

MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 6, 2021

Per Center for Disease Control guidance, attendees at the Council meeting who have not been vaccinated should continue to wear face coverings and social distance from others in attendance.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING The Granite Falls Town Council held an Organizational Meeting on December 6, 2021 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 and Council Members Mayor-elect Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Larry Knight, Jim Mackie, Mike Mackie, Martin Townsend, Tracy Townsend, and Council Member-elect Ritch Bolick.

ABSENT The following member of the governing body was absent: None

STAFF PRESENT The following staff members attended the meeting: Town Manager Jerry Church, Town Attorney Bruce Cannon, Town Clerk Paula Kirby, Finance Officer Jana Williams, Town Planner Greg Wilson, and Police Chief Chris Jenkins.

VISITORS Becky Hayes, Sandra Knight, Darlene Townsend, Elizabeth Carswell, Suzanne Barlow, Andrew Barlow, Jones Matthews, Shea Bolick, Tommy Klein, Adele Mangan, and John E. Wear, Assistant Community & Regional Planning Director for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments.

NEWS MEDIA No news media attended the meeting.

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

INVOCATION Councilmember Larry Knight led in prayer.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS/RECONGNITIONS

MAYOR BARRY HAYES RECOGNIZED After 38 years of faithful service to the citizens of the Town of Granite Falls, Mayor Barry Hayes has retired. Prior to serving as our Mayor for the past 24 years, he served 14 years on the Granite Falls Town Council, during which time he served six years as Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Hayes thanked the Council Members and Town Staff for their dedication to the Town. He stated that he felt privileged to have served

with the Council over the years. He also stated that he has received many more positive than negative comments regarding the Town during his service.

All of the Council Members thanked Mayor Hayes for his service and dedication. Town Manager Jerry Church presented a large retirement card signed by Town employees and also thanked Mayor Hayes for his service. There will be a retirement reception in honor of Mayor Hayes at a later date.

OATHES OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED Mayor Barry Hayes administered the oath of office to Mayor-elect Dr. Caryl B. Burns who was elected during the municipal election held Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns administered the oath of office to the following individuals who were elected during the municipal election held Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Town Councilmember Larry A. Knight
Town Councilmember Martin D. Townsend
Town Councilmember-elect Ritch Bolick

MAYOR TEMPORE SELECTED Under NC General Statute 160A-70 at the organizational meeting, the council shall elect from among its members a mayor tempore to serve at the council's pleasure. A council member who serves as mayor tempore shall be entitled to vote on all matters and shall be considered a council member for all purposes, including the determination of whether a quorum is present. In the mayor's absence the council may confer on the mayor pro tempore any of the mayor's powers and duties.

Mike Mackie made a motion the Council elect Councilmember Tracy Townsend as Mayor Tempore. Larry Knight seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021 Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve the minutes from the Special Town Council meeting held Monday, November 15, 2021 as presented. Larry Knight seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT Town Attorney Bruce Cannon did not have a report.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD No one attended the meeting to speak.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING CALLED TO ORDER ON REZONING PETITION #3-2021 – 142 DUKE STREET Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns called to order a public (legislative) hearing on Rezoning Petition #3-2021. An application for a Zoning Map Amendment (#3-2021) was submitted by Thomas Klein for his property located at 142 Duke Street. The 1.62-acre vacant property is currently zoned M-1, General Manufacturing and the request is to rezone the property to R-8, Medium-High Density Residential. The Council called for the public hearing at the November 15, 2021 Council meeting following the presentation by Town Planner Greg Wilson. The rezoning would become effective immediately.

The public hearing was duly noticed by posting a sign on the subject property, publishing a notice in the News Topic and by direct mail to adjacent property owners per the requirements set forth in G.S. §160D-602.

