

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BUDGET WORK SESSION HELD APRIL 14, 2025

SPECIAL MEETING The Granite Falls Town Council held a Special Budget Work Session Monday, April 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building.

PRESENT The following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns and Council Members Ritch Bolick, Larry Knight, Jim Mackie, Martin Townsend, and Tracy Townsend.

ABSENT The following member of the governing body was absent: Mike Mackie

STAFF PRESENT The following staff members attended the meeting: Town Manager Daniel Cobb, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Ashley Presnell, Town Clerk Paula Kirby, Parks and Recreation Director Chad Raby, Police Chief Brine Branham, Fire Chief Brian Bennett, Electric Services Director Rick Sisk, Water Resources Director/Public Works Director Randy Smith, Human Resources Director Crystal Bollinger, and Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Kerley.

VISITORS None

NEWS MEDIA No News Media attended the meeting.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER Budget Committee Chairman Tracy Townsend called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Jim Mackie made a motion the Council approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

COUNCIL GOES INTO CLOSED SESSION Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns made a motion under N.C. General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (5) the Council shall hold a closed session to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. Larry Knight 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. Jim Mackie seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

NEW BUSINESS

ADDED AGENDA ITEM FROM CLOSED SESSION Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns made a motion the Council approve submitting a waiver request for a PARTF Grant for the potential

purchase of property behind the Recreation Center. Larry Knight seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

2025-2026 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

BUDGET CALENDAR

- May 19, 2025 Budget Presentation
- June 16, 2025 Public Hearing
- July 1, 2025 Deadline for Budget Adoption

CORE VALUES

- Controlled Growth
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Infrastructure
- Good Service
- Fair and Equitable Taxes
- Transparency
- Control

CONCERNS/CHALLENGES

- Fire Department Construction
- Money
- How to Address all Concerns
- Infrastructure
- The Right Growth
- Electrical Substation
- Relationships with Legislature

GOAL FOR THE NEXT 2-3 YEARS

- Build Fire Station
- Create/Implement Downtown Program
- Start Electric Substation Construction
- Revisit Comprehensive Plan
- Seek Grant Funding
- Funding for Projects
- Plan for Outdoor Event Space
- Address Employee Retention

BUDGET POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Efficiency
 1. Service Delivery
 - a. Technology – AMI
 - b. Staffing Levels – Water/Sewer
 2. Existing Infrastructure
 - a. Maintain/Repair

- Managed Growth
 1. Evaluate
 2. Plan Ahead

- Economic Development
 1. Support Local Investment
 2. Provide Resources – Main Street Program

Town Manager Daniel Cobb provided examples of Downtown properties and infrastructure investments.

- Employees

Town Manager Daniel Cobb presented a spreadsheet of employee positions needed to be filled. He stated that all positions cannot be filled this year. He will be discussing probability of failure and opportunity costs with each individual Department Head. A copy of the spreadsheet is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

- Employee Retention
 1. Updated Longevity Schedule
 2. Reinstate 401K Contribution
 3. Cost of Living Adjustment
 4. Wellness/Lifestyle \$250 Reimbursement

DISCUSSION

- Martin Townsend stated that the future DOT road projects will definitely affect Town businesses and properties.
- Mayor Burns stated that the Town needs to work closely with including Wal Mart when talking about “Downtown.” Tracy Townsend stated that all of the businesses in the complex should be included as well. Martin Townsend stated that the Town should look at available property near Wal Mart to attract other businesses and restaurants.
- Town Manager Cobb stated that the Town needs to be proactive in planning for Town growth.

A copy of the Power Point Presentation is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 21, 2025 CANCELLED

Mayor Caryl B. Burns made a motion the Council cancel the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2025. Larry Knight seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED Ritch Bolick made a motion the Council adjourn the meeting. Jim Mackie seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.