

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 19, 2020

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), this special meeting of the Granite Falls Town Council was held in the Council Room and allowed for remote participation by members of the media, citizens and members of the general public, and all other interested parties.

REGULAR MEETING The Granite Falls Town Council held a Regular Meeting on October 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building.

PRESENT The following members of the governing body were physically present: Mayor Barry Hayes, and Council Members Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Larry Knight, Jim Mackie, Mike Mackie, Martin Townsend, and Tracy Townsend. Mayor Hayes did a roll call of all members present.

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

STAFF PRESENT The following staff members physically attended the meeting: Town Manager Jerry Church, Town Attorney Bruce Cannon, Town Clerk Paula Kirby, and Town Finance Director Jana Williams.

VISITORS None

NEWS MEDIA Garrett Stell, representing *The News-Topic*, attended the meeting by remote participation.

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

INVOCATION Councilmember Tracy Townsend led in prayer.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Martin Townsend made a motion the Council approve the agenda as presented. Larry Knight seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 AT 9:15 A.M. Mike Mackie made a motion the Council approve the minutes from the Special Council meeting held September 28, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. as presented. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD No public comments were submitted.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ADOPTED Paul Teague from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG), submitted the Town of Granite Falls Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan that must be submitted with applications for all CDBG funding requests. The Town has applied for CDBG-CV funding to provide rent payment assistance, utility payment assistance, food, and food storage and handling equipment. This plan is necessary in case the Town applies to receive CDBG funding for any housing assistance and rehabilitation programs involving construction or tear-downs of residential properties.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council adopt the Town of Granite Falls Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the Community Development Block Grant as presented. Mike Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember. A copy of the plan is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS AND THE WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (WPCOG) TO PROVIDE STORMWATER UTILITY MAPPING SERVICES APPROVED On January 24, 2019, the Town of Granite Falls was issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) for violations of the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. There were no fines or penalties associated with the NOV. The first steps in getting the Stormwater Plan (Plan) back into compliance with the MS4 permit were to acknowledge the NOV in writing (completed 02/25/2019) and for the Council to pass a resolution demonstrating support for a compliant stormwater management program (completed 03/04/2019). The final steps are to complete a Plan self-audit, update the Plan, and comply with the Plan going forward.

On April 15, 2019 Council approved a contract with the WPCOG to update the Plan and to assist the Town in maintaining on-going compliance with the six required minimum measures of the Plan: (Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Stormwater Runoff and Control, Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations).

The next step in keeping the Plan in compliance is to complete the required Stormwater Utility GIS Mapping Project. Town staff recommends that the Town enter into a five-year agreement with the WPCOG to provide these services at a cost not to exceed \$42,410. The fees will be billed in five equal payments of \$8,482 annually during the course of the agreement which will begin January 1, 2021 and end December 31, 2025.

Larry Knight made a motion the Council approve the agreement with the WPCOG as presented. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor polling each Councilmember. A copy of the agreement is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 23 – OCTOBER 31, 2020 AS NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK ADOPTED Greg Ross, Unit Commander of The General Nathaniel Greene Young Marines, requested that the Council adopt a proclamation recognizing October 23 – 31, 2020 as National Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is in honor of fallen DEA Special Agent and former Marine Enrique “Kiki” Camarena and his fight against drugs and the crimes of the drug cartels. Red Ribbon Week allows the Young Marines to continue to deliver Special Agent Camarena’s message of hope to millions of people every year.

Jim Mackie made a motion the Council adopt the proclamation as requested. Tracy Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember. A copy of the proclamation is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

RESOLUTION DECLARING NOVEMBER 2020 AS PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS APPRECIATION MONTH ADOPTED The Council was requested to adopt a resolution declaring November 2020 as Public Safety and Emergency Service Providers Appreciation Month. The resolution expresses gratitude to those agencies directly responsible for making the Town of Granite Falls a safer place to live and work.

Dr. Caryl B. Burns made a motion the Council adopt the resolution as requested. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember. A copy of the resolution is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

ANNUAL REPORT – IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM The Town Council previously adopted the Identity Theft Prevention Program that was required under the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) Red Flags Rule. The FTC delayed enforcement of the Red Flags Rule on several occasions with the final date of compliance being December 31, 2010. The Town implemented the rules effective November 1, 2008 and submitted the required annual report for Council review. No additions or changes were made to the report. A copy of the report is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT The Revenue and Expenditure report for the period ended September 30, 2020 was presented for the Council’s review. This report represents 25% of the current 2020 – 2021 fiscal year budget. Also presented for Council review was the financial dashboard and an analysis of current year sales tax revenue versus prior year and budgeted revenues. Copies of these reports are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE CONSIDERED Larry Knight made a motion the Council cancel the Council meeting scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2020. Mike Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember.

SCHEDULED EVENTS CANCELLED The Council considered the schedule of events for the balance of 2020.

Veterans Day Ceremony	10:00 a.m. Tuesday, 11/10/2020 - Rec. Center
Light Up Granite Falls Tree Lighting Contes	3:30 p.m. Monday, 11/23/2020 - Downtown
Festival on the Square Tree Lighting Ceremony	6:15 p.m. Monday, 11/23/2020 - Downtown
Granite Falls Rotary Club Christmas Parade	Noon, Saturday, 12/05/2020 – Downtown

Martin Townsend made a motion the Council cancel all of the scheduled events for the balance of 2020. Jim Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember.

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:

Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11 th
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26 th & Friday, November 27 th
Christmas	Thursday, Friday, & Monday, December 24 th , 25 th , & 28 th .
New Year’s Day	Friday, January 1, 2021
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2021

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 October 2021. Revisions since the last calendar were highlighted in yellow. Note: Members of the Town Council may attend events 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.

2. The Town Office remains closed to the general public since the lobby will only hold 2 socially distanced visitors at a time and the Town hasn't had issues with customers using the drive-up window to conduct business.
3. The Caldwell County Board of Elections has done an outstanding job with early voting at the Recreation Center. The County is providing masks and hand sanitizer, giving pens to take home after voters mark their ballot, encouraging social distancing, and sanitizing voting booths after every use.

MEETING ADJOURNED Martin Townsend made a motion the Council adjourn the meeting. Dr. Caryl Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember.