



**Town of
GRANITE QUARRY**
TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
STRATEGIC PLANNING
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 3:30 p.m. &
Friday, February 9, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor Pro Tem Doug Shelton, Alderman John Linker, Alderwoman Laurie Mack, Alderman Rich Luhrs

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

Call to Order: Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: Alderman Luhrs made a motion to move the Closed Session discussion to the first item on the agenda and the Strategic discussion to the second item. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

2. ~~3.~~ Closed Session

Personnel Performance

ACTION: Alderman Luhrs made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss the performance of an individual public officer or employee. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Alderman Linker joined the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

In Closed Session the following action was taken:

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to return to open session. Alderman Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Barnhardt called the open session back to order at 4:55 p.m.

ACTION: Alderman Luhrs made a motion to terminate the employment contract between the Town and Town Manager Larry Smith according to the terms of the contract dated March 9, 2020. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1 with Alderman Linker opposed.

Recess

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to recess until Friday, February 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting ended at 4:59 p.m.

Friday, February 9, 2024

Alderman Linker was not in attendance for the February 9, 2024 segment of the meeting.

Call to Order: Mayor Barnhardt called the Strategic Planning meeting recessed on February 7, 2024, back into session at 10:04 a.m.

Mayor Barnhardt summarized that the meeting was picking up where Wednesday's segment of the meeting left off on the agenda and asked if the Board wanted to continue the discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton stated a desire to let staff know that Manager Smith was in his 30-day notice period and that all salary and benefits would continue to be paid during the period. He stated the Board plans to start working on finding an acting Town Manager and then eventually an interim Town Manager as soon as practical. Mayor Barnhardt stated that the Board would need to go into closed sessions to start the discussion on candidates for appointment.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Section 143-318.11(a)(5)(ii) & (6) *((5) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating ... (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. (6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee).* Alderman Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

ACTION: Alderman Luhrs made a motion to return to open session. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Barnhardt shared that during Closed Session the Board reached consensus to temporarily make an appointment to an Acting Town Manager role. The Board will discuss the process to search for and appoint an Interim Town Manager at a future meeting. Mayor Barnhardt shared that the Board discussed appointing Chief Jason Hord to Acting Town Manager and that he stated his willingness to serve in the role.

ACTION: Alderman Luhrs made a motion to take action on the discussion of appointing Chief Hord to the role of Acting Town Manager. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board will explore options for assistance with the search for a Town Manager.

3. ~~2~~ Discussion Strategic Planning

Mayor Barnhardt asked if there was Board consensus to wait to discuss Strategic Planning at the scheduled Planning Retreat on February 22, 2024.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to remove Strategic Planning from today's agenda. Alderwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Adjourn

ACTION: Alderman Luhrs made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The meeting ended at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk