



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**  
**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022**  
**4 SOUTH MAIN STREET**  
**5:00 PM**

Face coverings are optional for the November 29, 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 TRACY TOWNSEND
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE COUNCILMEMBER MARTIN TOWNSEND
- IV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT COUNCILMEMBER JIM MACKIE

*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Council member to avoid both conflicts of interest and the 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
- VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2022.
- IX. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT BRUCE CANNON
- X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1) **PUBLIC HEARING ON REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON ALL TOWN MAINTAINED STREETS THAT DO NOT HAVE ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS FROM 35 MILES PER HOUR TO 25 MILES PER HOUR (MPH)**

The Council shall hold a public hearing on a proposed change to the Town Code of Ordinances to reduce the speed limit on streets that do not have established speed limits from 35 MPH to 25 MPH. Reducing the speed limit on these streets requires a change to the Town Code of Ordinances Title VII: Traffic Code, Chapter 72. Traffic Schedule IV, Speed Limits.(A) and (C) (3). (See attachment #1.)

**The public hearing has been duly noticed by publishing a notice in the News Topic as required under NC General Statutes.**

2) **PUBLIC HEARING ON ASSESSMENT AGAINST REAL PROPERTY OF OWNERS FAILING TO PAY INVOICES TO THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS**

The Council shall hold a public hearing on the preliminary assessment roll against real property owners failing to pay invoices to the Town of Granite Falls for services and fines 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 the issuance of fines for failure to abate nuisances, in accordance with Town Ordinances. At the public hearing, all real property owners of said property as well as other residents of the Town must be allowed to speak. Following the public hearing, the Council will be asked to approve assessments and/or discounts from the preliminary assessment roll. (See attachment #2.)

**The public hearing has been duly noticed by publishing a notice in the News Topic as required under NC General Statutes.**

3) **PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) APPLICATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR**

The Council shall hold a public hearing to receive citizen input in the development of CDBG applications for the upcoming year. CDBG funds may be used for a variety of different activities including Neighborhood Revitalization (NR), Economic Development (ED), and Demolition projects. Sherry Long, Assistant Executive Director with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG), will be here to answer questions about the citizen input process and questions about the CDBG funds. (See attachment #3.)

**The public hearing has been duly noticed by publishing a notice in the News Topic as required under NC General Statutes.**

**XII. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

1) **APPROVE ORDINANCE #373 TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON ALL TOWN MAINTAINED STREETS THAT DO NOT HAVE ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS FROM 35 MILES PER HOUR TO 25 MILES PER HOUR (MPH)**

The Council is requested to approve Ordinance #373 which reduces the speed limit on all Town maintained streets that do not have established speed limits from 35 MPH to 25 MPH. (See attachment #1.)

2) **APPROVE ASSESSMENTS AND/OR DISCOUNTS FROM THE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL**

Council is requested to approve the preliminary assessment roll, after determining whether or not to allow any discounts from the assessment roll, against real property of owners failing to pay invoices to the Town of Granite Falls for services rendered by the Town to abate public nuisances, or fines to abate 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 the issuance of fines for failure to abate nuisances, in accordance with Town Ordinances. (See attachment #2.)

3) **CDBG NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION GRANT**

The NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) has officially notified the Town that we have been awarded \$4,999,000 in CDBG funds for round two of the NR program. One of the stipulations is that the Town must hold two public hearings to obtain public input for this award. Sherry Long, Assistant Executive Director with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG), will be here to answer questions about the CDBG NR funding (See attachment #3.)

4) **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial dashboard for the five months ended November 30, 2022, is enclosed for the Council's review. This report represents 42% of the current 2022 - 2023 fiscal year budget. Also enclosed for Council review is an analysis of the current year's sales tax revenue and current property tax revenue versus prior year and budgeted revenues. (See attachment #4.)

