



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**March 4, 2026
7:00 PM
Civic Center**

City Council	Mayor/Councilmember Matthew Hartman Mayor Pro Tem/Councilmember David Griggs Councilmember Steven Glenn Councilmember Tom FitzGerald Councilmember Bruce Straughn
City Staff	City Clerk Darla Wilkins City Manager Jeff Balentine Deputy City Manager Brent Kirk Public Works Director Charles White Planning Director Amy Hess
Consultants	Consultant Police Chief Tom Dalton Consultant City Attorney Emily Guildner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem David Griggs called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Pro Tem David Griggs led the Council, Staff and Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Darla Wilkins verbally called out the Council's names and took note of the meeting attendance.

MOTION:	Motion to excuse Councilmembers Glenn and Hartman due to illness and recovery.
MOVER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald
AYES:	City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION:	Motion to approve the consent agenda.
MOVER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald
AYES:	City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

4.a. AB 038-2026 Approval of February 18, 2026 Minutes

4.b. AB 039-2026 Approval of March 4, 2026 Claims Checks #416015 through 416062 totaling \$137,147.06

4.c. AB 040-2026 Approval of February 1, 2026 through February 15, 2026 Payroll Claims Checks consisting of Twenty-Two EFT's totaling \$95,647.02

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.a. Passports

City Manager Jeff Balentine gave a financial update on the passport office. He also closed out the month of February and everything is tracking where it should be.

5.b. Planning

Planning Director Amy Hess commented on the following:

- Two new pre-application meetings were submitted
- Moonbird Farms
 - First review comments issued
 - SEPA Determination will be issued soon
 - Hearing to be expected mid-late April

5.c. City Clerk

City Clerk Darla Wilkins had no comments.

5.d. Public Works

Public Works Director Charles White commented on the following:

- Flush valve issue
- The Stormwater Annual Report has been submitted to the Dept. of Ecology
- Torch down materials received for crosswalk replacement
- Sign up messaging info sent out with utility bills - used this notification process for tonight's council meeting

5.e. Police

Consultant Police Chief Tom Dalton commented on the following:

- Thanked American Legion for hosting last night's recognitions of:
 - Deputy Megan Nunemaker (Deputy of the Year - Granite Falls)
 - Francis Hall (Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year - Granite Falls)

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS-NON-ACTION ITEMS

Carol Panagos, on behalf of the Granite Falls Community Coalition, Granite Falls, provided comments.

Robert Gallagher, Granite Falls, provided comments.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.a. AB 041-2026 Capitol Path Update

Capitol Path Consulting, the City's contracted lobbyist, provided the Council with the following updates:

Kyla Shkerich provided the City Council with a state update which included discussion on the following slides:

- State and Federal Advocacy Goals for 2026
- State Legislative Updates
 - General Update
 - Spending Reductions & Savings
 - Reserves & Fund Shifts
 - Revenue Debate: Millionaires Tax
 - Potential Success (next steps)

John Culton provided the Council with a federal update which included discussion on the following slides:

- FY26 Appropriations Funding Award
Project: City of Granite Falls Burn Rd Wastewater Lift Station Rehabilitation
- Federal Project Update
Water and Sewer Upgrade Project
- Advocacy Timeline & Next Steps
- 2026 Potential Grant Projects
- Legion Park Plaza Veteran's Memorial
- Water & Wastewater Infrastructure
- Regional Sports Complex
- Community Center Redevelopment
- Playground Equipment Replacement

- School Resource Officer Program
- Park & Ride Facility Relocation
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Monthly Grants Matrix

7.b. AB 042-2026 UW Student Mid-term Presentation on Hazard Mitigation Plan

The 2025-2026 Livable City Program (LCY) with the University of Washington is partnering with the City of Granite Falls to support development of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The students gave an in-person presentation of their progress so far in this mid-quarter presentation, which includes the Initial Conditions Report (ICR).

The following slides were discussed in detail:

- Overview
- Land Use, Transportation, and Natural Resources
- Infrastructure and Public Works
- Economic Development and Housing
- Public, Health, and Cultural Facilities
- Project Roadmap and Q+A

There was further discussion regarding how the City's plan works with the County Plan and exploring how the City's water source coming from a rain-based source rather than a snow-pack source might be impacted in the future. The students agreed to explore this further and incorporate into the plan as appropriate.

7.c. AB 043-2026 Discussion - Update SB 6002 - Driver Privacy Protections and ALPR Program Compliance

This agenda item was moved to the Council Special Meeting of March 11, 2026.

7.d. AB 044-2026 Discussion - City Council Size Expansion Options

This agenda item was moved to the Council Special Meeting of March 11, 2026.

7.e. AB 045-2026 Consideration to Reactivate the Salary Commission and Review the City Council Compensation

City Manager Jeff Balentine gave an overview of the City's Salary Commission, including its statutory role and current status, and requests direction to reactivate it in 2026 for reviewing Council compensation.

The following is the list of slides discussed in this presentation:

- Salary Commission Review
- Why Have a Salary Commission?
- Granite Falls Current Ordinance (2022)
- Key Differences: Ordinance vs. RCW
- Current Commission Status
- Reactivating the Commission
- Commission Authority
- Current 2026 Compensation
- Comparable City Council Salaries
- Cost of Living Since 2022
- Equity and Accessibility
- Staff Support for Commission
- Proposed Timeline
- After Commission Files Recommendation
- Effective Date Requirements
- Next Steps: Council Action
- Questions & Discussion

This item will be brought back to Council for action.

7.f. AB 046-2026 Legion Park – Proposed Park Layouts, Monument Design, and Feature Options (Discussion Only)

This agenda item was moved to the Council Special Meeting of March 11, 2026.

8. CURRENT BUSINESS

None.

9. MAYOR'S COMMENT (5 MINUTES)

Mayor Pro Tem David Griggs commented on the following:

- Thanked the Legion for putting together the awards for the firefighter and law enforcement of the year
 - Deputy Nunemaker is also in the National level competition

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS (15 MINUTES)

Councilmember Tom FitzGerald commented on the following:

- Included in the Granite Falls notification thread and received his first notification today
- Congratulated EMT Francis Hall, and Deputy Megan Nunemaker for winning their Awards

Councilmember Bruce Straughn had no comments.

11. CITY MANAGER (5 MINUTES)

City Manager Jeff Balentine commented on the following:

- Bridge #102 County voted to donate the bridge (based on certain criteria)
- Replacement bridge project
- School levies - passed
- Fire Dist. #22 Bond - passed
- Legislative session
- AI Regulation Policy
- Snohomish County Roadwork
- Snohomish County Childcare Expansion

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor Matthew Hartman