

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2025

REGULAR MEETING The Granite Falls Town Council held a Regular Meeting Monday, February 17, 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 Officer Ashley Presnell, Town Clerk Paula Kirby, Police Chief Brine Branham, Town Planner Greg Wilson, Water Resources Director/Public Works Director Randy Smith and Water Treatment Plant Supervisor/ORC Joy Munday.

VISITORS Nicole Hairston, Environmental Specialist with the North Carolina Division of Water Resources, Public Water Supply Section, Douglas Dupell, and Jamie Hagerty

NEWS MEDIA Shelby Powell, representing the News Topic, attended the meeting.

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

INVOCATION Minister Chris Bass, Philadelphia Lutheran Church, led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Councilmember Larry Knight led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT Councilmember Tracy Townsend 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 Nicole Hairston, Environmental Specialist with the North Carolina Division of Water Resources, Public Water Supply Section presented the 2023 Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) Award to Town of Granite Falls Water Treatment Plant for demonstrating exceptional performance in turbidity removal, a key measure of water clarity and quality.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Ritch Bolick made a motion the Council approve the agenda as presented. Larry Knight 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, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE BUDGET RETREAT HELD FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 31, 2025

The Financial Dashboard for the period ended January 31, 2025, and sales tax comparison were presented for Council's review. This report represents 58% of the 2024–2025 fiscal year budget

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

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. Larry Knight 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 scheduled

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

UNIFOUR REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE APPROVED Hazard Mitigation Plans are required by FEMA and are a prerequisite for eligibility for disaster relief and public assistance funding. It is also required that the plan be updated every five (5) years. All 28 jurisdictions in the four-county region (Caldwell, Catawba, Burke & Alexander) joined together in 2019 to develop the Unifour Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council approve the updated Unifor Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and approve the resolution adopting the plan as presented. Martin Townsend seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote. Copies of the Staff Report and resolution are attached and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET RETREAT RECAP Town Manager Daniel Cobb recapped the budget planning retreat held on January 31, 2025. The retreat was held to establish values and goals for the Fiscal Year 2026 annual operating budget and capital improvement plan. The core values identified, and project ranking will aid in the development of the annual operating budget and capital improvement plan. The top three values identified included the same amount of votes for Fiscal Reasonability and Controlled Growth, followed by Infrastructure. The top three challenges and concerns included the Fire Department Construction and equal votes for Money, and How to Address all Concerns. The Top three goals identified for the next two to three years included Building the Fire Station, Creating and Implementing a Downtown Main Street Program, and Starting the Construction of the Electric Substation.

The annual operating budget and capital improvement plan are policy documents. The purpose of which is to achieve the goals and priorities of the Town, while keeping in mind the Town's core values. The development of the budget is more than an accounting of revenues and expenditures. It is a representation of the desires and needs of the community. The staff's role in the process is to present to the Town Manager the required resources needed to achieve the desired outcomes of the budget document. As the budget process continues, the Town Council will be presented with additional information to aid in its decision making.

A copy of the Staff Report is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED FOR CDBG-CV GRANT CLOSEOUT The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comment concerning the closeout of the Granite Falls CDBG-CV, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Number 20-V-3500.

Larry Knight made a motion the Council call for a public hearing for Monday, March 17, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Tracy Townsend seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT There is currently one vacancy on the Planning Board for an alternate position as well as a vacancy created by the resignation of Deborah Chernesky. Planning Board Alternate Member David Kirby will replace Ms. Chernesky, which will leave two alternate vacancies. The Town has received two applications; James Hagerty and Douglas Dupell.

Tracy Townsend made a motion the Council appoint both James Hagerty and Douglas Dupell as alternate members effective immediately. Maritn Townsend 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. Manager Cobb reminded the Council of the Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2025, the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center at 5:30 p.m. Former Town Manager Jerry Church is one of the recipients of the L.A. Dysart Award. This award recognizes individuals who exhibit extraordinary citizenship within their community. Manager Cobb has reserved a row for the Council and Town Attorney Bruce Cannon to attend.
2. The responses are back from the Fire Department surveys. Manager Cobb will review the responses Wednesday.
3. The Clear Zone Study for the Gateway signs has been received. Manager Cobb will review it with Town Planner Greg Wilson and bring information back to the Council.
4. Town Manager Cobb and Councilmember Ritch Bolick attended the Hurricane Helene Recovery meeting held Tuesday, February 11th. Manager Cobb stated that it was very informative and productive. More storm impact information was given. Ritch Bolick stated that FEMA is working and providing funds. They are bringing more agents in to assist. The deadline for applications has been extended to March 8, 2025. Mr. Bolick was very impressed with the work being done. He and Manager Cobb said they both made good contacts at the meeting.

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) – Town Manager Cobb stated that the Caldwell County and City of Lenoir Housing Study was discussed.
5. NC Municipal Power Agency # 1 Board of Commissioners – No report
6. Caldwell County Managers’ bi-monthly meeting – Town Manager Cobb stated that the Caldwell County and City of Lenoir Housing Study was also discussed at this meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS/REPORTS

1. The Recreation Advisory Board will not meet in February.
2. The Merchants’ Association does not have a meeting scheduled.
3. The History Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the History Museum. A Quilt Exhibition will be held in the near future.
4. The Planning Board will meet on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
5. The Board of Adjustment will meet on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room.
6. The WPCOG MPO/RPO will meet on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the WPCOG.
7. The ABC Board will meet on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

COUNCIL GOES INTO CLOSED SESSION Martin Townsend made a motion the Council go into Closed Session. Larry Knight seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

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

OTHER BUSINESS None

Page 6
Minutes of
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2025

MEETING ADJOURNED Ritch Bolick made a motion the Council adjourn the meeting.
Larry Knight seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.