

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021 – 4:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BUTNER TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM – TOWN HALL

The Butner Town Council met at the above-mentioned time and place. All members of the Council and local news media were notified of the same as well as the purpose of the meeting which was to consider candidates for the vacant Council seat of Jimmy Gooch with the term ending December 2021, and to fill the vacant seat on the Granville Greenways Advisory Council.

To comply with measures to slow and prevent COVID-19, the Town offered a call-in option through Zoom Meeting to listen to the meeting. No Council Members participated remotely.

Present were Mayor Terry Turner, Mayor Pro Temp Bill McKellar, Council Members Michel Branch, Linda Jordon, Tom Lane and Vickie Smoak. Also present was Town Attorney Jim Wrenn, Town Manager Tommy Marrow and Town Clerk Barbara Rote.

Vacant Seat: – One - previously held by Jimmy Gooch.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order. Clerk Rote called the roll for Council attendance. Mayor Turner gave the prayer and led the Pledge to the American Flag.

INTERVIEWS FOR VACANT COUNCIL SEAT (JIMMY GOOCH) EXPIRING 12/2/2020

Council Member Jimmy Gooch resigned on October 27, 2020 to fill the unexpired term of District 7 County Commissioner Edgar Smoak. The vacancy was advertised with the deadline for submitting applications at 12 PM, November 23, 2020. The initial interviews were scheduled for the December 3, 2020 Regular Session. However, the meeting was cancelled and interviews were rescheduled for the January 7, 2021 Regular Meeting. A Council Member could not attend the January meeting due to a family emergency so the interviews were rescheduled to this special meeting. Three Butner residents applied for the vacancy: Judy Cheek, Allan Lane and Jacob Schaper.

Town Manager Marrow reviewed the guidelines for candidate selection as discussed at the November 5, 2020 Council Meeting. Interviews were conducted in alphabetical order and include self-introductions by the candidates followed by questions from Council. Council Members were each given a question from a pre-selected list. They asked the same questions to each candidate alternating which candidate answered the question first. Alphabetical order of the candidate's last name was used to begin the first question. The following questions were asked:

1. If you run for Council in November 2021, what would be your platform? Bill McKellar
2. Why do you choose to live in Butner? Vickie Smoak
3. How do you think the old Umstead Correctional campus should be developed? Tom Lane
4. Give us an example of when you have had a different opinion than others in the group? How did you handle it? Linda Jordon
5. We are in the process of updating our 2040 plan. Tell us what you know about it. Michel Branch

NOMINATION PROCESS FOR VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

Mayor Turner opened the floor for nominations:

Council Member Branch nominated Judy Cheek.

Council Member Lane nominated Allan Lane.

MPT McKellar nominated Jacob Schaper.

There being no further nominations, Mayor Turner closed the floor for nominations.

BALLOT VOTE - JUDY CHEEK SELECTED

Clerk Rote distributed ballots to each Council Member. The Mayor is a non-voting member on the Council so he could not participate in voting by ballot. Each member voted for one candidate and signed their name on the ballot. A simple majority vote of the Council present was needed to fill the vacancy (3 votes). Clerk Rote and Town Attorney stepped out to tally votes. Upon return to the Council Room, Clerk Rote announced the results. **Judy Cheek received the majority vote to fill the Butner Town Council Seat with the term expiring December 2, 2021.**

VOTING RESULTS

Judy Cheek - 3

Allan Lane - 2

Jacob Schaper - 0

Judy Cheek will be sworn in on Friday January 22, 2021 at Butner Town Hall.

**COUNCIL MEMBER CHEEK- APPOINTED TO GRANVILLE GREENWAYS ADVISORY
COUNCIL - 3-YEAR TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 2024**

Mayor Turner presented the vacant Granville Greenways Advisory Council (GGAC) that is filled by an elected official. Previously Council Member Gooch represented Butner on the GGAC. The seat became vacant when he accepted the appointment to serve as District 7 County Commissioner County Staff advisor, Justin Jorgensen, asked for a 3-year appointment with the term expiring January 2024.

Mayor Turner opened the floor for nominations:

MPT McKellar nominated Judy Cheek because she was selected to fill Jimmy Gooch's seat on Butner Town Council and because of her involvement with the Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs. Council Member Jordon seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Mayor Turner closed the floor for nominations and a vote was taken.

BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, COUNCIL MEMBER CHEEK WAS APPOINTED AS THE BUTNER REPRESENTATIVE ON THE GRANVILLE GREENWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL WITH A 3-YEAR TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, AT APPROXIMATELY 5:10 PM, COUNCIL MEMBER JORDON MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LANE, TO ADJOURN. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared by
Barbara J. Rote, CMC, NCCMC Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Terry Turner, Mayor