

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JULY 19, 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.**

**REGULAR MEETING** The Granite Falls Town Council held a Regular Meeting on July 19, 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 Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Larry Knight, Jim Mackie, Mike Mackie, Martin Townsend, and Tracy Townsend.

**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, and Police Chief Chris Jenkins.

**VISITORS** First Baptist Church Granite Falls Pastor Jay Worsley

**NEWS MEDIA** Carmen Boone, representing the *News Topic*, attended the meeting.

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

**INVOCATION** Pastor Jay Worsley, First Baptist Church Granite Falls, led in prayer.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD JUNE 21, 2021** Martin Townsend made a motion the Council approve the minutes from the special Council meeting held June 21, 2021 as presented. Jim Mackie 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.

**NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

**REPORT ON UNPAID TAXES AND SETTLEMENT FOR 2020-2021 TAXES ACCEPTED** After July 1 and before being charged with 2020-2021 taxes, the Tax Collector must make a sworn report to the governing board showing a list of unpaid taxes constituting liens on real property, a list of unpaid taxes on personal property not constituting liens on real property and make settlement for 2020-2021 taxes per North Carolina General Statute 105-373(a). Council is requested to accept the report as submitted by Deputy Finance Officer Ashley Presnell.

Larry Knight made a motion the Council accept the report as submitted. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. A copy of the report is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT – FINANCE OFFICER JANA WILLIAMS** The preliminary Revenue and Expenditure Report for the period ended June 30, 2021 was presented for Council review and comments. This report represents 100% of the 2020–2021 fiscal year budget. Also presented for Council review was the financial dashboard and an analysis of 2020-2021 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.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT #1 – 2021-2022 APPROVED** Finance Officer Jana Williams informed the Council that Town Staff was not able to complete certain projects before the end of the fiscal year. Since these projects were not completed, the money designated for the projects went straight into fund balance at the end of June 2021. The Council was requested to approve this budget amendment to authorize expenditures to complete these projects in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Martin Townsend made a motion the Council approve Budget Amendment #1- 2021-2022 as requested. Jim Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. A copy of Budget Amendment #1-2021-2022 is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**LAND SWAP OF TOWN PROPERTY AT 4 LAUREL STREET FOR PROPERTY AT 29 LAKESIDE AVENUE APPROVED** When Town resident Louise Hamilton (Hamilton), 29 Lakeside Avenue, was preparing her residence for sale, the surveyor determined that a portion of the Hamilton driveway had been constructed on Town of Granite Falls (Town) property located at 4 Laurel Street. The surveyor further determined that a portion of a storage shed on Town property located at 4 Laurel Street had been constructed on the Hamilton property. Town Attorney Bruce Cannon researched these properties and determined that the easiest way to correct this situation is for Hamilton and the Town to swap approximately .05 acres of property. Town Attorney Cannon has prepared the documents required to complete the property swap.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve the land swap as presented. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. Copies of the documents are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

**PUBLIC HEARING CALLED FOR AMENDMENT TO TOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES TITLE XI: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 111. MASSAGE**

**PARLORS** The Council was requested to consider a request from Town Manager Jerry Church to amend the Town Code of Ordinances TITLE XI: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 111. MASSAGE PARLORS. This Ordinance was written several years ago to address issues related to massage parlors. Through the years, massage therapy has become a common practice and is heavily regulated by the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS). The NCGS require that massagists be licensed and regulated by state agencies. The Town Code of Ordinances currently requires that applicants that want to perform massages in Granite Falls undergo background checks and be fingerprinted which is already required by the NCGS. The Town Code of Ordinances has been modified to remove the redundancies and to allow the Town Manager, or his designee, to issue the Town privilege licenses for Massage Businesses and Massagists without Council approval if the business owner and the massagist meet the state requirements under the NCGS. The references in the Ordinance have been changed to Massage Businesses from Massage Parlors.

Dr. Caryl B. Burns made a motion the Council call for a public hearing on the amendment to the Town Code of Ordinances at the Town Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Larry Knight seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote. A copy of the amendment is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**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:

Labor Day	Monday, September 6 <sup>th</sup>
Veterans Day	Thursday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 25 <sup>th</sup> & Friday, November 26 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas	Thursday, Friday, & Monday December 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , & 27 <sup>th</sup>
New Year's Day	Friday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>

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 August, 2022. 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.

**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. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED** Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council adjourn the meeting. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote.