CITY OF GRANITE FALLS
OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
January 20, 2026

A regular session of the Granite Falls City Council was called to order by Mayor Steve Nordaune at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council members present: DuWayne Galow, Beth Pullan, Dan Barber, Brad Peterson, Craig Opdahl, and Scott Peterson. Staff present: City Manager Crystal Johnson, Finance Director Tracy Peterson, and City Clerk Christine Kleven. Also present: Public Works Director John Aus; Countryside Public Health Administrator Liz Auch; MnDOT Project Manager Dave Nilan; EDA Amy and Dave Nordaune; City Engineer Mike Amborn.

CONSENT AGENDA: M/S GALOW/S. PETERSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA: Minutes, Bills, Police Chief's Report, Public Works Report, Correspondence, and Meetings & Events.

REPORTS: Airport Commission, EDA Board, Police Chief – Deer Depredation reports were acknowledged at this time.

167 IMPROVEMENTS: Dave Nilan, MnDOT, presented details on the proposed mill and overlay project for Highway 167 and discussed the planned sidewalk replacement from the County Museum to the large shelter house in Memorial Park.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS: Liz Auch of Countryside Public Health was present to provide an annual update on Opioid Settlement Funding received by Chippewa County.

CAIR UPDATE: Tamara Isfeld shared information on the Trans-Atlantic Rising Star Award program, an 8-week artist residency (April–May) involving three artists, with Granite Falls serving as one of only five host sites in the United States. The European Union funds artist travel and expenses, allowing local funds to be directed to Granite Falls community projects. Completed MnPAIR projects include mosaics in Memorial Park and at the KCC, with wood sculptures scheduled for installation in the spring along with interactive QR codes that will provide location-specific information throughout town. The CAIR website will be merged into the Granite Area Arts Council website.

STREETSCAPE SIDEWALK PROJECT CALL FOR BIDS - Mike Amborn was present to provide an update on the Downtown Streetscape Improvements project, which includes sidewalk replacement to meet current ADA compliance standards as well as tree removal and replacement. Pullan introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption to authorize calling for bids.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-5

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
FOR THE DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

M/S/P Opdahl/Galow to replace trees with planters and add vegetation and trees to create a cohesive appearance. Mike Amborn will work with Public Works to ensure design consistency.

PURCHASE OF NEW MOWER: John Aus discussed replacing the Kubota mower/blower due to ongoing mechanical issues and repair costs. Staff proposed purchasing a 2025 John Deere 1575 mower with attachments through the State Bid program, utilizing the trade-in option, and swapping capital replacement years for the mower and ½-ton pickup. Barber introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption approving the purchase of a John Deere 1575 mower with attachments at a cost of $55,329.86 with trade-in.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE AND TRADE-IN
OF MOWER THROUGH THE STATE BID PROGRAM

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

AVERA LEASE AND AGREEMENT AMENDMENT: The City entered into a Lease and Agreement with Avera effective January 1, 2020. The EDA proposed developing duplex housing near the hospital, requiring an amendment to release parcels 34-400-2701, 34-400-2702, 34-400-2703 and 34-400-2710. Amy and Dave Nordaune (EDA) discussed the request, which was updated from three parcels to four parcels to accommodate single-level, two-bedroom homes with garages. The garage on Parcel 34-400-2703 will remaining accessible to the hospital. B. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption approving the amendment to the Avera Lease and Agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-7

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE LEASE AND AGREEMENT WITH AVERA HEALTH TO RELEASE CERTAIN PARCELS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Galow, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

CALLING FOR BIDS FOR DUPLEX DEVELOPMENT: Following approval of the Avera Lease and Agreement amendment, Council discussed authorizing the EDA to proceed with the proposed duplex housing development near the hospital. B. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption authorizing the EDA to move forward with the duplex development project and advertise for bids.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-8

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EDA TO PROCEED WITH THE DUPLEX DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND ADVERTISE FOR BIDS

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

With second by Pullan, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

FEE SCHEDULE: S. Peterson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption to approve the 2026 fee schedule as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-9

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2026 ANNUAL FEE SCHEDULE

(Copy on file in city clerk's office)

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

ADJOURN: M/S/P S. PETERSON/B. PETERSON TO ADJOURN AT 7:14 PM.

Steve Nordaune
Mayor

ATTEST: Christine Kleven,
City Clerk