



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 8, 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; Police Chief Todd Taylor; Public Works Director Colton Fries; Office Assistant/Event Coordinator Debbie Loflin-Benge; Fire Captain Jonathan McCulloh; Fire Engineer Matthew Quales; Fire Engineer Christopher Paton; Firefighter Jason Ussery

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

Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stated he would like to add an item to set a date for a strategic meeting to discuss the town hall and an item to add commentary on the Resolution for Commitment to Civility. He agreed to the items being discussed during Council comments.

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

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

- 1) Regular Meeting August 11, 2025
- 2) Closed Session August 11, 2025 (*handout*)

B. Departmental Reports

C. Financial Reports

D. Advisory Board Appointments – Planning Board / BOA

E. Resolution – Commitment to Civility

Mayor Pro Tem Shelton gave kudos to staff for the department reports. He stated they were well prepared and very informative.

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

3. Public Comments

- Kendall Henderson, Rowan EDC Director of Business Services, provided an update on upcoming fall events including the Fall Job Fair being held on September 17th at the Rowan County Event Center. Mayor Barnhardt added that the Rowan Cabarrus Community College would be hosting a groundbreaking event on September 24th for the new truck driving school site.

4. Town Manager's Update

Manager Hord shared highlights from the Town Manager's report in the agenda packet including that the town had received the first payment from the funds pledged by F&M Bank toward the Civic Park Improvement project. The stream study for the Civic Park is underway; meetings with adjacent property owners will be happening in the near future. National Night Out was rained out in August and has been rescheduled for October 7th from 6-8pm at the Lake Park. The STPBG funding application for the sidewalk project was submitted and passed through both the TAC and the TCC. The County agreed to sell the first parcels in the Granite Industrial Park to Fortis. The Fire Department burned the house at the newly annexed property on 2640 Faith Road and conducted fire training. Manager Hord thanked the Council for allowing him to attend the first session of Leadership Rowan. The Rural Transformation grant application for the Downtown project was submitted today.

Council Member Linker stated he saw on the Planning report that the six new addresses on Limestone Terrace were listed as Salisbury addresses. There was discussion surrounding the ongoing issue and the need for further legislative action.

Manager Hord stated as a follow-up to the discussions at the Strategic Planning meeting, Finance Director Shockley drafted a budget amendment to move FEMA funds to use for the Centennial Park project. There was discussion on whether the revenue was expected and it was stated that it was not. The item will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

Manager Hord recognized newly promoted Fire Captain Jonathan McCulloh and Fire Engineer Matthew Quales. Both Fire Officers were pinned with their new badges.

Old Business

None

New Business

5. Sponsorship Request

East Rowan High School FFA

Mayor Barnhardt introduced the sponsorship request from East Rowan High School FFA. Manager Hord stated the \$200 request could be fulfilled using the \$150 remaining in the donations line and \$50 from the office expenses line. There was consensus to move \$50 from that line to donate the full \$200.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to approve the sponsorship request from East Rowan High School FFA for the amount of \$200, \$150 from the donations line and \$50 from office expenses line. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

6. Ordinance Amendment

Transformational Projects Grant Funds CPO

A grant for \$50,000 has been received from Farmers and Merchants Bank for the Civic Park improvements. The Capital Project Ordinance has been amended to reflect the funds.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve as presented (*accept the \$50,000 grant from the Farmers and Merchants Bank and amend Capital Project Ordinance 2023-01 to reflect the funds*). Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

7. Proclamation

Fire Prevention Week

Mayor Barnhardt recognized the proclamation for Fire Prevention Week on October 5-11, 2025.

8. Council Comments

- Mayor Pro Tem Shelton asked that a date be set for the strategic planning meeting specifically regarding town hall. There was consensus to hold the meeting November 10, 2025 at 5:00pm before the regularly scheduled meeting. Mayor Barnhardt asked that Council members send their vision for Town Hall to her for compilation.
- Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stated that the Council had adopted a resolution and committed to sign a pledge for civility. He felt there needed to be discussion on what exactly that meant. To him, it was only formally adopting what the Council was already doing. Council Member Mack stated she learned during the training that the Council was already doing what was best practice. Council Member Luhrs stated he felt the same, that Granite Quarry Town Council was already doing the things they suggested by working well together and talking things out. Mayor Barnhardt stated that the council members show commitment and dedication to working together with the way everyone behaves.

