

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 14, 2020

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), this 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.

SPECIAL MEETING The Granite Falls Town Council held a Special Meeting on December 14, 2020 at 5:30 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 Martin Townsend 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. Mike Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 16, 2020 Larry Knight made a motion the Council approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting held November 16, 2020 as presented. Martin Townsend 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

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial dashboard for the five months ended November 30, 2020 was presented for the Council's review. This report represents 42% of the current 2020 - 2021 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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #8 FY 2020-2021 APPROVED Finance Officer Jana Williams requested the Council approve budget amendment #8 for fiscal year 2021. This amendment decreases COVID-19 expenditures and reimbursements in the General Fund.

Mike Mackie made a motion the Council approve Budget Amendment #8 FY 2020-2021 as requested. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individual polling each Councilmember. A copy of the amendment is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #9 FY 2020-2021 APPROVED Finance Officer Jana Williams requested the Council approve budget amendment #9 for fiscal year 2021. This budget amendment increases the Fire Department Capital Outlay and General Fund Contributed Capital for an insurance reimbursement received by the Town.

Martin Townsend made a motion the Council approve Budget Amendment #9 FY 2020-2021 as requested. Larry Knight seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember. A copy of the amendment is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #10 FY 2020-2021 APPROVED Finance Officer Jana Williams requested the Council approve budget amendment #10 for fiscal year 2021. This budget amendment increases the Police Department Supplies Expense and General Fund Grant Revenue for a grant received from Wal Mart.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve Budget Amendment #10 FY 2020-2021 as requested. Dr. Caryl B. Burns seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember. A copy of the amendment is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED ON PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL The Council was requested to review the preliminary assessment roll of potential liens against owners of real property located in the Town of Granite Falls that have failed to pay invoices issued by the Town for services rendered by the Town to abate public nuisances on said real property. These abatement services consisted of mowing grass and/or removing refuse or solid waste and/or demolition of declared nuisance structures, and/or fines for non-compliance in accordance with Town ordinances.

Martin Townsend made a motion the Council call for a public hearing on the preliminary assessment roll at the regular Town Council meeting scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Larry Knight seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember. A copy of the preliminary assessment roll 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:

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 December 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, and all other facilities with the exception of the Recreation Center, remain closed to the general public at this time. We do allow vendors, delivery people, and employees from other departments in other facilities on a very limited basis after checking temperatures. Visitors to our facilities are required to wear face coverings.
3. Sign-ups ended this past Friday for youth winter soccer. We have around 130 kids signed up and we plan on starting practices the first Saturday in January with games starting the last Saturday in January. We normally order soccer socks with uniforms for each participant, but this year we are going to substitute neck gaiters for socks for the participants so they can more easily keep up with them. We are going to require all parents, coaches, and staff to wear face coverings at all times. We are planning on each team having 2-3 players in the bench area at one time and of course, they will be social

distanced from each other and required to wear a face covering in the bench area. Spectators will also be required to social distance around the field area unless they live in the same household as other spectators around them. We don't think we will have an issue with 50 per field occupancy since we are staggering practice and game times, but if we do, we will limit access to parents only. Note-Players in the 4 & 5-year-old league will not be required to wear face coverings.

4. We will have a couple of extra port-a-johns available for use during the soccer season.
5. It is too early to decide what to do about the Recreation basketball season at this point. We have been trying to follow NCHSAA guidelines on sport seasons but they haven't had basketball yet. It is going to be difficult to have a basketball season this year since we rely heavily on the schools and on area churches for practice facilities and for games. Basketball sign-ups are tentatively scheduled during February with practices starting March 1st and games running from March 20th-April 24th.
6. The ABC Board meeting for January 11th has been rescheduled to January 18th.

MEETING ADJOURNED Larry Knight made a motion the Council adjourn the meeting. Mike Mackie seconded the motion, with a unanimous affirmative vote determined by the Mayor individually polling each Councilmember.