



TOWN OF  
**GRANITE FALLS**  
*North Carolina*

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

**AGENDA**  
**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022**  
**4 SOUTH MAIN STREET**  
**6:00 PM**

Face coverings are optional for the July 18, 2022 Council meeting but all attendees are encouraged to wear face coverings, and to social distance from other attendees who are not members of the same household, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals in high-risk groups, individuals who are completing isolation or were recently exposed, and residents at risk of infection should continue to wear face coverings in all public indoor settings.

- I. WELCOME - CALL TO ORDER MAYOR DR. CARYL B. BURNS
  - II. INVOCATION COUNCILMEMBER LARRY KNIGHT
  - III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE COUNCILMEMBER MIKE MACKIE
  - IV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT COUNCILMEMBER MARTIN TOWNSEND
- In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Council member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearance of conflicts. Does any Council member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflicts with respect to any matters coming before the Council today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matters involved.  
(N.C.G.S. 14-234, N.C.G.S. 160A-479.11, & N.C.G.S. 160D-109)*
- V. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
  - VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS-NONE SCHEDULED
  - VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
  - VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022.
  - IX. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT BRUCE CANNON
  - X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE SCHEDULED**

**XII. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

**1) REVIEW PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL AND CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

Council is 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 in accordance with Town ordinances. Town Planner Greg Wilson will be on hand to answer any questions about the assessment roll.

Action Requested: Review and call for a public hearing on the preliminary assessment roll at the Regular Town Council meeting scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room. (See attachment #1.)

**2) CONSIDER RENAMING LEISURE WAY**

The Town of Granite Falls Street Committee met on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. where Town Planner Greg Wilson presented a request from the property owners on Leisure Way to change the name of this Town street to Mosswood Way to eliminate confusion with Leisure Lane and Leisure Circle for delivery drivers. Chairman Martin Townsend will discuss the committee's recommendation that the Council approve the request as presented. (See attachment #2.)

Action Requested: The Council is requested to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee and call for a public hearing to amend the Town Code of Ordinances at the August 15, 2022 Council meeting.

**3) CONSIDER REMOVING STOP SIGNS ON BENSON DRIVE**

The Town of Granite Falls Street Committee met on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. where Town Police Chief Chris Jenkins presented a request from citizens in the Hunter's Creek development to remove stop signs on Benson Drive due to the change in traffic patterns since the construction of the Duke Street roundabout by the NC DOT. The change would make Benson Drive a thru street with stop signs remaining at Town Streets that intersect with Benson Drive. Chairman Martin Townsend will discuss the committee's recommendation that the Council approve the request as presented. (See attachment #3.)

Action Requested: The Council is requested to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee and call for a public hearing to amend the Town Code of Ordinances at the August 15, 2022 Council meeting.

**4) STREET PAVING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2023 ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

The Town of Granite Falls Street Committee met on Thursday, July 14, 2022 where Water Resources Director/Public Works Director Randy Smith presented an updated list of street paving priorities and estimated costs for the Committee to review. Town Manager Jerry Church requested that the Street Committee endorse the request that the Council approve allocating an additional \$495,000 out of the Town's Unrestricted Fund Balance to be used for paving Town streets. The \$495,000, coupled with the 2023 fiscal year-end Powell Bill restricted fund balance of \$305,401.85, would allow the Town to spend a little over \$800,000 on street paving projects in fiscal 2023. Chairman Martin Townsend will discuss the committee's recommendation that the Council approve the request as presented. (See attachment #4.)

Action Requested: The Street Committee requests the Town Council approve allocating an additional \$495,000 out of the Town’s Unrestricted Fund Balance for street paving projects. The Street Committee also requests that the Council authorize Town Staff soliciting bids for paving the prioritized projects up to a total cost of \$800,401.85, to allow the Street Department to award the projects to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all contracts and documents to complete these paving projects.

- 5) **ACCEPT REPORT ON UNPAID TAXES AND SETTLEMENT FOR 2021-2022 TAXES**  
After July 1 and before being charged with 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 taxes per North Carolina General Statute 105-373(a). Council is requested to accept the report as submitted by Deputy Finance Officer Kim Eckard. (See attachment #5.)
- 6) **FINANCE REPORT – FINANCE OFFICER ASHLEY PRESNELL**  
Finance Officer Ashley Presnell will present the Finance Report for the period ended June 30, 2022. Agenda package includes the preliminary Revenue and Expenditure Report for the period ended June 30, 2022 for Council review and comments. This report represents 100% of the 2021–2022 fiscal year budget. Also enclosed for Council review are the financial dashboard and an analysis of 2021-2022 sales tax revenue and property tax revenue versus prior year and budgeted revenues. (See attachment #6.)
- 7) **BUDGET AMENDMENT #1 – 2022-2023 – FINANCE OFFICER ASHLEY PRESNELL**  
During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the Town was awarded a \$210,000 (\$200,000 grant plus \$10,000 5% local match) North Carolina Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant for SERVPRO for renovations at their facility located at 121 Falls Avenue. The Town was the local government applicant for this grant and serves as the a “pass-thru” agency for these funds. Renovations are underway and at the end of FYE 22, \$12,950 of the grant has been disbursed leaving a balance of \$197,050 remaining in the grant. Finance Director Ashley Presnell requests the Council approve this budget amendment to amend the FYE 23 budget for the remaining revenue and expense associated with this grant. (See attachment #7.)
- 8) **BUDGET AMENDMENT #2 – 2022-2023 – FINANCE OFFICER ASHLEY PRESNELL**  
Town Staff was not able to complete certain projects before the end of fiscal year 2022. Since these projects were not completed, the money designated for the projects went straight into fund balance at the end of June 2022. Council is requested to approve this budget amendment to authorize expenditures to complete these projects in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. (See attachment #8.)
- 9) **BUDGET AMENDMENT #3 – 2022-2023 – FINANCE OFFICER ASHLEY PRESNELL**  
During tonight’s Council meeting, the Council approved a recommendation from the Street Committee to allocate \$495,000 out of the Town’s Unrestricted Fund Balance for street paving. If the Council approves the Street Committee’s recommendation, the Council would need to approve Budget Amendment #3 to amend the budget to increase the street paving budget for FY 23. (See attachment #9.)

**10) APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR A GRANT FOR A CONSERVATION PROJECT ON WILSON’S CREEK**

The Town of Granite Falls is a member of the Catawba Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG). Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Joy Munday serves as the Town’s representative for this organization. Earlier this week, the CWWMG’s Source Water Protection Task Force reviewed a grant proposal from Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina (FCNC) requesting a \$40,000 grant toward the FCNC purchase of a 93-acre parcel along 1.5 miles of Wilson’s Creek in Caldwell County. Wilson’s Creek serves as the headwaters for the Catawba River Basin which includes Lake Rhodhiss, the source of water for the treatment facilities that serve the residents of the Town of Granite Falls and Caldwell County. The purchase of this property would help protect the quality of the water for our residents. The CWWMG has requested the Town send a letter of support for the grant. (See attachment #10.)

Action requested: Council is requested to approve the letter of support as presented.

**11) 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 5 <sup>th</sup>
Veterans Day	Friday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 24 <sup>th</sup> & Friday, November 25 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas	Friday, Monday, & Tuesday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> , & 27 <sup>th</sup>
New Year’s Day	Monday, January 2 <sup>nd</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.

**XIII. MANAGER UPDATE**

Town Manager Jerry Church shall update the Council on the following:

- 1) Enclosed with your Agenda package is a calendar of events through the end of August 2023. Revisions since the last calendar are 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.**

**XIV. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. WPCOG Policy Board
2. Caldwell County Railroad Policy Board
3. Sales Tax Reinvestment Committee
4. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Technical Coordinating
5. Caldwell County Economic Development Commission (EDC)
6. NC Municipal Power Agency # 1 Board of Commissioners
7. Caldwell County Manager’s bi-monthly meeting

## **XV. INFORMATION ITEMS/REPORTS**

1. The Granite Falls Recreation Advisory Board will meet Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center.
2. The Granite Falls Merchants' Association will meet Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Town Office Conference Room.
3. The Granite Falls History Committee will meet Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum.
4. The Granite Falls Planning Board will meet Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room.
5. The Granite Falls Board of Adjustment will meet Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room.
6. The WPCOG MPO/RPO will not meet in July.
7. The Granite Falls ABC Board will meet Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the ABC Store.

## **XVI. CLOSED SESSION**

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.

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, August 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room.**