



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 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; Planning, Zoning, and Subdivision Administrator Richard Flowe; Public Works Director Colton Fries; Office Assistant Debbie Loflin-Benge

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. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

- 1) Special Meeting December 9, 2024
- 2) Regular Meeting December 9, 2024
- 3) Special Meeting December 12, 2024

B. Departmental Reports

C. Financial Reports

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Linker 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 Update in the agenda packet including that the last load of supplies for Western North Carolina had been delivered. He gave kudos to Chief Taylor for organizing the collection and delivery. The new snowflake decorations were placed around the park. The two new police vehicles are currently at the installer. Christmas at the Lake was successful with over 800 attendees and fifteen volunteers. The 2009 Public Works truck transmission had to be rebuilt and was completed within the current budget. The street paving project was completed under budget.

Manager Hord invited Office Assistant Debbie Loflin-Benge to speak about the recent Operation Christmas Spirit in coordination with the Police Department and Granite Quarry Elementary School. Eight families, including nineteen children, received everything on their wishlists. The school and families expressed their gratitude to the Town Council, staff, and community members for their participation. The last portion of this event will be next Friday when Sergeant Greg McKinney, who owns Blue Line BBQ, will be preparing a meal for all the families.

Office Assistant Loflin-Benge thanked the Pedal Factory for repairing some of the bikes and donating bike locks, Grateful Heart Ministries for donating bikes and helmets, and Chief Taylor for all his work coordinating. Mayor Barnhardt thanked Office Assistant Loflin-Benge for the time and effort she put into the event and stated she looked forward to the event growing annually.

Manager Hord asked for and received consensus from the Council to pay for the TAC meal at the next meeting. The meal has already been budgeted for.

5. Public Hearing **ZTA 2025-01-13 Table 8.1 Update**

A. Staff Summary

Mr. Flowe introduced the Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Granite Quarry Development Ordinance prepared after the Planning Board's review and suggestions. The proposed amendments include:

- Article 8, Table 8.1, Section 1 would be amended by adding certain uses within certain districts as discussed and recommended by the Planning Board;
- Article 7, Section 15-2 would be amended by adding language regarding Common Open Spaces to Development Agreements; and
- Article 21, Section 21.2-8 would have language concerning Common Open Spaces added and amended.

B. Public Hearing

- 1) Opened: Mayor Barnhardt opened the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.
 - There were no public comments.
- 2) Closed: Mayor Barnhardt closed the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

C. Council Discussion and Decision

The Council and Attorney Moretz asked questions regarding specific changes including classifications and Common Open Spaces. Mayor Barnhardt thanked Mr. Flowe and the Planning Board for their work on the review and suggested revisions.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to adopt Ordinance ZTA 2025-01-13. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Old Business **None**
New Business

6. Annexation **3006 Old Concord Road**

A. Resolution Directing Clerk to Investigate

Mr. Flowe presented the petition for a voluntary non-contiguous annexation in the Town's sphere of influence beyond the ETJ. The property abuts a property that was annexed into the Town in 2024.

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01-13-1 directing the clerk to investigate a petition for annexation. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

B. Certificate of Sufficiency

The certificate of sufficiency was entered into the record.

C. Resolution Setting Date for Public Hearing

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01-13-2 setting the date for a public hearing regarding an ordinance for annexation. Council Member Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

7. Annexation **260 Tingle Drive**

A. Resolution Directing Clerk to Investigate

Mr. Flowe presented the petition for a voluntary non-contiguous annexation in the Town's sphere of influence beyond the ETJ.

ACTION: Council Member Luhrs made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01-13-3 directing the clerk to investigate a petition for annexation. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

B. Certificate of Sufficiency

The certificate of sufficiency was entered into the record.

C. Resolution Setting Date for Public Hearing

ACTION: Council Member Mack made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01-13-4 setting the date for a public hearing regarding an ordinance for annexation. Mayor Pro Tem Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

8. Resolution **Welcome and Slogan Signs**

Manager Hord presented the options for "Welcome To" and slogan signs. There was discussion and consensus to add "State" before Champions and make necessary adjustments to other words and spacing for visibility. Manager Hord will oversee the changes.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01 to allow Granite Quarry Public Works to work with NCDOT to create "welcome to" and "slogan signs" celebrating East Rowan baseball and their previous state championships with details to be worked out by the Town Manager. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

9. Appointment **NCLM Voting Delegate**

The Council was asked to appoint an NCLM Voting Delegate to submit the Council's 10 priority goals.

ACTION: Council Member Mack made a motion to appoint Mayor Brittany Barnhardt as the Council's NCLM voting delegate. Council Member Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

10. Decision **NCLM Legislative Goals**

The Council was asked to identify 10 of the 16 goals presented by the NCLM as priority. The ten priorities were decided by consensus and will be sent in by Mayor Barnhardt as the NCLM Voting Delegate.

11. Budget Amendment **NCLM Liability Insurance**

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to approve Budget Amendment FY24-25 #5 as presented to allow up to the maximum deductible of an open liability insurance claim. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

12. Bid Award

Granite Civic Park Upgrades Design Services

Manager Hord stated that staff put together an RFQ and received replies from four firms for the Granite Civic Park Upgrades Project design services. The responses were scored and the clear-cut winner was Benesch. Manager Hord stated that the Council was being asked to allow Manager Hord to negotiate the contract with Benesch. There was consensus to allow Manager Hord to do so. The contract will come before the Council for approval.

13. Training and Travel Request

The training and travel request for Mayor Barnhardt to attend the Town and State Dinner and the NC Mayors Association Winter meeting was presented. Clerk Smith shared that there was a misunderstanding regarding the need for a hotel, but the cost of the hotel should be less than or equal to the cost for the extra mileage that will no longer be necessary.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Shelton made a motion to approve the training and travel request for Mayor Barnhardt to attend the NC Mayors Association Winter meeting and the Town and State Dinner with the outlined costs associated with the conference not to exceed \$1000. Council Member Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

14. Proclamation

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Mayor Barnhardt recognized the proclamation for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the agenda packet.

15. Council Comments

- Mayor Barnhardt stated she will be a part of the Coffee and Conversation hosted by the Young Professionals group at French Express on Wednesday. The 99th Annual Chamber of Commerce Gala will be on January 23rd. Mayor Barnhardt challenged the Council to think of ideas on what needed to be amended in the Development Ordinance. Mayor Barnhardt stated she would not be in town for the scheduled March and May regular meetings.
- Mayor Pro Tem Shelton suggested the code enforcement items that seem to be causing hardships for some homeowners should be reviewed. There was discussion regarding what those may be and whether changes should be made. No action was taken.

16. Announcements and Date Reminders

A.	Thursday	January 16	7:30 a.m.	Chamber Power in Partnership Breakfast
B.	Monday	January 20		Town Offices Closed for MLK, Jr. Day
C.	Wednesday	January 22	5:30 p.m.	CRMPO TAC
D.	Thursday	January 23	6:00 p.m.	Chamber 99 th Annual Gala
E.	Monday	February 3	6:00 p.m.	Planning Board
F.	Monday	February 3	6:15 p.m.	Board of Adjustment
G.	Tuesday	February 4	5:30 p.m.	Events Committee

Adjournment

ACTION: Council Member Linker made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Luhrs seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk