



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY  
TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 1:00 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

**Call to Order:** Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

**2. Strategic Planning Discussions**

**Land Use/Economic Development**

**A. Guest Presentation**

**Harry Marsh**

Mr. Marsh gave a presentation to the Council on his Balfour Quarry property. He provided the history of the quarry and shared his interest in themed Airbnbs. Mr. Marsh showed images of the improvements he has made to the property so far and shared a list of requirements he had to meet to remove the mining permit. Future plans include multiple Airbnbs and possibly a restaurant. Mr. Marsh stated that he would like to purchase the adjacent property currently owned by the Town for both parking and to run sewer. Mr. Marsh requested to purchase parcel 362 061 from the Town and for the Town to provide sewer.

Manager Hord shared the total tax value of the Town's 3.51 acre property is currently \$25,390. The property's current zoning designation is Civic because it is owned by the Town. Mr. Marsh's property is listed on the Future Land Use Map as Mixed Use which is appropriate for his project. Manager Hord shared the water and sewer extension is roughly a \$2 million project with opportunities for grant funding. Mayor Barnhardt mentioned that Rowan County Tourism had been in a previous discussion on Mr. Marsh's quarry project and was very interested.

Manager Hord asked for and received consensus to move forward with placing a closed session on an upcoming Council meeting agenda to discuss an economic development agreement.

*Council Member Luhrs joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.*

*Due to technical issues, the Veterans Memorial presentation was moved up on the agenda.*

**C. Guest Presentation**

**Cecil Whitley**

Mr. Whitley, Tina Kanipe, and John Kanipe presented to the Council the idea for a Veterans Memorial at the Granite Lake Park. The project renderings were shown to the Council and specific elements of the memorial were discussed. Mr. Whitley shared his history and why the project was important to him personally. He stated the project would benefit the Town economically by getting people to stop and spend time in town. There was discussion regarding the location and scale of the project. Mrs. Kanipe shared that forming a non-profit and paying someone to maintain the memorial or holding community cleanup days were possibilities. Manager Hord suggested that the maintenance may be a good Scout project.

Manager Hord stated the project would require a development agreement and asked for consensus to move forward. The majority of council members were in favor.

**B. Guest Presentation**

**Coleton Boone**

Mr. Boone presented to the Council his vision for a development project on property located on Dunn's Mountain Church Road currently owned by the Town. The development would be an office space and create an additional area to gather in the community. Mr. Boone shared that the building would be between 5600-6800 total square feet with five offices spaces with potentially \$2 million of added tax value. He stated he plans to utilize local vendors as much as possible. He asked for Council input on the brick and exterior colors. Mr. Boone does plan to occupy one of the offices.

Manager Hord shared that the property was donated to the Town in 2013 and is currently zoned Civic because it is owned by the Town and has a designation of Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map. It does not currently bring in any tax revenue. Mayor Barnhardt suggested a potential economic development partnership. Manager Hord asked for and received a consensus to proceed.

**3. Strategic Planning Discussions**

**Police Department Contracted Services**

Mayor Barnhardt opened the discussion on contracted police services. Last Thursday, May 15, 2025, the Mayor of the Town of Faith hand-delivered a letter stating the Faith Board of Aldermen voted to discontinue police services with the Town of Granite Quarry effective July 1, 2025. Since that time, officials from the Town of Faith have expressed interest in negotiating.

There was Council consensus for Manager Hord to follow up with the Town Attorney to make sure negotiations could be entertained even after Faith's Board voted to discontinue services and to figure out the next steps. Council members felt it was important that Faith's Board understand that the cost of providing services includes statutory separation allowances, liability insurance, equipment, benefits, and much more before entertaining negotiations. The Council also felt it was important to determine what services would be provided for any set contracted amount.

**Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Council Member Luhrs made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting ended at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk