



TOWN OF
GRANITE FALLS
North Carolina

Barry Hayes Mayor • Dr. Caryl B. Burns Mayor Pro Tem • Jerry T. Church Town Manager
Council Members Larry Knight • Jim Mackie • Mike Mackie • Martin D. Townsend • Tracy Townsend

AGENDA
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021
4 SOUTH MAIN STREET
5:30 PM

Please note that due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), this meeting of the Granite Falls Town Council is being broadcast electronically to allow for remote participation by Town staff, members of the media, citizens and members of the general public, and all other interested parties. To provide adequate social distancing, only the Mayor, Town Council, Town Clerk, Town Manager, Town Finance Officer, ZOOM Meeting Administrator, Town Attorney, Department Heads or other Town representatives that are on the agenda, and a maximum of two members of the media and/or citizens and members of the general public at a time will be permitted to enter the Town Council Chambers. The meeting can be accessed by any other interested parties as follows:

visit www.granitefallsnc.com/meeting

Or by phone:

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 820 3671 6841

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|------|---|---------------------------|
| I. | WELCOME - CALL TO ORDER | MAYOR BARRY HAYES |
| II. | INVOCATION | TOWN MANAGER JERRY CHURCH |
| III. | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | MAYOR BARRY HAYES |
| IV. | RECOGNITION OF VISITORS | |
| V. | SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS-NONE SCHEDULED | |
| VI. | APPROVAL OF AGENDA | |

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 15, 2021.

VIII. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

BRUCE CANNON

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comments may be submitted up until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2021, by US Mail to Public Comments, c/o The Town of Granite Falls, P.O. Drawer 10, Granite Falls, NC 28630, hand delivered to the drive-through window at the Town Administrative Office at 30 Park Square, Granite Falls, NC, or delivered by email to admin@granitefallsrc.com.

The Public Comments submitted in advance of the Council meeting will be read into the minutes by the Town Manager during the Council Meeting and must follow the Public Comment Guidelines established by the Town Council. The Public Comment Period Guidelines are available upon request at the drive-through window at the Town Administrative Office located at 30 Park Square, Granite Falls, NC, or on-line at www.granitefallsrc.com/councildocuments.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE UPDATE TO THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE

The Council shall hold a public hearing on the update to the Town of Granite Falls Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The Council called for the public hearing at the March 15, 2021 Council meeting following the presentation of the update by Town Planner Greg Wilson. At the public hearing, all residents of the Town and other interested parties must be allowed to speak. The updated Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance would become effective immediately. (See attachment #1.)

Notice of the public hearing was duly provided in the *News Topic* as required by law.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE UPDATE TO THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS MINIMUM HOUSING STANDARDS ORDINANCE

The Council shall hold a public hearing on the update to the Town of Granite Falls Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance. The Council called for the public hearing at the March 15, 2021 Council meeting following the presentation of the update by Town Planner Greg Wilson. At the public hearing, all residents of the Town and other interested parties must be allowed to speak. The updated Minimum Standards Ordinance would become effective immediately. (See attachment #2.)

Notice of the public hearing was duly provided in the *News Topic* as required by law.

XI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

1. UPDATE TO THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE

Council shall consider the update to the Town of Granite Falls Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. (See attachment #1.)

2. UPDATE TO THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS MINIMUM HOUSING STANDARDS ORDINANCE

Council shall consider the update to the Town of Granite Falls Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance. (See attachment #2.)

3. REZONING PETITION #1-2021 – 62 DUKE STREET

Town Planner Greg Wilson shall review with the Council the Granite Falls Planning Board meeting held Thursday, March 25, 2021 where they reviewed Rezoning Petition #1-2021. James & Geri Edwards submitted a Rezoning Petition for seven parcels totaling approximately 1.53 acres of property located at 62 Duke Street. A 1.22 parcel is currently vacant and the other 6 parcels totaling .31 acres are within an existing town home development. The properties are currently zoned R-15, Single Family Residential and the request is to rezone the properties to R-8, Medium-High Density District which allows for multi-family development as a Permitted Use. (See attachment #3.)

The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Council approve the Petition for Rezoning #1-2021 as submitted.

