



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY  
TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, June 9, 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; Office Assistant/Event Coordinator Debbie Loflin-Benge; Police Officer William Tyler Shultz; Police Officer Daniel Castillo

**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 Linker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. 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 May 12, 2025
- 2) Strategic Planning Meeting May 20, 2025
- 3) Closed Session April 14, 2025 (*handout*)
- 4) Closed Session May 12, 2025 (*handout*)

**B. Departmental Reports**

**C. Financial Reports**

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

**3. Public Comments-** There were no public comments.

**4. Town Manager's Update**

Manager Hord shared highlights from the Town Manager's report in the agenda packet including that Rowan Tourism had recently installed wayfinding signs and will be installing three additional signs by mid-July. The latest issue of the quarterly newsletter, The Quarrier, was just mailed out to residents. The Fire Department is continuing fire hydrant testing and maintenance. The Events Committee and Community Appearance Commission have combined meeting dates and will be meeting consecutively the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Planning Director is looking into potential

areas for water and sewer extensions discussed in previous planning sessions. Chief Taylor took possession of the two newest police vehicles. The Legion Building is undergoing electrical upgrades. Crews are working to replace rusted poles at the Lake Park. The street sign update project is nearly complete. An RFQ for on-call engineers was sent out and received a good response. The Town will retain four firms: Alley, Williams, Carmen, and King; KCI; McAdams Engineering; and Colliers Engineering.

Manager Hord updated the Council on discussions with the Town of Faith regarding contracted police services. After representatives from both towns met, a number was requested from Faith. It was relayed to Manager Hord that the Town of Faith would be willing to pay \$195,798 for one year of police services. He asked for and received consensus to move forward with that number to develop a contract. During discussion on the subject, council members stated a desire to see a more permanent solution or agreement reached before February of 2026 in order to plan for the new budget. The importance of being transparent about what specific services are being provided and what those services cost was restated. Finance Director Shockley confirmed the proposed budget would not need to be amended before being adopted; the adopted budget could be amended at a later date to reflect revenues not being as high as projected if necessary. Manager Hord stated the contract would come before the Council in July.

Manager Hord invited Chief Taylor to introduce two of his newest officers. Chief Taylor thanked the Council for the recent salary adjustments that have made the Police Department salaries more competitive and have already helped to attract more candidates. Mayor Barnhardt swore in full-time Police Officer William Tyler Shultz and part-time Police Officer Daniel Castillo. Chief Taylor spoke about the significance of the untarnished badge and administered the oath for both officers. He presented Officer Shultz and Officer Castillo with their badges, each pinned on by the officers' wives.

### **Recess**

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

*The meeting was recessed at 6:18 p.m.*

*Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting back into session at 6:25 p.m.*

## **5. Public Hearing**

### **Ordinance 2025-01 Budget FY 25-26**

#### **A. Staff Summary**

The Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 was presented to the Council at the regular meeting May 12, 2025. Manager Hord stated that no changes had been made since the proposed budget was presented. Mayor Barnhardt commended staff for being able to develop a budget to keep the tax rate at .44 per the Council's request.

#### **B. Public Hearing**

- 1) **Opened:** Mayor Barnhardt opened the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.  
There were no comments from the public.
- 2) **Closed:** Mayor Barnhardt closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.

#### **C. Council Discussion and Decision**

Council Member Luhrs stated he believed everyone had worked very hard to prepare a proper budget and that was well thought out, addressed the needs of the community, and was fiscally prudent. The other council members voiced their agreement.

**ACTION:** Council Member Linker made a motion to adopt Budget Ordinance 2025-01 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 as presented. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**6. Public Hearing**

**Ordinance 2025-02 Schedule of Fees**

**A. Staff Summary**

The updated Schedule of Fees was presented to the Council at the regular meeting May 12, 2025. Manager Hord stated the adjustments were well thought out with a focus on being competitive and in-line with surrounding communities. He pointed out specific changes including that the fee for off-duty police services was raised from \$35 to \$40 an hour.

**B. Public Hearing**

- 1) **Opened:** Mayor Barnhardt opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.  
There were no comments from the public.
- 2) **Closed:** Mayor Barnhardt closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

**C. Council Discussion and Decision**

There was discussion on the reasoning behind specific fees including shelter reservations and copies. The shelters are currently rented on a half-day and full-day basis, which has been a successful change from the three time slots that were available in previous years. The shelter rates are comparable to others in the area. The parks and shelters are all public and open to everyone on a first-come, first-served basis but anyone desiring exclusivity is encouraged to make a reservation. There was also discussion regarding whether the fee for a fireworks permit opened the town to any liability. It was stated the town's ordinances and general statutes protect against that specific liability and that the firework permit could be granted by the town to the Fire Department for a specific event.

**ACTION:** Council Member Mack made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-02 to adopt the Schedule of Fees as presented. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**Old Business**

**7. Discussion**

**Disposal of Street Signs *cont.***

Manager Hord shared that since last month's discussion on the best way to dispose of the surplus street signs he was able to get more information from Jason Smith who has an online auction business and recommended auctioning the signs. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stated he believed the signs should be disposed on a first-come, first-served basis for a nominal fee. Council Member Luhrs agreed. Manager Hord offered the possibility that the signs be sold at Granite Fest. Attorney Moretz suggested the possibility of donating the signs and letting an entity sell them and donate back the proceeds. Manager Hord stated he would take the comments from the Council under consideration and present a plan at a future meeting for the Council's consideration.

**New Business**

**8. Street Acceptance**

**Village at Granite**

Manager Hord invited Public Works Director Colton Fries to the podium to discuss the request for street acceptance. Director Fries stated a petition had been received from LGI for the town to accept the streets in the Village at Granite. He shared that the streets had been inspected and all issues had been addressed. Once the streets are accepted the new branded street signs could be installed. The streets total 1.09 miles. The streets, curb, gutter, signs, and any sidewalks would become town property once accepted.

**ACTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-05 accepting additional streets into Granite Quarry's Municipal Roadway System for permanent maintenance to be included on 2025-26 Powell Bill. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

## 9. Proclamation

### Juneteenth

Mayor Barnhardt recognized the proclamation for Juneteenth.

## 10. Council Comments

- Mayor Barnhardt shared that she participated in her first Mayors Association meeting with the NC League of Municipalities and later in the month will participate in the retreat in Asheville. Mayor Barnhardt has been appointed to the Board of Directors. Council Member Luhrs pointed out that Mayor Barnhardt's energy level has been a great asset to the town.
- Council Member Linker asked about the timeline for the three projects that were presented at the strategic meeting in May. Manager Hord shared that they are all in the discussion/planning stage.
- Friday, June 13 there will be a Mayors Roundtable led by Steve Fisher. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton will not be able to attend. Council Member Luhrs volunteered to attend in his place.

## 11. Announcements and Date Reminders

A.	Wednesday	June 11	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Executive Board
B.	Wednesday	June 11	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
C.	Wednesday	June 11	6:00 p.m.	Events Committee
<del>D.</del>	<del>Wednesday</del>	<del>June 25</del>	<del>5:30 p.m.</del>	<del>CRMPO TAC</del>
E.	Friday	July 4		Independence Day
F.	Monday	July 7	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
G.	Monday	July 7	6:15 p.m.	Board of Adjustment
H.	Wednesday	July 9	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
I.	Wednesday	July 9	6:00 p.m.	Events Committee

## Adjournment

**ACTION:** Council Member Linker made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk