominations submitted by fellow staff members. As part of the recognition, the recipient receives a \$100 award, a choice of Town apparel, and is featured in the Town's newsletter, *The Quarrier*. Mayor Barnhardt announced that this quarter's winner is Finance Director Shelly Shockley.

Mayor Pro Tem Shelton recognized Mayor Barnhardt for her appointment to the NC Mayors Association Board of Directors.

Old Business

None

New Business

7. Discussion

FY 25-26 Budget Presentation

The Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 was presented to the Council along with the proposed Schedule of Fees. Manager Hord shared highlights of items included in the budget:

- Public safety pay adjustments; Police pay implemented within current fiscal year
- 2% COLA and 0-3% merit increases determined by annual performance reviews
- \$25 stipend for Planning Board and Board of Adjustment members for meetings with business items
- Added part-time help in the Police, Fire, and Administration departments
- An additional full-time Public Works Technician
- Debt service for fire truck
- \$100,000 in the Council contingency fund

- The budget was developed to reflect a contribution by Faith for \$225,000 for police services with an overall police budget of \$1,296,621
- Implementation of a \$20 annual car fee
- Increase in the environmental fee from \$13 to \$15 for the increase in trash pickup
- Tax rate will remain the same at .44
- Total budget of \$4,781,856

Mayor Barnhardt thanked staff, department heads, and the Council for their dedication and support to develop the budget. She stated that while the rate was being maintained, the quality of service was increasing. The car fee will go into effect July 1st. Increased code enforcement has been worked into the budget.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to set concurrent public hearings for the fiscal year 2025-2026 Budget and the Schedule of Fees for the next regular Town Council meeting to be held on June 9, 2025. Council Member Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

8. Discussion

Street Signs

Manager Hord shared that the old street signs are being replaced with Granite Quarry-branded signs. He presented an idea for surplus the old signs on a first-come, first-served basis out of the office instead of placing them in bulk on GovDeals. Mayor Barnhardt stated Granite Quarry business owner Jason Smith has offered to host an online auction and include the signs. Funds raised from the sale of the signs could be used for Civic Park improvements if the Council approved. After discussion, the Council decided to wait to make a decision.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to delay a decision on this (*method of disposal of surplus street signs*) until the June meeting. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

9. Ordinance Amendment

Transformational Projects Grant Funds

Grants were received from the Margaret C. Woodson and Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation for the Civic Park project.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to accept the \$20,000 grant from the Margaret C. Woodson Foundation, accept the \$35,000 from the Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation, and amend Capital Project Ordinance 2023-01 to reflect the funds (*including the \$500,000 PARTF grant funds*). Council Member Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

10. Closeout

GPO 2020-04 FEMA Granite Lake Repairs

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to adopt Grant Project Ordinance 2020-04 closeout as presented. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

11. Proclamations

Mayor Barnhardt recognized the proclamations below.

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| A. National Law Enforcement Week | May 11-17 |
| B. Peace Officers Memorial Day | May 15 |
| C. National Public Works Week | May 18-24 |

12. Council Comments

- Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stated a desire to adopt a practice to have council members who attend a conference or meeting share what they got out of the meeting. Mayor Barnhardt shared that she and Council Member Mack attended the three-day City Vision conference recently. She and Council Member Mack each shared highlights from the meeting including networking and attending business meetings for different associations. Council Member Mack shared that she was most excited to hear from Concord how they completed their streetscape project from start to finish.

13. Announcements and Date Reminders

A.	Wednesday	May 14	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Board of Delegates
B.	Wednesday	May 14	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
C.	Thursday	May 15	7:30 a.m.	Chamber Power in Partnership Breakfast
D.	Thursday	May 15	9:00 a.m.	Resident Dumpster Days
E.	Friday	May 16	9:00 a.m.	Resident Dumpster Days
F.	Saturday	May 17	8:00 a.m.	Resident Dumpster Day
G.	Monday	May 26		Memorial Day – Town Offices Closed
H.	Wednesday	May 28	5:30 p.m.	CRMPO TAC
I.	Monday	June 2	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
J.	Monday	June 2	6:15 p.m.	Board of Adjustment
K.	Tuesday	June 3	5:30 p.m.	Events Committee
L.	Friday	June 6		Employee Appreciation Outing
M.	Saturday	June 7	9:00 a.m.	Fish for Fun
N.	Saturday	June 7		Smoke Alarm Saturday

14. Closed Session

Economic Development

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NC Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. Council Member Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The Council entered into closed session at 6:48 p.m.

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs 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 7:37 p.m.

No action was taken during the closed session.

Adjournment

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith
Town Clerk