Action Requested: Review and call for a public hearing at the Regular Town Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

4. APPROVE REQUESTING NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NC DOT) TO INSTALL CONCRETE CURB EXTENSIONS TO ENHANCE ADA COMPLIANCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF FALLS AVENUE AND CRESTVIEW STREET

Town Planner Greg Wilson will cover a proposed project by the NC DOT to install concrete curb extensions to enhance ADA compliance at the intersection of Falls Avenue and Crestview Street. The intersection currently has painted areas in lieu of curb extensions that would be replaced with concrete curb extensions (bulb-outs) with ADA compliant ramps and the curb extensions would also serve as “traffic calming” devices for that gateway into the downtown area. The curb extensions could also be used for future street scape beautification opportunities such as stamped concrete, plantings, and wayfinding signage. The NC DOT will determine how this project rates with other projects submitted and will also determine if this project meets all of their criteria. (See attachment #4.)

Action Requested: Approve requesting the NC DOT to install concrete curb extensions to enhance ADA compliance at the intersection of Falls Avenue and Crestview Street as presented.

5. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS PURCHASING POLICY

Council shall review the Town of Granite Falls Purchasing Policy. The purpose of the Purchasing Policy is to document how Town management has fulfilled their responsibility to guarantee competitive and advantageous procurement of goods and services while maintaining compliance with Federal regulations and North Carolina General Statutes. The Purchasing Policy can also be used as a training tool for new and existing employees in administrative and supervisory roles with the Town. The Purchasing Policy is a “living document” that must be reviewed and updated throughout the year as changes are made to NC General Statutes, Governmental Accounting Standards and in Town Staff and their assigned duties. The Town Council reviews and approves the Purchasing Policy on an annual basis. (See attachment #5.)

The changes to the Purchasing Policy in 2021 include:

- TITLE VI language revisions on the cover page and page 15
- acknowledgement of the Town’s construction & repair contract solicitation procedures regarding M/WBE vendors and suppliers on page 12
- addition of asset capitalization and useful life guidelines on pages 15 & 16
- physical inventory count guideline on page 16

Action Requested: Approve the Town of Granite Falls Purchasing Policy as presented and authorize the Town Manager to update the policy as needed.

6. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS INTERNAL CONTROL POLICY

Council shall review the Town of Granite Falls Internal Control Policy. The purpose of the Internal Control Policy is to document how Town management has fulfilled their responsibility for implementing and maintaining a sound and comprehensive internal control framework. Internal Control policies help identify and address areas of risk of fraud, waste abuse and mismanagement. The Internal Control Policy can also be used as a training tool for new and existing employees in administrative and supervisory roles with the Town. The Internal Control Policy is a “living document” that must be reviewed and updated throughout the year as changes are made to NC General Statutes, Governmental Accounting Standards and in Town Staff and their assigned duties. The Town Council reviews and approves the Internal Control Policy on an annual basis. There have been no changes made to the Internal Control Policy since the Council review in 2019. (See attachment #6.)

Action Requested: Approve the Town of Granite Falls Internal Control Policy as presented and authorize the Town Manager to update the policy as needed.

7. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS ETHICS POLICY FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS, APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND TOWN EMPLOYEES

The Council approved an Ethics Policy for Elected Officials on November 2, 2009 and a Conflicts of Interest Policy for elected and appointed officials and employees on July 10, 2010. While there have been no violations of either policy since their respective approvals and all elected officials have completed all required ethics training in a timely manner, it is good governance to review these policies periodically. (See attachment #7.)

Action Requested: Review Town of Granite Falls Ethics Policy for Elected Officials and the Town of Granite Falls Conflicts of Interest Policy and verify that Council members have read and understand these policies.

8. APPROVE RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 25, 2021 AS NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN’S DAY IN THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS

Council shall consider a resolution from the National Center for Exploited & Missing Children proclaiming Tuesday, May 25, 2021 as National Missing Children’s Day in the Town of Granite Falls as part of an on-going effort to prevent the abduction and sexual exploitation of children. (See attachment #8.)