9. Announcements and Date Reminders

A.	Wednesday	September 10	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Executive Board
B.	Wednesday	September 10	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
C.	Wednesday	September 10	6:00 p.m.	Events Committee
D.	Thursday	September 11	3:30 p.m.	EDC Board of Directors
E.	Friday	September 12	8:00 a.m.	Government Affairs Meeting
F.	Saturday	September 13	4:00 p.m.	Fish for Fun
G.	Wednesday	September 17		NC Mayors Association
H.	Thursday	September 18		NC Mayors Association
I.	Thursday	September 18	7:30 a.m.	Power in Partnership
J.	Wednesday	September 24	5:30 p.m.	CRMPO TAC
K.	Monday	October 6	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
L.	Monday	October 6	6:15 p.m.	Board of Adjustment
M.	Tuesday	October 7	6:00 p.m.	National Night Out
N.	Wednesday	October 8	5:00 P.m.	Centralina Board of Delegates
O.	Wednesday	October 8	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
P.	Wednesday	October 8	6:00 p.m.	Events Committee
Q.	Saturday	October 11		Fiddlers Convention

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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk



RESOLUTION 2025-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY, NORTH CAROLINA, PLEDGING TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE CIVILITY IN GRANITE QUARRY

WHEREAS, the Granite Quarry Town Council, the governing body of the Town of Granite Quarry, North Carolina, recognizes that robust debate and the right to self-expression, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, are fundamental rights and essential components of democratic self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the Council further recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints is necessary to the health of the community and the quality of governance in the town; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Council, as elected representatives of the community and stewards of the public trust, recognize their special role in modeling open, free, and vigorous debate while maintaining the highest standards of civility, honesty, and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, Council meetings are open to the public and thus how Town officials execute their legal duties is on public display; and

WHEREAS, civility by Town officials in the execution of their legislative duties and responsibilities fosters respect, kindness, and thoughtfulness between Town officials, avoiding personal ill will which results in actions being directed to issues made in the best interests of residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between Town officials presents an opportunity to set a positive example of conduct and promotes thoughtful debate and discussion of legislative issues, resulting in better public policy and a more informed electorate while also encouraging civil behavior between residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between Town officials is possible if each member of the elected body remembers that they represent not only themselves, but the constituents of their town; and

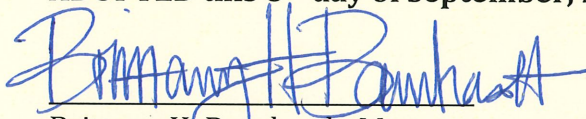
WHEREAS, in order to publicly declare its commitment to civil discourse and to express its concern for the common good and well-being of all of its residents, the Granite Quarry Town Council has determined to adopt this resolution; and

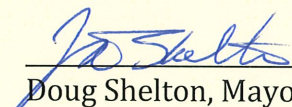
WHEREAS, at least 75% of the Council has completed the NCLM Commit to Civility program requirements and commits to uphold the nine pillars.

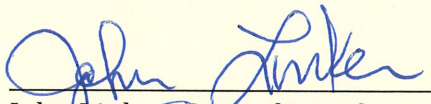
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

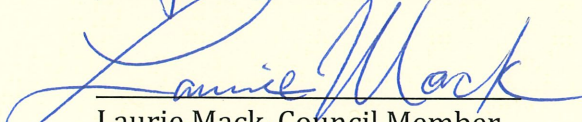
- The Granite Quarry Town Council pledges to practice and promote civility within the governing body.
- The elected officials of the Town Council enact this civility pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of the Town of Granite Quarry.
- This pledge strives to ensure that all communication be open, honest, and transparent as this is vital for cultivating trust and relationships.
- This pledge strives to show courtesy by treating all colleagues, staff, and members of the public in a professional and respectful manner whether in-person, online, or in written communication, especially when we disagree.
- This pledge strives to ensure mutual respect to achieve municipal goals, recognizing that patience, tolerance, and civility are imperative to success and demonstrate the Council's commitment to respect different opinions by inviting and considering different perspectives, allowing space for ideas to be expressed, debated, opposed, and clarified in a constructive manner.

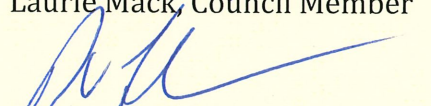
ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 2025.


Brittany H. Barnhardt, Mayor

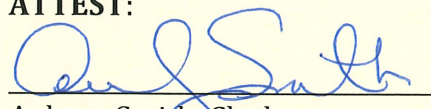

Doug Shelton, Mayor Pro Tem


John Linker, Council Member


Laurie Mack, Council Member


Rich Luhrs, Council Member

ATTEST:


Aubrey Smith, Clerk



The pledge below demonstrates a personal commitment to fostering respectful and constructive interactions within your board. By pledging civility and adopting the resolution, you ensure that voices are heard, and a healthy dialogue is created.

COMMITTY TO CIVILITY PLEDGE

The way we govern ourselves is often as important as the positions we take. Our collective decisions and governing process will be better when differing views have had the opportunity to be fully vetted and considered. All people have the right to be treated with respect. We value all input because we believe it is important for all to be heard and feel connected to their community which is critical for a healthy and vibrant democracy.

I commit to conduct myself at all times with civility and courtesy to others.

Rich Luhrs COUNCIL MEMBER
Name/Title/Municipality

[Signature]
Signature

9/8/2025
Date

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Laurie Mack Granite Quarry Council
Name/Title/Municipality

Laurie Mack
Signature

9/8/25
Date

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GRANITE Quarry / Mayor De Tena
Name/Title/Municipality

[Signature]
Signature

9-8-25
Date

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I commit to conduct myself at all times with civility and courtesy to others.

