

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 16, 2017

REGULAR MEETING The Granite Falls Town Council held a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building.

PRESENT The following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Barry Hayes, Council Members Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Jim Mackie, Mike Mackie, Martin Townsend and Tracy Townsend.

ABSENT The following member of the governing body was absent: Marc Church.

STAFF PRESENT The following staff members attended the meeting: Town Manager Jerry Church, Town Clerk Paula Kirby, Administrative Assistant Kara Calloway, and Sergeant Craig Malton.

VISITORS The following visitors attended the meeting: Larry Knight, Caldwell County Schools Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute President Dr. Mark Poarch, Western Piedmont Council of Governments Assistant Executive Director Sherry Long, Granite Falls Historical Association President Linda Crowder, and the following members representing the Granite Falls History Committee and the Granite Falls Historical Association: Barbara Ross, Eddie Sipes, Adele Mangan, and Jeanne Whisnant.

NEWS MEDIA No media attended the meeting.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER Mayor Barry Hayes called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

INVOCATION Town Manager Jerry Church led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Barry Hayes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Special Presentations:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent of the Caldwell County Schools, presented an update on the school system. Dr. Stone also informed the Council an application for a \$15 million grant for the new Granite Falls Middle School has been submitted. He will be notified

November 1, 2017 if the grant is approved and awarded to the County. If the grant is awarded, the County has made a commitment for the required \$5 million match. Dr. Stone is very excited about the new school and thanked the Council for their support. A copy of Dr. Stone's presentation is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Hayes thanked Dr. Stone for his dedicated service towards education in Caldwell County. He also thanked him for the support of the new Middle School and the preservation of parts of the old school and some of the trees.

Dr. Mark Poarch, President of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, presented an update on the college. Dr. Poarch thanked Dr. Stone for his support of the college. CCC&TI awarded 856 certificates, diplomas and degrees and had 129 GED and AHS graduates for the 2016-17 school year. The school has implemented the "Career Coach" software which gives information for careers available in our area and has partnered with "Subaru U" which gives automotive classes online training. In 2016-17, 1,394 high school students took college courses and completed 14,162 credit hours. This dual enrollment saved parents more than \$1,000,000. 72 Early College students received AA or AS degrees and 57 Middle College students earned college certificates and 2 students earned AAS degrees. 3 South Caldwell High School students earned AA/AS degrees. A copy of Dr. Poarch's presentation is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Hayes thanked Dr. Poarch for his dedicated work and for the work the school does for the County. Mayor Hayes stated he is very grateful for the Adult High School and GED programs.

Sherry Long, Assistant Executive Director of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG), presented the WPCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Ms. Long stated the CEDS is a "living document" and is a 5 year plan. A copy of the CEDS is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Hayes thanked Ms. Long and the WPCOG for their work and service to the Town.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve the agenda as presented. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 2, 2017 APPROVED Mike Mackie made a motion the Council approve the minutes from the Special Meeting held October 2, 2017 as presented. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT Town Attorney Bruce Cannon was unable to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD No one registered to speak during the Public Comment Period.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

HISTORY COMMITTEE UPDATE Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Mayor Pro Tem and Co-Chairman of the Town of Granite Falls History Committee, updated the Council on recent and upcoming displays, events and activities at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. Upcoming displays include: *The Granite Falls Press*, Quilts, Bank of Granite, Church Histories, and U.S. Military memorabilia. Dr. Burns stated that the Town recently repaired and repainted the interior walls and ceilings and exterior updates will be done this Fall. She stated she would love to have more volunteers and thanked all of the members of the History Committee, the Historical Association and all volunteers. She also thanked Administrative Assistant Kara Calloway.

Granite Falls Historical Association (GFHA) President Linda Crowder informed the Council that the GFHA has 32 members plus the Town of Hudson and the Hudson Community Development Association. The GFHA promoted the History and Transportation Museum and the Historical Association by manning booths at festivals in Granite Falls, Hudson, Lenoir and Sawmills and they hosted an Ancestry.com Workshop on September 30, 2017. Upcoming GFHA events include a hike to the Falls and picnic at the museum on Saturday, October 21, 2017, and their annual meeting and membership recruitment event on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Philadelphia Lutheran Church. The GFHA plans to have additional genealogy classes, finish mapping Pinecrest Cemetery, identify and recognize historical sites, continue promoting the museum, update the “Etched in Granite” book, and conduct special events.