No one attended the public (legislative) hearing to speak.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING ON REZONING PETITION #3-2021 – 142 DUKE STREET CLOSED Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns closed the public (legislative) hearing on Rezoning Petition #3-2021.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING CALLED TO ORDER ON ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT #5-2021 – SPECIAL USES Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns called to order a public (legislative) hearing on Zoning Text Amendment #5-2021 which was submitted by Jones Matthews and would allow for reduced setbacks for detached canopies (carports) and would also make the dimensional standards for accessory structures uniform across all residential districts. The Council called for the public hearing at the November 15, 2021 Council meeting following the presentation by Town Planner Greg Wilson. The text amendment would become effective immediately.

Notice of the public hearing was duly provided in the *News Topic* as required by law.

Jones Matthews speaks to the Council Jones Matthews, resident of 25 Montclair Avenue, Granite Falls, informed the Council that he currently has a detached canopy on his property for his camper. He was not aware of the current zoning setback margins until he was informed by a neighbor. He would like to leave the canopy where it is located if possible.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING ON ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT #5-2021 – SPECIAL USES CLOSED Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns closed the public (legislative) meeting on Zoning Text Amendment #5-2021.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING CALLED TO ORDER ON THE UPDATED TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS LAND USE PLAN Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns called to order a public (legislative) hearing on the updated Town of Granite Falls Land Use Plan (Plan). The Council called for the public hearing at the November 15, 2021 Council meeting following the presentation by John E. Wear, Assistant Community & Regional Planning Director for the

Western Piedmont Council of Governments. The updated Plan would become effective immediately.

Notice of the public hearing was duly provided in the *News Topic* as required by law.

No one attended the public (legislative) meeting to speak.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING CALLED TO ORDER ON THE UPDATED TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS LAND USE PLAN CLOSED Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns closed the public (legislative) hearing on the updated Town of Granite Falls Land Use Plan.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING CALLED TO ORDER ON ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT #6-2021 – PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns called to order a public (legislative) hearing on Zoning Text Amendment #6-2021 – Penalties for Violation which is based on recently adopted State Law (SL 2021-138) that disallows the imposition of criminal penalties for violation of a development regulation. The Town would still be allowed to pursue civil penalties for violations. The Council called for the public hearing at the November 15, 2021 Council meeting following the presentation by Town Planner Greg Wilson. The text amendment would become effective immediately.

Notice of the public hearing was duly provided in the *News Topic* as required by law.

No one attended the public (legislative) meeting to speak.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING ON ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT #6-2021 – PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION CLOSED Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns closed the public (legislative) meeting on Zoning Text Amendment #6-2021.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING CALLED TO ORDER ON SUBDIVISION TEXT AMENDMENT #2-2021 – PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns called to order a public (legislative) hearing on Subdivision Text Amendment #2-2021 – Penalties for Violation which is based on recently adopted State Law (SL 2021-138) that disallows the imposition of criminal penalties for violation of a development regulation. The Town would still be allowed to pursue civil penalties for violations. The Council called for the public hearing at the November 15, 2021 Council meeting following the presentation by Town Planner Greg Wilson. The text amendment would become effective immediately.

Notice of the public hearing was duly provided in the *News Topic* as required by law.

No one attended the public (legislative) meeting to speak.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING ON SUBDIVISION TEXT AMENDMENT #2-2021 – PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION CLOSED Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns closed the public (legislative) meeting on Subdivision Text Amendment #2-2021.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

REZONING PETITION #3-2021 – 142 DUKE STREET APPROVED The Council considered Rezoning Petition #3-2021 for approximately 1.62 acres of property located at 142 Duke Street. The property is currently zoned M-1, General Manufacturing and the request is to rezone the property to R-8, Medium-High Density Residential.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve Rezoning Petition #3-2021, Rezoning Ordinance #362, and approve the corresponding Statement of Consistency & Reasonableness contained in the agenda packet. Ritch Bolick seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. Copies of Rezoning Petition #3-2021 and Ordinance #362 are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

UPDATE TO THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS ZONING REGULATIONS – ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT #5-2021 APPROVED The Council considered the update to the Town of Granite Falls Zoning Regulations.