Brittany H Barnhardt Mayor Town of Granite Quarry
Name/Title/Municipality

Brittany H Barnhardt
Signature

9/8/25
Date



CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE

2023-01

TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY, NC TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the Town of Granite Quarry, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following Capital Project Ordinance is hereby adopted, *as amended September 8, 2025*:

Section 1: The Project authorized is for “Transformational Projects”, generally defined by the Council for the purposes herein to mean rare or even once-in-a-generation opportunities to advance Town projects that otherwise have not been possible through traditional Town funding or resources.

In Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 the Town received \$959,916.71 through American Rescue Plan Act funding, which it elected to expend under the standard allowance for the provision of government services authorized by 31 CFR Part 35.6(d)(1). While this amount was specifically used to reimburse the Town for qualifying salaries during the pandemic, the Council had chosen to use this same amount of funds as the basis for Transformational Projects it wishes to see achieved within the Town limits.

Section 2: The officers of this unit of government are hereby directed to proceed with the capital project within the terms of this project ordinance and the budget contained herein.

Section 3: The following amounts are appropriated for this project:

Civic Park Improvements*	\$	1,540,595
Transfer to TAP Project – GQ Match		110,000
Contingency		14,322
Total Appropriations	\$	<u>1,664,917</u>

**Includes Professional Services, Supplies & Equipment, and Construction*

Section 4: The following revenues are appropriated for this project:

Fund Balance Appropriated	\$	959,917
PARTF Grant		500,000
Cannon Foundation Grant		100,000
Farmers & Merchants Bank Grant		50,000
Woodson Foundation Grant		20,000
Robertson Family Foundation Grant		35,000
Total Revenues	\$	<u>1,664,917</u>

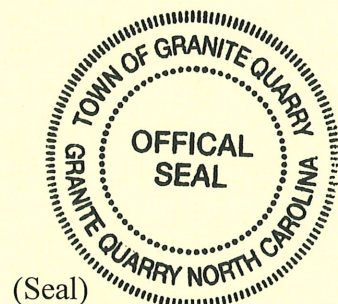
Section 5: The Finance Officer is directed to maintain within the Capital Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of all state and federal regulations.

Section 6: Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due.

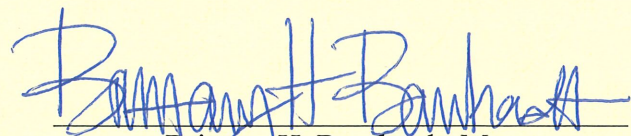
Section 7: The Finance Officer is directed to report on the financial status of each project element in Section 3 of this ordinance on a quarterly basis.

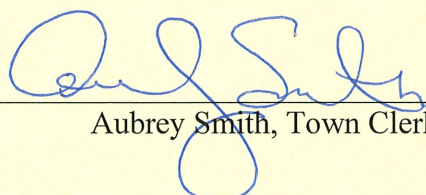
Section 8: The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this capital project in every budget submission made to this Board until this project is complete.

Section 9: A copy of this capital project ordinance shall be entered into the Governing Board's meeting minutes, and within five days after adoption, copies shall be filed with the Finance Officer, Budget Officer, and in the Office of the Town Clerk for direction in carrying out this project.



Adopted the 8th day of September, 2025


Brittany H. Barnhardt, Mayor

Attest: 
Aubrey Smith, Town Clerk

Office of The Mayor:

Proclamation

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2025

WHEREAS, the Town of Granite Quarry, North Carolina is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Granite Quarry; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, most of the electronics used in homes daily — including smartphones, tablets, laptops, power tools, e-bikes, e-scooters, and toys — are powered by lithium-ion batteries, which if misused, damaged, or improperly charged, can overheat, start a fire, or explode; and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) reports an increase in battery-related fires, underscoring the need for public education on the safe use of lithium-ion batteries; and

WHEREAS, residents should follow three key calls to action: buy only listed products, charge batteries safely, and recycle them responsibly to prevent battery-related fires; and

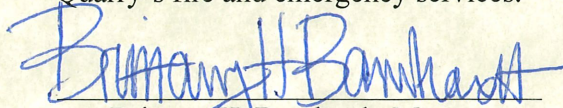
WHEREAS, lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small space, and improper use such as overcharging, using off-brand chargers without safety certification, or exposing batteries to damage can result in fire or explosion; and

WHEREAS, the proper disposal and recycling of lithium-ion batteries help prevent environmental hazards and reduce fire risks in the home and community; and

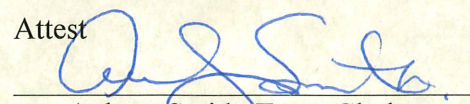
WHEREAS, Granite Quarry first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of fires through prevention, safety education, and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” serves to remind us of the importance of using, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries safely to reduce the risk of fires in homes and communities.

THEREFORE, I, Brittany H. Barnhardt, Mayor of the Town of Granite Quarry, do hereby proclaim October 5-11, 2025, as Fire Prevention Week throughout Granite Quarry and I urge all the residents of Granite Quarry to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Granite Quarry’s fire and emergency services.


Brittany H. Barnhardt, Mayor

Attest


Aubrey Smith, Town Clerk