



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 2, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Bill Feather, Mayor Pro Tem John Linker, Alderman Jim Costantino, Alderman Doug Shelton

Not Present: Alderman Kim Cress

Staff: Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Aubrey Smith, Town Attorney Chip Short, Fire Chief/Maintenance Supervisor Jason Hord, Police Chief Mark Cook, Town Planner Steve Blount

Call to Order: Mayor Feather called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence: Mayor Feather opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scout Brady Allum, Troop 379.

1. Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes

1) Regular Meeting Minutes October 5, 2020

B. Departmental Reports

C. Financial Reports

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Linker made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

3. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

4. Town Events

A. Christmas Trees at the Park Beginning November 27, 2020

B. Volunteer and Staff To-Go Meal – Discussion

There was Board discussion at Mayor Feather's request regarding the Volunteer and Staff Banquet traditionally held the first Friday of December as a sit-down dinner. Board members discussed their concerns with a gathering and suggested delaying until spring. Clerk Smith referred to the

Committee Report summary in the Town Manager's Report that was included in the Board packet. She advised the Board that the Parks, Events, and Recreation Committee (PERC) had taken the pandemic into consideration and was not considering a sit-down dinner. At its last meeting PERC voted to alternatively provide a drive-thru pick-up of catered BBQ plates on the same date.

Mayor Feather stated another choice would be to delay and have a formal event or picnic in the spring. Alderman Shelton stated that he was against a sit-down dinner, but due to uncertainty in the foreseeable future, voiced support of PERC's plan for an alternate event. Mayor Pro Tem Linker stated he was also against a sit-down meal but had no objections to the drive-thru event. Alderman Shelton asked that anyone who would have been invited to the sit-down dinner receive a plate at the drive-thru event. Alderman Costantino stated he was in favor of going forward with the event if it could be done safely.

There was Board consensus to move forward with the drive-thru event as proposed by PERC on December 4, 2020.

C. Santa at the Park December 5, 2020 3:00 pm – 5:30 p.m., Tree Lighting at Dusk

5. Town Manager's Update

Manager Smith referenced his report in the agenda packet and shared that today the Civitan Club celebrates 75 years in Granite Quarry. He stated that Clerk Smith has completed municipal clerk training and shared about ongoing technology issues at town hall. A recent meeting of the JPA committee took place; minutes will be sent out to the Board of Aldermen. Manager Smith also updated the Board on issues with the credit union easements and rights-of-way. He will follow-up with Attorney Short. Manager Smith will be sending out details regarding Paul Fisher. He also informed the Board the FEMA grant turnaround time for payment was estimated to be 30 days. The IDF grant has a 10-day turnaround time.

Alderman Shelton asked if the numbers on the FEMA Grant Capital Project had changed. Manager Smith replied that will not be known until the Invitation to Bid is back. Alderman Shelton also congratulated Chief Cook on new hires and asked if there were still open full-time positions that have not been filled. Manager Smith responded that one position was vacant, and one officer was out on leave but was expected to return.

Old Business

6. Discussion

Board Meeting Dates 2021

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to continue discussion to the December meeting. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

7. Comprehensive Parks and Rec. Master Plan

Manager Smith shared a PowerPoint presentation (included in the agenda packet) regarding Revenue Updates and a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Funding for the Master Plan was included in this year's budget. The Board requested to put it in Board Contingencies to control authorizing use of the funds until it could review revenues after each quarter. Smith advised that "worst case scenario" projections within the budget have indeed already realized a net gain in the first quarter review. As examples: Sales and Utilities Taxes account for approximately 37% of annual revenues and are trending to result in \$58,450 higher than budgeted for the FY; and collection of Ad Valorem taxes accounts for approximately 41% of annual revenues and is actually trending higher in the first two months than in previous years. Especially taking into account Board feedback of major repair and improvement expenses the Town needs to prioritize at the Lake and Civic Parks, Smith can safely advise moving

forward with commissioning the Plan, which will provide design standards and opportunities for matching grant funds.

The Board discussion included the positive effect a master plan would have on grant applications and the timeline for completion of a plan. Manager Smith shared that if approved tonight, the process for completing a parks and recreation master plan could most likely be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Pro Tem Linker asked how the town would approach the repairs that need to be completed now. Manager Smith responded that in the short-term the town would just repair what was there until the plan was in place. Alderman Shelton asked how this would relate to the immediate need to re-enforce the hillside. Manager Smith responded that the engineer was giving a cost estimate on that now and that recommendations would be brought to the Board once the estimate was received.

Alderman Costantino voiced concern over spending \$30,000 for the plan. Manager Smith replied that having a plan would give long-term benefits including helping secure a grant for the tennis courts instead of the town paying the full amount. Mayor Pro Tem Linker stated if the plan was the only way to secure funds, the town needed to be committed.

Alderman Shelton stated he was in favor of the plan, provided it was done right, but was anxious about using contingency funds and would rather wait until January when there was more information. He stated he felt with the uncertainty in the economy due to the Coronavirus, it was early to be making this kind of commitment. Manager Smith replied that the information for the next quarter wouldn't be available until probably February.

Mayor Pro Tem Linker stated he was in favor of the plan and that people move to Granite Quarry for the parks. He asked if the Board waited until the retreat in January to act, what would that do to the timeframe. Manager Smith responded the biggest thing would be planning for the budget. Mayor Pro Tem Linker stated that he didn't think the town could afford all the improvements to the parks, that the tennis courts alone could be \$100,000, and that the town would need to apply for some grants but the question was timing.

Mayor Feather stated that he thought a delay would be appropriate until December or January. He stated he believed the town needed to do a master plan whether in-house or through a third party, but he wanted to see more numbers and thought there could be some other things the town doesn't know about yet that might affect a master plan. Alderman Costantino agreed that he would like to wait until the first of the year to look at it again.

There was Board consensus to discuss the item again in January with high priority.

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to table the discussion of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan until the January meeting. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Linker opposed.

8. Coronavirus Relief Fund October Reimbursement Request Review

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Linker made a motion to approve the CRF Expenditure Report as submitted and attested to by the town manager. Alderman Costantino seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Alderman Shelton requested that the Board be provided with regular updates on how much has not been used.

New Business

9. Fence at Granite Lake Park – Discussion

There was Board discussion at Mayor Feather's request regarding the fence at the Granite Lake Park that had been damaged during the recent storm. There were questions regarding what materials would be used to replace the fallen fence and how the fence would relate to the proposed future master plan. Manager Smith advised that the discussion was premature as the insurance company has not been out to assess the damage yet. If approved, we would only of course repair the damaged sections with the same fencing that is already there.

There was Board consensus for staff to bring two or three options for replacement of the fence to the next meeting.

10. Proclamations

- A. Veterans' Day
- B. Civitan Club 75th Anniversary

Mayor Feather read the proclamations for Veterans' Day and Civitan Club 75th Anniversary.

11. Board Comments

- Alderman Costantino asked whether the plaque had been installed at the Byrd property. Manager Smith responded that it had. Alderman Costantino asked whether a plaque would be installed for Clyde Adams.

Mayor Feather asked that staff price the plaque.

- Alderman Shelton requested that next month the dates for the January retreat be set. Mayor Feather requested that Board members send in dates they wouldn't be able to meet.
- Mayor Pro Tem Linker thanked the manager and staff for the job they've done during COVID and over the last two years. Alderman Costantino and Alderman Shelton concurred.

12. Mayor's Notes

- A. Tuesday, November 3
- B. Monday, November 9
- C. Monday, November 9
- D. Wednesday, November 11
- E. Thursday, November 12
- F. Thursday, November 12
- G. Monday, November 16
- H. Monday, November 16
- I. Tuesday, November 17
- J. Wednesday, November 18
- K. Thursday, November 19
- L. Thur. & Fri., November 26 & 27

Announcements and Date Reminders

- Election Day
- 5:00 p.m. Rowan Chamber Business After Hours (virtual)
- 6:00 p.m. Planning Board
- Veterans' Day – Office Closed
- 5:00 p.m. CCOG Executive Board Meeting (virtual)
- 6:00 p.m. Community Appearance Commission
- 5:00 p.m. Parks, Events, and Recreation Committee
- 5:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Adjustment
- 3:30 p.m. Revitalization Team
- 5:30 p.m. Cabarrus-Rowan County MPO Meeting
- 7:30 a.m. Rowan Chamber Power in Partnership Webinar
- Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Adjourn

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The meeting ended at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith
Town Clerk