Larry Knight made a motion the Council approve Zoning Text Amendment #5-2021, Ordinance #363, and approve the corresponding Statement of Consistency & Reasonableness contained in the agenda packet. Tracy Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. Copies of Zoning Text Amendment #5-2021 and Ordinance #363 are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

UPDATED TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS LAND USE PLAN APPROVED The Council considered the updated Town of Granite Falls Land Use Plan.

Martin Townsend made a motion the Council approve the updated Town of Granite Falls Land Use Plan as presented. Jim Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. A copy of the plan is available for review at the Town Municipal Building. The Land Use Plan is also posted on the Town website.

UPDATE TO THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS ZONING REGULATIONS – ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT #6-2021 APPROVED The Council considered the update to the Town of Granite Falls Zoning Regulations.

Martin Townsend made a motion the Council approve Zoning Text Amendment #6-2021, Ordinance #364, and approve the corresponding Statement of Consistency & Reasonableness contained in the agenda packet. Jim Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. Copies of Zoning Text Amendment #6-2021 and Ordinance #364 are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

UPDATE TO THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS – SUBDIVISION TEXT AMENDMENT #2-2021 APPROVED The Council considered the update to the Town of Granite Falls Subdivision Regulations.

Mike Mackie made a motion the Council approve Subdivision Text Amendment #2-2021, Ordinance #365, and approve the corresponding Statement of Consistency & Reasonableness contained in the agenda packet. Ritch Bolick seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. Copies of Subdivision Text Amendment #2-2021 and Ordinance #365 are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns made the Council committee appointments for 2021-2023. A copy of the committee appointments is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF ELECTION The Caldwell County Board of Elections submitted the official results of the Granite Falls' election held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. A copy of the results is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial dashboard for the five months ended November 30, 2021 was presented for the Council's review. This report represents 42% of the current 2021 - 2022 fiscal year budget. Also presented for Council review was an analysis of current year sales tax revenue and current property tax revenue versus prior year and budgeted revenues. Copies of these reports are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF TAX COLLECTOR RATIFIED The Town of Granite Falls Tax Collector resigned to pursue other interests. Upon this resignation, Town Manager Jerry Church appointed Deputy Finance Director Ashley Presnell to serve as Tax Collector until someone is permanently hired for this position. Mike Mackie made a motion the Council ratify the Town Manager's decision as requested. Jim Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE APPROVED The Council was requested to cancel the regular Council meeting scheduled for Monday, January 3, 2022. Council is requested to call for a special meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room. Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve the changes as requested. Mike Mackie 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:

Christmas	Thursday, Friday, & Monday December 23 rd , 24 th , & 27 th
New Year's Day	Friday, December 31 st
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 17, 2022

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. Republic Services will pick up garbage and recycling on their regular schedule except for Christmas Day.

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 January 2023. Revisions since the last calendar were highlighted in yellow.
2. The School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill (SOG) is offering the Essentials of Government for newly elected officials and for re-elected or veteran officials. Both classes also include the required ethics training for newly elected or re-elected officials. The Town of Granite Falls has one newly elected official and three re-elected officials. The required training is available on-line or in-person and the Town Manager is working with these officials to get them registered for the required training classes.

Note: Members of the Town Council may attend events referenced in 1) & 2) above that are, or are not, sponsored by the Town but there will be no Council business conducted at any of these events in instances where a quorum of the Council may be present.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns informed the Council that the Granite Falls History Committee will hold a reception for the artists who currently have works on exhibit at the History and Transportation Museum on Sunday, December 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

COUNCIL GOES INTO CLOSED SESSION Larry Knight made a motion under N.C. General Statute 143-318.11 (3) the Council shall hold a closed session to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

COUNCIL GOES OUT OF CLOSED SESSION Martin Townsend made a motion the Council go out of closed session. Tracy Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING CALLED FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council call for a public (legislative) hearing for an Economic Development Project at the next Council meeting, which is a special meeting scheduled for Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Larry Knight seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

Page 8
Minutes of
Organizational Meeting
December 6, 2021

MEETING ADJOURNED Mike Mackie made a motion the Council adjourn the meeting.
Ritch Bolick seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.