

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 7, 2025

REGULAR MEETING The Granite Falls Town Council held a Regular Meeting Monday, April 7, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building.

PRESENT The following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns and Council Members Ritch Bolick, Larry Knight, Jim Mackie, Mike Mackie, Martin Townsend, and Tracy Townsend.

ABSENT The following member of the governing body was absent: None

STAFF PRESENT The following staff members attended the meeting: Town Manager Daniel Cobb, Town Attorney Bruce Cannon, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Ashley Presnell, Town Clerk Paula Kirby, Town Planner Greg Wilson, Parks and Recreation Director Chad Raby, Police Chief Brine Branham, Fire Chief Brian Bennett, and Firefighter Graham H. Triplett.

VISITORS Mitch Hawkins

NEWS MEDIA No News Media attended the meeting.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER Mayor Dr. Caryl B. Burns called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

INVOCATION Pastor Floyd Perry, Emmanuel Baptist Church, led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Councilmember Tracy Townsend led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT Councilmember Larry Knight read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement.

*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)*

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Introduction of Graham H. Triplett – Firefighter – Chief Brian Bennett Fire Chief Brian Bennett introduced newly hired Firefighter Graham H. Triplett to the Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve the agenda with the addition of New Business Item #5 – to nominate the Voting Delegate for the North Carolina League of Municipalities City Vision meeting. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

CONSENT AGENDA *All items below are considered to be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion or separate votes of the items listed under the Consent Agenda unless a Councilmember requests that an item or items be considered as a separate item of new business. When a Councilmember makes this request, the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered under agenda Section XII. New Business.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL CALLED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

COUNCIL CALENDAR Enclosed with the Council Agenda packet was a calendar of events through the end of December 2025. Changes to the Council Calendar from the last Council Calendar were highlighted in yellow.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2025

The Financial Dashboard for the period ending March 31, 2025, and sales tax comparison were presented for Council’s review. This report represents 75% of the 2024–2025 fiscal year budget.

APPROVE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 18, 2025, AS ELECTRIC LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY The Council was requested to approve a proclamation designating April 18, 2025, as Electric Lineman Appreciation Day.

APPROVE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 13-19, 2025, AS NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK The Council was requested to approve a proclamation designating April 13-19, 2025, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

APPROVE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 23, 2025 AS NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS’ DAY The Council was requested to approve a proclamation designating April 23, 2025, as National Administrative Professionals’ Day to recognize the accomplishments of all Administrative Professionals working in the Town of Granite Falls and to extend appreciation to all of the Administrative Professionals working for the Town of Granite Falls.

APPROVE RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO HELP KEEP THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS AND CALDWELL COUNTY LITTER-FREE The Council was 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 Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

APPROVE RESOLUTION - MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK The Council was requested to approve a resolution proclaiming May 4 through May 10, 2025, as Municipal Clerks Week to recognize the accomplishments of all Municipal Clerks and to extend appreciation to the Town of Granite Falls Town Clerk Paula M. Kirby.

APPROVE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 18-24, 2025, AS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK The Council was requested to approve a proclamation designating the week of May 18-24, 2025, as National Public Works week.

APPROVE RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 25, 2025, AS NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY IN THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS The Council was requested to consider a resolution from the National Center for Exploited & Missing Children proclaiming May 25, 2025, 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.

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:

Good Friday	Friday, April 18 th
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26 th
Independence Day	Friday, July 4 th
Labor Day	Monday, September 1 st
Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11 th
Thanksgiving	Thursday & Friday, November 27 th & 28 th
Christmas	Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, December 24 th , 25 th , & 26 th

The Police & Fire Departments and the Water & Wastewater Facilities will be on duty as scheduled. Republic Services will pick up garbage and recycling on the regular schedule except for Christmas Day.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS APPROVED Martin Townsend made a motion the Council approve the items in the Consent Agenda as presented. Ritch Bolick seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote. Copies of the documents are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT Town Attorney Bruce Cannon did not have a report.

PUBLIC COMMENT No one registered to speak during the Public Comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING None

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC (LEGISLATIVE) HEARING CALLED ON REZONING PETITION #1-2025 – REZONE PROPERTY ON FALLS AVENUE FROM NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS (N-B) TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS DISTRICT (H-B)

A Rezoning Petition was submitted by Mitch Hawkins for his property located on Falls Avenue, between 47 & 53 Falls Avenue. The property is 0.43 acres in size and currently vacant. The property is currently zoned N-B, Neighborhood Business. The request is to rezone the property to H-B, Highway Business.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council call for a public (legislative) hearing for May 5, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Larry Knight seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote. The Staff Report and Rezoning Petition are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

BUDGET AMENDMENT 2025-12 SPLASH BASH 2025 APPROVED

On October 21, 2024, the Town Council authorized the solicitation of sponsorships and donations to fund the Town of Granite Falls first annual Splash Bash Festival. The estimated cost for event at that time was \$45,000 and on November 4, 2024, Budget Amendment 2025-08 was approved establishing a budget for the event of \$45,000. The Granite Falls Parks and Recreation Department has been actively seeking sponsorships and donations since the fall of 2024 to support the inaugural Splash Bash Festival, scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2025. As costs have been refined, contracts signed, and events planned, the Department established a goal of \$30,000. To date, Staff has raised \$23,159.05, bringing the Department close to its \$30,000 goal. Given the overwhelming support following the impact of Hurricane Helene and the generosity directed toward the western part of the state, Staff is confident that future festivals will be fully funded through donations and sponsorships.

The Splash Bash is a free, family-focused event organized by the Granite Falls Recreation Department to bring the community together. It includes activities for all ages like bounce houses, face painting, food trucks, live music, and fireworks, with the splash pad open and active throughout the day. This event encourages community engagement, supports local businesses, and provides a safe, inclusive space for families to enjoy. With \$23,159.05 already raised in community donations, we are requesting Town support to help make this event possible.

The total cost requested is \$7,000 and will be funded with Town funds out of the General Fund.

Ritch Bolick made a motion the Council approve Budget Amendment 2025-12, allocating \$7,000.00 from the General Fund to the Splash Pad project as requested. Tracy Townsend seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote. A copy of the Staff Report and Budget Amendment 2025-12 are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE REVISED DISCOVERIES AND RELEASE TAXES At the February 3, 2025 meeting, the Council authorized Granite Falls Tax Collector Katie Parlier to approve \$1,979.49 in property tax discoveries and to release taxes in the amount of \$294.90. Since that meeting, an error has been discovered, and the Council was requested to authorize Katie Parlier to release property taxes for the revised amount of \$296.69. Ms. Parlier submitted a certified request, and the Caldwell County Tax Office verified the discoveries and releases.

Martin Townsend made a motion the Council authorize Tax Collector to approve the revised property tax release amount. Jim Mackie seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote. A copy of the 2024 Property Tax Releases & Discoveries report is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

2024 TAX LEVY SUBMITTED Granite Falls Tax Collector Katilyn Parlier submitted the revised 2024 Tax Levy, after the revised discoveries and releases, for Council review and comments. A copy of the 2024 Tax Levy is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES (NCLM) CITYVISION ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOMINATED

The NCLM has scheduled their 2025 CityVision Annual Conference for Tuesday through Thursday, April 29 through May 1, 2025. The Council was requested to nominate a voting delegate to vote on behalf of the Town.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council nominate Town Manager Daniel Cobb as voting delegate on behalf of the Town. Larry Knight seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

MANAGER UPDATE - TOWN MANAGER DANIEL COBB Town Manager Daniel Cobb updated the Council on the following:

1. Town Manager Cobb attended the ElectriCities Managers meeting on March 27, 2025. Manager Cobb stated that it was a good opportunity to meet other managers and discuss what ElectriCities does for municipalities.
2. Hayes Chemical Company was recognized at the Caldwell County Economic Development Industry Appreciation Luncheon on April 1, 2025, for its 30-year anniversary.
3. The first annual Splash Bash is scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
4. Town Manager Cobb will be speaking to Granite Falls Middle School students on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, as a part of the “Build a Community” presentation.
5. The Western Piedmont Council of Governments Annual Meeting will be held at the Hickory Metro Convention Center on April 10, 2025.

6. Manager Cobb attended the Hurricane Helene debris meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2025. Debris collections are still on going.
7. The Granite Falls Merchants' Association met today. This meeting was to begin planning for the upcoming Merchants' Festival in September.
8. Manager Cobb informed the Council of House Bill 765. This bill would largely undo local land-use planning and regulation and would mandate a range of specific actions removing local decision making.
9. Manager Cobb informed the Council of House Bill 661. This bill would clarify Building Code regulations and impose new limitations on local government authority.
10. Manager Cobb informed the Council that a bill to modify future IBTs has been filed. He will keep the Council updated.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. WPCOG Policy Board – No report
2. Caldwell County Railroad Policy Board - No report
3. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Technical Coordinating Committee - No report
4. Caldwell County Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) – No report
5. NC Municipal Power Agency # 1 Board of Commissioners – Will meet April 22, 2025
6. Caldwell County Managers' bi-monthly meeting – No report

INFORMATION ITEMS/REPORTS

1. The Recreation Advisory Board will not meet in April.
2. The Merchants' Association met today to start planning for the Merchants' Festival scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025.
3. The History Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the History Museum.
4. The Planning Board will meet on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
5. The Board of Adjustment will not meet in April.
6. The WPCOG MPO/RPO will meet on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the WPCOG.
7. The ABC Board will meet on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
8. Town Manager Cobb and Mayor Pro Tem Mike Mackie will be meeting with Phil Boggan of the North Carolina Main Street & Rural Planning Center on April 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL GOES INTO CLOSED SESSION Ritch Bolick made a motion the Council go into Closed Session. Mike Mackie seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

COUNCIL GOES OUT OF CLOSED SESSION Martin Townsend made a motion the Council go out of Closed Session. Mike Mackie seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

OTHER BUSINESS None

MEETING ADJOURNED Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council adjourn the meeting. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.