



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**March 18, 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 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

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
Mayor Matthew Hartman called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - 2. FLAG SALUTE**
Mayor Matthew Hartman led the Council, Staff and Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
 - 3. ROLL CALL**
City Manager Jeff Balentine verbally called out the Council's names and took note of meeting attendance.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION:	Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
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MOVER:	City Councilmember Steven Glenn
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
AYES:	Mayor/City Councilmember Matthew Hartman, City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, City Councilmember Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

4.a. AB 048-2026 Approval of March 4, 2026 Minutes

City

4.b. AB 049-2026 Approval of March 18, 2026 Claims Checks #416063 through 416099 and One EFT totaling \$335,537.05

4.c. AB 050-2026 Approval of February 16, 2026 through February 28, 2026 Payroll Claims Checks #416012 through 416014 and Twenty-Eight EFT's totaling \$153,212.73

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.a. Passports

City Manager Jeff Balentine gave a financial update on the passport office.

5.b. Planning

Planning Director Amy Hess commented on the following:

- Received a pre-application for a 36-unit multifamily development at 10105 Mt. Loop Hwy.
- AWC Annual Conference (June 23-26) - still time to register

5.c. City Clerk

City Clerk Darla Wilkins was absent from the meeting.

5.d. Public Works

Public Works Director Charles White commented on the following:

- Received 11 bids for the crack sealing project
- The final review of the Kentucky/Indiana LID has been completed (currently out to bid)

Deputy City Manager Brent Kirk commented on the following:

- Snohomish County funding deficit
- City of Granite Falls Support

5.e. Police

Consultant Police Chief Tom Dalton commented on the following:

- Calls for service for the month
- Current police calls (DUI, school checks, nuisance calls)
- Shared two recent success stories

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

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

**7.a. AB 051-2026 Public Hearing - 7:10 PM or soon after,
For Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 1072-2026, Critical Area
Regulations Update, Granite Falls Municipal Code 19.07.020**

MOTION:	Motion to open the public hearing.
MOVER:	City Councilmember Steven Glenn
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
AYES:	Mayor/City Councilmember Matthew Hartman, City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, City Councilmember Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

City Manager Jeff Balentine submitted the following hearing exhibits into the record:

Attachment A - Proposed Amendments to GFMC 19.07.020

Attachment B - Best Available Science, prepared by Herrera, dated December 2025

Attachment C - SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance issued February 4, 2026

Attachment D - Comment Letter from Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) dated February 6, 2026

Attachment E - Comment Letter from the Department of Ecology dated February 12, 2026

Attachment F - Comment Letter from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife dated February 17, 2026
 Attachment G - