



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
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021
4 SOUTH MAIN STREET
6:00 PM

Please note that due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), this regular 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, and one member of the 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 | COUNCILMEMBER LARRY KNIGHT |
| 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 SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 14, 2020.

VIII. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

BRUCE CANNON

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comments may be submitted up until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 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

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 #1.)

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

XI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

1. 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 #1.)

2. REVIEW THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE TO ISSUE A CONTINGENT AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO REPLACE THE WATER LINE FROM THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO LAUREL STREET

The Water & Sewer Committee met earlier today and reviewed a recommendation from The Wooten Company to issue a contingent award of a contract to replace the water line from the Water Treatment Plant to Laurel Street.

The background on this project is as follows:

On August 13, 2018, Council approved accepting a \$500,000 loan from the State Reserve Program (SRP) to replace a water line from the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to Laurel Street. The 8-inch ductile iron line was installed in 1942 and will be replaced by a 12-inch line that will increase pump rates at the WTP and finished water flow into the Town's water distribution system. On July 15, 2019, as part of the paperwork required for the loan, Council approved a resolution accepting the offer and assuring the Town's compliance with the provisions of the Standard Conditions & Assurances for the State Reserve Program. The resolution also authorizes Town Manager Jerry Church to execute all documents required for the project. This project was included as project WD3 in the Town of Granite Falls Capital Improvement Plan approved by the Council on May 21, 2020 and in the 2021 fiscal year budget approved by the Town Council on June 22, 2020.

The Town received approval of the engineering design plans for the project by NC DEQ which allowed the Town to solicit bids for the project and on July 20, 2020, the Town Council approved the solicitation of formal bids for this project. The Town advertised for bids and held the formal bid opening on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Room. After the opening, tabulation, and subsequent review of bids, The Wooten Company has determined that M&M Construction of Banner Elk, NC is the apparent low bidder with a bid price of \$339,140.00. The Water & Sewer Committee is requested to review the certified bid tabulation and make a recommendation to the Town Council to issue a contingent award to M&M Construction. The award is contingent upon completion and submittal of the Project Bid Information Form to the Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) for approval. After DWI reviews and approves this information, DWI will authorize the Town to make the proposed award by issuing the Authority to Award. (See attachment #2.)

If the Water & Sewer Committee wishes to seek Council approval, the recommendation would be as follows:

The Water & Sewer Committee recommends to the Town Council that the Council issue a contingent award of a contract to replace the water line from the Water Treatment Plant to Laurel Street to M&M Construction of Banner Elk, NC in the amount of \$339,140.00.

If the Council wishes to approve the recommendation from the Water & Sewer Committee, the motion would be as follows:

I make a motion that the Council approves issuing a contingent award of a contract to replace the water line from the Water Treatment Plant to Laurel Street to M&M Construction of Banner Elk, NC in the amount of \$339,140.00.

3. PROGRESSIVE ENGINEERING CONTRACT

Council is requested to approve the Engineering Services Contract with Progressive Engineering Consultants, Inc. for calendar 2021 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 2021 rates reflect no increase from the previous year's rates which brings the average rate increase for the past 10 years to 1.94%. (See attachment #3.)

4. CONSIDER LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY GOALS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES (NCLM)

The NCLM has completed the preliminary legislative advocacy priority goals for this year’s legislature session. The NCLM has submitted 17 proposed goals after seeking input from 114 municipalities. Town Manager Jerry Church served as a member of the NCLM Policy Committee’s “focus group” for municipalities of similar population to the population of Granite Falls. The NCLM has requested that each municipality appoint a voting delegate by January 14, 2021 and that the voting delegate complete the online ballot by January 15, 2021 by voting on the Town’s top 10 legislative advocacy goals out of the 17 proposed goals. Town Manager Church has marked the ten goals he feels are the most important to the Town of Granite Falls but the Council needs to make the final decision. (See attachment #4.)

Action requested: Elect a voting delegate who will cast the ballot for the ten NCLM legislative advocacy goals approved by the Town Council.

5. DETERMINE COUNCIL PREFERENCE FOR PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD ANNUAL REPORTS TO COUNCIL

During the first quarter of each calendar year, Town of Granite Falls Department Heads normally present annual reports to the Town Council covering statistics and accomplishments of the previous calendar year. Unfortunately, the last 9 and a half months of 2020 has been abnormal and it appears that this trend may continue for the foreseeable future. Guidance from the CDC and NC DHHS still dictates limiting the number of people that can safely gather together indoors while social distancing and wearing face coverings. Town Manager Jerry Church is requesting Council input on how and when the Council would like to receive these reports. Options are as follows:

- a) In person presentations as normal. This would require “staging” Department Heads so one Department Head at a time appears before the Council and limiting the presentations to around 10 minutes each. Hard copies would be included in the Council agenda packages.
- b) Pre-recorded presentations. These could be played during the Council meetings. Hard copies would be included in the Council agenda packages.
- c) Include hard copies of all presentations in the Council meetings along with a one-page summary focusing on the highlights from each department. The one-page summary could be read into the minutes and the summary would become part of the minutes as part of the annual reports.
- d) Live presentations using ZOOM. Hard copies would be included in the Council agenda packages. There could be technology challenges or issues if this option is chosen.
- e) Have the Town Manager do all of the presentations. Hard copies would be included in the Council meeting agendas.
- f) Postpone the presentation of the Department Head annual reports until early summer.

6. TOWN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Town of Granite Falls Administrative Office, the Recreation Center, and the Public Works and Electric Departments will be closed Monday, January 18th in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday. The Police and Fire Departments and the Water and Wastewater Facilities will be on duty as scheduled and those employees scheduled to work this holiday receive alternate time off with pay. Republic Services will pick up garbage and recycling on their regular schedule.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS NOT LISTED

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, 2022. 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.

2. Also enclosed with your agenda package is the Internal Revenue Service 2021 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. The Town reimburses the Council and Town employees for the use of their personal vehicles for preapproved Town business at the IRS standard mileage rates for business miles driven. The reimbursement rate for business miles effective January 1, 2021 is 56 cents per mile.

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, the Granite Falls Planning Board, 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.
2. The Granite Falls Land Use Plan Steering Committee will not meet until further notice due to COVID-19.
3. The WPCOG MPO/RPO will meet electronically on Wednesday, January 13th at 1:00 p.m.
4. The Granite Falls ABC Board will meet Monday, January 18th at 5:30 p.m. at the ABC store.

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, February 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Participation for this meeting will be done electronically due to COVID-19.