CITY OF GRANITE FALLS
OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 3, 2025

A regular session of the Granite Falls City Council was called to order by Mayor Steve Nordaune at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 3, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present: DuWayne Galow, Beth Pullan, Dan Barber, Brad Peterson, and Scott Peterson. Absent: Craig Opdahl. Staff present: City Manager Crystal Johnson, Finance Director Krista Listul and City Clerk Christine Kleven. Also present: City Engineer Mike Amborn, Fire Chief Jeremy LeBlanc, Dave Schueler, Tamara Isfeld, John Sterner, Dani Prados, and Tribune Editor Jessica Jacobs-Stolen.

CONSENT AGENDA: M/S S. PETERSON/B. PETERSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA: Minutes, Bills, Correspondence, and Meetings & Events.

YME 5th GRADE ART BANNERS: The Granite Falls Area Community Foundation awarded funding to the YME 5th grade class for the placement of banners this spring on Prentice Street. Dave Schueler presented additional details to the council and requested approval to hang the banners again, as allowed last year. M/S B. PETERSON/GALOW TO APPROVE THE REQUEST. Motion passed unanimously by those present.

FIRE DEPARTMENT END OF YEAR REPORT: Congratulations to newly appointed Fire Chief Jeremy LeBlanc. He provided a summary of the past year's activities and an update on membership and training.

WATERMAIN LOOP PROJECT CALL FOR BIDS: The city received a Community Energy Transition grant in the amount of $750,000 toward the east watermain loop project. City Engineer Mike Amborn provided project details, which, in addition to looping the system, includes two alternative bid items recommended by the Street Committee to address areas with multiple past watermain breaks. Funding for the project will include grant funds, with any remaining costs to be covered by bonding. Water rate increases approved for 2025 and 2026 will assist with service debt payments. Galow introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption calling for bids.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-11

RESOLUTION CALL FOR BIDS

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

REPORT: Utility Commission and KCC reports were acknowledged at this time.

UPDATING MINNESOTA FLAG IN COUNCIL CHAMBER ROOM: M/S S. PETERSON/ PULLAN TO REPLACE THE MINNESOTA FLAG IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WITH THE NEWLY DESIGNED FLAG. NAY: B. Peterson and Nordaune. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL PARK – Isfeld and Sterner shared their personal motivations for involvement, emphasizing the goal of celebrating Memorial Park's 100-year legacy through public art, storytelling, and community participation. They are collaborating with the City and Dani Prados, Director of the Granite Falls Community Artist in Residence, to align the project with the city's vision. The Minnesota Parks Artists-in-Residence (MNPAiR) pilot program is funded through Legacy Funds. The Council reached a consensus to continue moving forward with the project.

APPRAISAL SERVICE: B. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption accepting the proposal of Rural Appraisal Services to provide assessment services for calendar year 2026. Proposed cost per parcel will be the same as last year in the amount of $18.75 for 1824 parcels or a total of $34,200.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-12

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FROM
RURAL APPRAISAL SERVICES FOR 2026 ASSESSMENT SERVICES

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-13

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

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASE - PUMP: Following discussion, B. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption accepting the quote from T&R Electric in the amount of $123,292 and the repair of twenty-two (22) used transformers by T&R Electric for $54,284, for a total cost of $177,576.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-14

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A 6" PUMP
FOR THE 4TH STREET PUMP STATION

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT PURCHASES: Following discussion, Galow introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption accepting the quote from T&R Electric in the amount of $123,292 and the repair of twenty-two (22) used transformers by T&R Electric for $54,284, for a total cost of $177,576, is hereby approved, with funding from the Electrical Department reserves.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-15

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE AND REPAIR OF TRANSFORMERS FOR THE ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

ORDINANCE: M/S B. PETERSON/PULLAN APPROVE THE 2ND READING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA, AMENDING CITY CODE 135 CANNABIS USE IN PUBLIC PLACES BY REPEALING CHAPTER 135 IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND REPEALING CHAPTER 118 CANNABIS BUSINESSES.

ORDINANCE NO. 229, 2nd SERIES

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA, AMENDING CITY CODE 135 CANNABIS USE IN PUBLIC PLACES BY REPEALING CHAPTER 135 IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND REPEALING CHAPTER 118 CANNABIS BUSINESSES.

Motion carried unanimously by those present. The Ordinance will become effective following publication.

VACANCY IN PUBLIC WORKS DUE TO RETIREMENT: B. PETERSON/S. PETERSON, Due to the upcoming retirement of Brian Norman on April 4th, the council will declare a vacancy in the Public Works Department and initiate the process of advertising for the open position

CITY LEGAL SERVICES: City Attorney Jeremy Blackwelder has accepted a new position and will no longer serve as the City Attorney. Council discussed options for legal services. Spencer Kvam, an attorney from the same firm who has not previously handled municipal work, has agreed to take on the role and assess the fit. The possibility of a hybrid approach, utilizing both Kvam and another firm to meet the City's legal needs, was also discussed.

ADJOURN: M/S/P S. PETERSON/B. PETERSON TO ADJOURN AT 8:17 PM.

Steve Nordaune
Mayor

ATTEST: Christine Kleven
City Clerk