Mayor Barry Hayes thanked Dr. Burns, Ms. Crowder and all of the members for their hard work and dedication. Adele Mangan thanked the Town for their support.

Town Manager Jerry Church informed the Council of the completion of exterior painting at the museum and the recent contracting of someone to repair the porch. Copies of both presentations are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT The Revenue and Expenditure Report for the period ended September 30, 2017 was presented for the Council’s review and comment. This report represents 25% of the current 2017 – 2018 fiscal year budget. Also presented for Council’s review was the financial dashboard and an analysis of current year sales tax revenue and property tax revenue versus prior year and budgeted revenues. Copies of these reports are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADA COMPLIANT SIDEWALK TO THE ADA COMPLIANT PLAYGROUND AT THE SHUFORD RECREATION CENTER AWARDED On September 18, 2017, the Town Council approved the solicitation of informal bids to construct an ADA compliant sidewalk from the main parking

lot to the new ADA compliant playground at the Shuford Recreation Center. The Town was required to solicit informal bids (quotes) for this project since the construction amount is less than \$500,000. Clarence Lockamy, Town Engineer with the Wooten Company, solicited and evaluated the informal bids and determined that Mountain Crest, LLC, Lenoir, NC (Mountain Crest) was the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. The Mountain Crest bid of \$47,000.00 was slightly less than the estimated construction cost of \$47,550.00 for the project.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council award the contract for the construction of the sidewalk to Mountain Crest in the amount of forty-seven thousand dollars and zero cents (\$47,000.00) and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract, any related engineering or testing agreements, and all change orders on behalf of the Town that do not exceed the total estimated cost of \$71,000.00 for the sidewalk project. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

TOWN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE The Town of Granite Falls Administrative Office, the Recreation Center, and the Public Works and Electric Departments will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Veteran's Day	Friday, November 10 th
Thanksgiving	Thursday & Friday, November 23 rd & 24 th
Christmas	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, December 25 th - 27 th
New Year's Day	Monday, January 1 st
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 15 th

The Recreation Building will be closed to the public the entire week of Thanksgiving so the floors can be refinished. The Police and Fire Departments and the Water and Wastewater Facilities will be on duty as scheduled, and those employees scheduled to work these holidays receive alternate time off with pay. Due to Christmas falling on Monday in 2017, Republic Services will pick up garbage and recycling one day later than normal during the week of Christmas and will return to their normal pick up schedule the week of January 1, 2018.

MANAGER UPDATE Town Manager Jerry Church updated the council on the following:

1. Enclosed with the Council's agenda package was a calendar of events through the end of November 2018. Revisions since the last calendar were highlighted in gray. Upcoming events include the Veterans Day Celebration at the Recreation Center on Thursday, November 9th at 10:00 a.m., the Festival on the Square Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, November 20th at 6:15 p.m. and the Granite Falls Rotary Annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2nd at noon. Members of the Town Council may attend these events but there will be no Council business conducted at any of the events in instances where a quorum of the Council may be present.

2. Also enclosed in the Council's agenda package was the fall 2017 WPCOG Economic Indicators Newsletter.
3. The October 1, 2017 Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (C-W DMAG) drought trigger update indicated through the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) drought indicators, that the C-W basin remained in Stage 0 Normal conditions for the fourth consecutive month.
4. Town Manager Jerry Church did a program for a State and Local Government class at Appalachian State University on Thursday, October 5, 2017. The program centered on why students should consider careers in local government.
5. The Town auditors, Martin Starnes & Associates, will present the annual audit report at the December 7th Special Council meeting.
6. The next Council meeting will be a Special meeting on Monday, November 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall at the Granite Falls Recreation Center.

CLOSED SESSION CANCELLED The Closed Session was cancelled due to the absence of Town Attorney Bruce Cannon.

MEETING ADJOURNED Mike Mackie made a motion the Council adjourn the meeting. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Town Clerk

Council

Mayor

Members