9. APPROVE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

ElectriCities CEO Roy Jones has requested the Council approve a resolution supporting the passage of legislation in the General Assembly of North Carolina. The Council was previously informed by Town Manager Jerry Church about his discussions with legislators asking for their support in getting legislation passed that will allow changes to how funds required for the decommissioning of the Catawba Nuclear Facility can be invested. Since the interest rates on the types of investments the decommissioning funds can be legally invested in have plummeted, the investment income on these funds have plummeted so the power agency will have to invest more funds in the future to take care of the decommissioning costs. If investment earnings can be raised to higher levels, the Town, and other members of the power agency, may be able to turn what looks like a 6% future electric rate increase into a 8% future electric rate decrease. State Treasurer Dale Folwell supports this change in investments and would manage the investments for the power agency. The work with the members of the legislature has paid off in that two companion bills H257 & S323 have now been filed. Senator Warren Daniel (Caldwell, Burke and Avery Counties) and Senator Deanna Ballard (Watauga, Wilkes, Surry, Ashe & Alleghany Counties) have signed on as cosponsors of S323 and Representative Destin Hall and Representative Ray Pickett (Ashe and Watauga Counties) both support H257. (See attachment #9.)

Action Requested: Approve resolution as presented.

10. APPROVE RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO HELP KEEP THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS AND CALDWELL COUNTY LITTER-FREE

Council is requested to approve a resolution encouraging residents to help keep the Town of Granite Falls and Caldwell County litter free and to support Town of Granite Falls staff that volunteer to pick up litter in the Town on Thursday, April 15, 2021. (See attachment #10.)

11. CONSIDER VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES (NCLM) CITYVISION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The NCLM has scheduled their 2021 CityVision Annual Conference as a virtual event that will be held Tuesday through Thursday, April 20 through April 22, 2021. The cost to register is \$99 per person. Council members need to let Town Manager Jerry Church know if they would like to attend the virtual conference so the Town can complete the registrations. Town Manager Church plans to attend as much of the conference as time permits. (See attachment #11.)

Scheduled sessions include the following topics of discussion:

- Entrepreneurs Can Shift Your Community’s Optimism and Initiate a Transformation
- Crisis Communications: It’s All About the Response
- Municipal Finance for Elected Officials
- American Rescue Plan: Primer for Municipal Officials
- North Carolina Voters: Changes on the Horizon
- Cyber Threats and Trends
- Racial Equity Connecting with History
- Redlining, Restrictive Covenants, and Municipal Zoning Authority: Jim Crow Era Laws and Policies in North Carolina – 1900 to 1955
- Racial Equity: Making the Connection Through Data

Action Requested: Each individual Council member is requested to determine if they will be able to attend the NCLM annual CityVision conference and elect one voting delegate who will cast a vote for the 2021-2022 NCLM Board of Directors.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS NOT LISTED

XIII. MANAGER UPDATE

Town Manager Jerry Church shall update the Council on COVID-19.

XIV. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. WPCOG Policy Board
2. Caldwell County Railroad Policy Board
3. Sales Tax Reinvestment Committee
4. Catawba River Study Committee
5. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Technical Coordinating
6. Caldwell County Economic Development Commission (EDC)
7. Corporate Circle – sponsored by Caldwell Chamber of Commerce
8. NC Municipal Power Agency # 1 Board of Commissioners
9. Caldwell County Manager’s bi-monthly meeting
10. ElectriCities Grassroots Committee
11. Caldwell County’s Green Commission

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. The Granite Falls Board of Adjustment will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, April 14th at 5:00 p.m. in the Social Hall at the Recreation Center.
2. The Granite Falls Planning Board will have a virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 27th at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Granite Falls Land Use Plan Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 20th at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room. Note that some members of the committee will participate using ZOOM.
4. The WPCOG MPO/RPO will meet virtually on Wednesday, April 28th at 1:00 p.m.
5. The Granite Falls ABC Board will meet Monday, April 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the ABC store.
6. The Granite Falls Recreation Advisory Board, the Granite Falls Merchants’ Association, and the Granite Falls History Committee meetings are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19.

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, neither the Town of Granite Falls, nor the Granite Falls ABC Board, discriminates on the basis of disability in conducting its meetings. Individuals with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services or other accommodations for effective communication and participating in a meeting may contact the Town Clerk at (828) 396-3131. Requests should be made at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Reminder: The next Town Council Meeting is a regular meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Participation for this meeting will be done electronically due to COVID-19.