CITY OF GRANITE FALLS
OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
Monday, February 2, 2026

A regular session of the Granite Falls City Council was called to order by Mayor Steve Nordaune at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 2, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present: DuWayne Galow, Beth Pullan, Dan Barber, Craig Opdahl, and Scott Peterson. Council member absent: Brad Peterson. Staff present: City Manager Crystal Johnson and City Clerk Christine Kleven. Also present: Attorney/Lobbyist with Flaherty & Hood Shane Zahrt and Fire Chief Jeremy LeBlanc.

CONSENT AGENDA: M/S B. PETERSON/GALOW TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF 7D WESTERN FEST GAMBLING PERMIT: Minutes, Bills, Correspondence, and Meetings & Events. Motion passed unanimously by those present.

COALITION OF UTILITIES CITIES UPDATE: Shane Zahrt provided an update on the coalition, including its role in representing power plant host communities in energy transition policy discussions, engagement with DEED and the Office of Energy Transition, and efforts to monitor impacts to the local tax base.

COALITION OF GREATER MINNESOTA CITIES UPDATE: An update was provided on coalition efforts to support LGA, key Greater Minnesota programs, and shared priorities including taxes, energy, economic transition, transportation, land use, and labor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT YEARLY UPDATE: Jeremy LeBlanc provided the annual Fire Department update, including department call statistics, current roster of 32 firefighters, two retirements, three new hires, ongoing training for seven members, recent purchases, committee involvement, community engagement events, and fundraisers.

REPORT: An update was provided by the Utilities Commission that the Memorial Park Master Plan will need to be updated, with consensus to pursue grant funding for utilities and sidewalk improvements.

DOG PARK EVENT: The Dog Park Committee requested approval to hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Dog Park on May 28 from 5:00–7:00 p.m., to include a food vendor, pet-related vendors, and unveiling of the new dog art bench. M/S S. Peterson/Pullan, to approve the event. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

LEE-MAR DONATION: Barber introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption authorizing a donation of $1,000 to the Lee Mar Ranch Equine Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-10

RESOLUTION APPROVING DONATION
TO LEE-MAR RANCH EQUINE CENTER, INC.

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Galow, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN: Crystal Johnson presented the updated master plan. Following discussion, S. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption approving the recommendation of the Airport Commission and adopting the updated Airport Master Plan for use in future planning and grant opportunities.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-11

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UPDATED AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Galow, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

AFSCME CONTRACT 2026-2028: Council reviewed the proposed 2026–2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFSCME, as recommended by the Wage and Salary Committee. Pullan introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption approving the 2026–2028 AFSCME Contract.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-12

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2026–2028 AFSCME CONTRACT

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by S. Peterson, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

YME SCHOLARSHIP: Council considered a request to donate $2,000 from the Light Fund to support four $500 scholarships for the Yellow Medicine East Scholarship Program. Eligibility requires that the parent or legal guardian of the graduating senior be a current customer of the Granite Falls Municipal Utility. This would mark the 23rd year of the municipal utility’s participation in the scholarship program. Galow introduced a resolution approving the donation and moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-13

RESOLUTION APPROVING $2,000 DONATION
TO SCHOLARSHIP YME

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by S. Peterson, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present. Pullan abstain.

AVERA GRANITE FALLS LEASE AMENDMENT: Council reviewed a request to modify the previously approved lease and agreement amendment to clarify continued use of 4th Street public parking and garage access on parcel 34-400-2703 while the hospital and clinic remain in their current location. S. Peterson introduced a resolution approving the additional language and moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-14

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDED LEASE AND AGREEMENT
LANGUAGE WITH AVERA GRANITE FALLS

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Barber, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

TRUCK PURCHASE FOR THE ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT: Following discussion, Opdahl introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption to approve the purchase of a new one-ton truck through State Bid in the amount of $43,900, within the Capital Items budget, due to the existing vehicle reaching the end of its service life. The 1999 Chevrolet truck was declared surplus and authorized for sale.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-15

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A TRUCK FOR THE ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT
AND DECLARING A REPLACED VEHICLE AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Galow, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE: Police Chief Brian Struffert requested approval to purchase a new 2026 patrol vehicle, as included in the 2026 Capital Improvement Schedule, along with necessary equipment for outfitting. Upon placing the new vehicle into service, the 2022 patrol SUV will be reassigned to the School Resource Officer and the 2018 SUV will be repurposed or made available for sale. Galow

introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption approving the purchase as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-16

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A 2026
POLICE PATROL VEHICLE AND RELATED EQUIPMENT

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Pullan, the resolution was adopted unanimously by those present.

MULITIPLE ANIMALS PERMIT PROCEDURE draft of changes was presented for review.

PERSONNEL: M/S Opdahl/ S. Peterson to accept the retirement of Brian Struffert, declare the position vacant, and begin advertising to fill the vacancy. Motion passed unanimously by those present.

CHARITABLE GAMBLING: A gambling license application was acknowledged at this time for the Granite Falls Western Fest Community Celebration to hold its annual raffle. Council acknowledged this charitable gambling application with no waiting period.

ADJOURN: M/S/P S. PETERSON/BARBER TO ADJOURN AT 7:50 PM.

Steve Nordaune
Mayor

ATTEST: Christine Kleven,
City Clerk