5) **PROGRESSIVE ENGINEERING CONTRACT**

The Council is requested to approve the Engineering Services Contract with Progressive Engineering Consultants, Inc. for the calendar year 2023 and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Town. The contract establishes compensation, obligations, and insurance requirements, etc. The 2023 rates reflect a 10% increase from the previous year's rates which brings the average rate increase for the past 12 years to 2.45%. Note: there have been no rate increases for the past three years. (See attachment #5.)

6) **APPROVE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NC DOT) RESOLUTION TO REDUCE SPEED LIMIT ON THE NC DOT PORTIONS OF WEST HIGHLAND AVENUE/GRANDVIEW STREET (SR 1108) FROM 35 TO 25 MILES PER HOUR (MPH)**

On October 17, 2022, the Council approved Ordinance #370 which amended the Town Code of Ordinances and reduced the speed limit on West Highland Avenue/Grandview Street, including the NC DOT portions of these streets, from 35 MPH to 25 MPH.

The NC DOT requires the Town to complete a Municipal Certification for NC DOT approval before the reduced speed limit becomes effective for the NC DOT portions of these streets. (See attachment #6.)

Action requested: Approve NC DOT Municipal Certification as requested.

7) **CONSIDER PROPERTYROOM.COM FOR ONLINE AUCTION PLATFORM AND SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

In 2010, the Council approved the use of govdeals.com (Gov Deals) to dispose of Town excess and obsolete Town property. The Town is still successfully using Gov Deals and has no plans to discontinue using Gov Deals, but Gov Deals does not provide services for the disposition of Town owned firearms and of evidence collected that is no longer needed by the Police Department. Police Chief Chris Jenkins shall request that the Council approve using PROPERTYROOM.com to dispose of these types of items mentioned above to expedite the disposition of these items while maintaining the “chain of custody” required by law. (See attachment #7.)

Action requested: Approve use of PROPERTYROOM.com by the Town of Granite Falls Police Department and approve Town Manager Jerry Church execute all agreements required to contract with PROPERTYROOM.com on behalf of the Town.

8) **APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR THE GRANITE FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT (GFPD) TO PROVIDE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) TO GRANITE FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GFES)**

The Council is requested to approve an agreement between the Caldwell County Board of Education (School Board) and the (GFPD) for the GFPD to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) for Granite Falls Elementary School (GFES). The School Board reimburses the GFPD for the cost of providing the SRO for GFES. The Council is also requested to authorize the Town Manager to sign this agreement on behalf of the Town. Note: The actual dollar amount of the contract can't be finalized until the GFES SRO is hired by the Town. (See attachment #8.)

9) **APPROVE AMENDED EMPLOYEE JOB GRADES, CLASSIFICATIONS AND PAY RANGES FOR FISCAL 2022-2023**

Town Manager Jerry Church requests the Council approve the amended attached schedule recommending employee job grades, classifications and pay ranges for fiscal year 2022-2023. Town Manager Church updated this schedule to include the addition of the SRO at GFES. (See attachment #9.)

**10) 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	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>
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>

The Police and Fire Departments will be on duty as scheduled and employees that are not scheduled to get all holidays off will be paid holiday pay at their regular rate of pay for the holidays regardless of whether they work those days. 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 January 2024. 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 Recreation Advisory Board will not meet in January.
2. The Merchants’ Association will not meet in January.
3. The History Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the History Museum.
4. The Planning Board will not meet in December but will meet on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room.
5. The Board of Adjustment will not meet in December but will meet on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room.
6. The WPCOG MPO/RPO will meet on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the WPCOG.
7. The ABC Board will meet Monday, January 9<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 to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

**XVII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**XVIII. ADJOURN**

***\*\*The Council shall hold its annual Christmas dinner immediately following the Council Meeting at Lake Hickory Country Club in Hickory\*\****

**Reminder: The next Town Council Meeting is a special meeting on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.**

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, neither the Town of Granite Falls, nor the Granite Falls ABC Board, discriminates based on 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.