



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 10, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor Pro Tem John Linker, Alderman Jim Costantino, Alderman Doug Shelton, Alderman Jeff Cannon

Staff: Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Aubrey Smith, Town Attorney Zachary Moretz, Finance Officer Shelly Shockley, Police Chief Mark Cook, Fire Chief/Public Works Director Jason Hord

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: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

During discussion Mayor Pro Tem Linker asked to pull the Financial Reports out of the consent agenda and add to New Business. There were no objections.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

1) Regular Meeting June 12, 19, & 29, 2023

B. Departmental Reports (*Reports in Board packet*)

~~**C. Financial Reports**~~ (*Reports in Board packet*)

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments.

4. Guest Presentation

Newsletter

Jerod Brown of Granite Sky Creative Group introduced himself and requested a dialogue with the Board in order to help make a recommendation for the most effective newsletter option for the Town. Mr. Brown cautioned that the Board should be realistic about the capabilities of staff. Mr. Brown passed out examples of newsletters from local municipalities and pointed out what was most effective. Individual Board members shared their opinions on what they would like to see. Mayor Barnhardt suggested a quarterly mailed newsletter and a monthly e-newsletter. There were no objections. Mr.

Brown shared that staff would benefit from developing a timeline for content. Staff will follow up with Mr. Brown.

5. Town Manager's Update

Manager Smith passed out copies of the implementation timeline from Stewart's Scope of Services for Town Transformational Projects. He also included a rough draft illustration of a Gantt chart for some of the other major town projects underway. He explained the amount of time and effort that he and Clerk Smith put into just that draft made it understandable why professionally scoped timelines have been static documents for project forecasting only, not living documents updated through the projects. Individual board members gave positive feedback on the visual. Mayor Barnhardt stated she would love to see the chart updated quarterly.

Manager Smith reviewed other items from his report included in the agenda packet including the reminder of the Rowan Municipal Association meeting that will take place July 27, 2023. The Civic Park Transformation project needs a target completion date of August or September in order to have the park ready for the Granite Fest. Manager Smith reported that as of today, the streets loan has been paid off. The Town does not currently have any debt.

Old Business

None

New Business

6. Financial Reports

Pulled from Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnhardt invited Finance Officer Shockley forward to provide a rough answer on the funds leftover after restricted funds.

7. Discussion

Charter Amendments

Staff followed up with Deputy General Counsel of the NC League of Municipalities, Tom Carruthers. Mr. Carruthers wasn't available for tonight's meeting but was willing to meet with the Board at a future meeting to discuss the process for charter amendments by ordinance and answer any specific questions the Board may have. Mayor Barnhardt asked if there was Board consensus to move forward with scheduling Mr. Carruthers to present; there were no objections stated.

8. Discussion and Possible Action

Civic Park Master Plan

Manager Smith reviewed the scope of services provided by Stewart for the Civic Park Master Plan and the additional fees for optional services. After Alderman Shelton asked whether the Board could serve as the steering committee Manager Smith shared that the steering committee could have Board representation but would ideally be a group representing the community.

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve (*the scope of services for the Civic Park Master Plan as presented by Stewart*). Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

ACTION: Alderman Shelton made a motion for a short recess. Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. Mayor Barnhardt recessed the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting back to order at 7:14 p.m.

9. Discussion

Town Hall Upgrades

The Board reviewed the design drawings for Town Hall upgrades from 2019. Manager Smith shared USDA loan figures with annual payments ranging from \$275,000 to \$425,000 a year. Manager Smith

shared that requesting funding from state representatives may be an option. Legislative funding and USDA loans are the two options at this point. Alderman Shelton pointed out that it would cost money to get things ready to make a request from the legislators, but that seemed to be the only feasible option. After Mayor Barnhardt stated an interest in putting together a steering committee to suggest tweaks to the design Manager Smith shared that would be moving away from the architect's expertise. Board members discussed different options for moving forward including proceeding with the upgrades as presented and building a new building.

Mayor Barnhardt asked to keep the item on the agenda and discuss the options further next month.

10. Board Comments – There were no Board comments.

11. Announcements and Date Reminders

A. Thursday	July 13	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission
B. Monday	July 17	6:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
C. Tuesday	July 18	3:30 p.m.	Revitalization Team
D. Saturday	July 22	9:00 a.m.	Dragon Boat Festival
E. Thursday	July 27	5:30 p.m.	Events Committee
F. Thursday	July 27	6:00 p.m.	Rowan Municipal Association
G. Monday	August 7	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
H. Wednesday	August 9	5:00 p.m.	Centralina Board of Delegates
I. Thursday	August 10	5:30 p.m.	Community Appearance Commission

Adjourn

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting ended at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk