



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, MAY 3, 2021
4 SOUTH MAIN STREET
6:00 PM

Please note that due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), this 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, Department Heads or other Town representatives that are on the agenda, and a maximum of two members of the media and/or citizens and members of the general 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.granitefallsc.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 | COUNCIL MEMBER LARRY KNIGHT |
| III. | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | MAYOR BARRY HAYES |
| IV. | RECOGNITION OF VISITORS | |
| V. | SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS
ElectriCities Chief Executive Officer Roy Jones | |

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 19, 2021.

VIII. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

BRUCE CANNON

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comments may be submitted up until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 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@granitefallsn.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.granitefallsn.com/councildocuments.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE SCHEDULED

XI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

1. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR INTERCONNECTING SMALL GENERATOR SYSTEMS

Council shall consider adoption of a Resolution Establishing Standards for Interconnecting Small Generator Systems. This resolution would adopt the Electricities Recommended Interconnection Standards for small commercial solar PV systems greater than 20 kW. The Council previously adopted similar standards for PV solar systems less than 20 kW on November 16, 2009, and the Town recently received a request from a commercial customer that wants to install a larger solar system. The standards for both sizes of systems are for the Town to “buy all/sell all” output from each of the customer’s systems as opposed to doing “net metering.” The Town would purchase all of the output generated by the customer’s solar system at a Council approved pre-determined rate and sell all of the electricity the customer needs back to the same customer at the Council approved electric rate for the particular class of customer. (See attachment #1).

Action requested: Adopt Resolution Establishing Standards for Interconnecting Small Generator System as presented.

2. CONSIDER SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT #1-2021

Town Planner Greg Wilson will cover the Granite Falls Planning Board virtual regular meeting on Tuesday, April 27th at 5pm where the Planning Board reviewed the Subdivision Plat for Planned Development #1-2021. The subdivision plat is associated with Planned Development #1-2021, which was approved by the Board of Adjustment during an evidentiary hearing on April 14th. The plat would satisfy the requirements of the applicable sections of the Town’s subdivision regulations and the conditions of approval related to the Planned Development. This project is located on Duke Street, just across from the Granite Falls Brewing Company. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Council approve the subdivision plat. The Town Council is not required to conduct a public hearing on the plat. (See attachment #2.)

Action requested: Approve subdivision plat as presented.

3. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT #1-2021-CHAPTER 160-D UPDATE

Town Planner Greg Wilson will cover the Granite Falls Planning Board virtual regular meeting on Tuesday, April 27th at 5pm where the Planning Board considered Zoning Text Amendment #1-2021. Zoning Text Amendment #1-2021 updates certain Town Zoning Regulations as required by legislative updates to Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Council approve Zoning Text Amendment #1-2021 as presented. (See attachment #3.)

Action requested: Call for a public (legislative) hearing on Zoning Text Amendment #1-2021 at the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room.

4. SUBDIVISION TEXT AMENDMENT #1-2021 – CHAPTER 160-D UPDATE

Town Planner Greg Wilson will cover the Granite Falls Planning Board virtual regular meeting on Tuesday, April 27th at 5pm where the Planning Board considered Subdivision Text Amendment #1-2021. Subdivision Text Amendment #1-2021 updates certain Town Subdivision Regulations as required by legislative updates to Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Town council approve Subdivision Text Amendment #1-2021 as presented. (See attachment #4.)

Action requested: Call for a public (legislative) hearing on Subdivision Text Amendment #1-2021 at the next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room.

5. APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS AND THE WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (WPCOG) FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) PLANNING MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE SERVICES

The Town of Granite Falls ADA Assessment and Transition Plan (Plan) originally written in 1992 was updated by the WPCOG this year. On April 15, 2019, Council approved entering into a two-year agreement with the WPCOG to update the Plan starting on July 1, 2019. The update will be completed by June 30, 2021. The cost of the agreement was \$37,883.76 for the first year and \$18,190.08 for the second year. Town staff recommends that the Town enter into a two-year agreement with the WPCOG to assist the Town with maintaining the updated Plan. The agreement runs from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 at a cost of \$4,547.50 per year. (See attachment #5.)

Action requested: Approve Agreement with the WPCOG as presented.

6. APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GRANITE FALLS AND THE WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (WPCOG) FOR ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORTING THE WESTERN PIEDMONT STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP

On April 15, 2019, Council approved entering into a two-year agreement with the WPCOG to update the Town's Stormwater Plan (Plan) and to assist the Town in maintaining on-going compliance with the six required minimum measures of the Plan: (Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Stormwater Runoff and Control, Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations). The agreement was for two years (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021) at a cost of \$17,323 per year. Town staff recommends that the Town enter into a two-

year agreement with the WPCOG to assist the Town with maintaining the updated Plan. The agreement runs from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 at a cost of \$17,842.50 per year. (See attachment #6.)

Action requested: Approve Agreement with the WPCOG as presented.

7. APPROVE ATTORNEY’S CONTRACT

Council is requested to approve The General Counsel Agreement for \$4,750 with Cannon Law Firm, P.A. to serve as the Town’s attorney for fiscal year 2021-2022. (See attachment #7.)

8. APPROVE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 16-22, 2021 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Council is requested to approve a proclamation approving May 16-22, 2021 as National Public Works Week. (See attachment #8.)

9. APPROVE RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 401 (H401) AND SENATE BILL 349 (S349) OF THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

H401 and S349 were introduced with the intent of increasing housing opportunities by requiring Municipalities and Counties to allow certain multi-family residential development (duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, townhouses, and accessory dwelling units) within any single-family residential zoning district unless the single-family neighborhood is protected by valid and enforceable private covenants, deed restrictions, or HOAs. This provision to exempt these areas from the proposed development standards may actually work in conflict with the goal of providing additional affordable housing options. Currently, we are updating the Town’s Land Use Plan and we are expanding housing options after receiving significant input from the community stakeholders. The government that is closest to the people that it serves every day is in the best position to determine the needs of its community and this is not a one-size fits all as the majority of local governments are constantly working on expanding housing options in their communities.

The bills would also add a semi-annual report to the State on permits issued and denied. This legislation would also make the path for appeals of decisions made by the Town’s Board of Adjustment to go through the Town Council instead of going the current route to Superior Court.

H401 and S349 are currently in committees and will hopefully remain there. Town staff recommends the Town of Granite Falls pass a resolution in opposition to these two bills. (See attachment #9).

Action requested: Approve resolution as presented.

10. APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT #16 FY 2020-2021

Finance Director Jana Williams requests the Council approve budget amendment #16 for fiscal year 2021 to remove the DWSRP revenue and expense from the Water & Sewer Fund. The Council previously approved a Capital Projects Ordinance for this project earlier in this budget year. (See attachment #10.)

11. APPROVE CHANGE TO THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Council is requested to call a special meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room. (Please note that May 17th is a regularly scheduled meeting date but had been previously cancelled for the Art in the Park concert that has been cancelled.)

12. APPROVE APPLICATION TO NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO PARTICIPATE IN INMATE WORK RELEASE PROGRAM

The contract for the current inmate work release program ends effective June 30, 2021. Town staff recommends that Council approve participation in the NC Department of Public Safety (DPS) inmate work release program for two inmates for fiscal 2022. As a reminder, each inmate works five eight-hour days, fifty-two weeks per year. The Town is required to pay upfront costs of \$260 per inmate per year and cover the inmates under the Town worker's compensation policy through the NCLM at a cost of \$740 per inmate per year. The DPS provides lunch for the prisoners and transportation to and from the prison unit; however, the Town has the option to transport the prisoners in situations where it is more efficient to do so. The DPS also provides free orientation training sessions for our employees that will supervise or work with the inmates. The total cost of the program for fiscal 2022 is approximately \$2,000 for two work release inmates if the DPS transports the prisoners or \$5,000 if the Town transports the prisoners.

Action Requested: Council is requested to approve a contract between the Town and the NC DPS and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the agreement with the NC DPS.

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 June, 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. COVID-19 Update.

XIV. 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.

XV. 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 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 Planning Board will have a virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 25th at 5:00 p.m.
3. The Granite Falls Land Use Plan Steering Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 26th at 5:00 p.m. in the Recreation Center Social Hall.
4. The WPCOG MPO/RPO will meet Wednesday, June 23rd at 1:00 p.m. at the WPCOG.
5. The Granite Falls ABC Board will meet Monday, May 10th 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 special meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Participation for this meeting will be done electronically due to COVID-19.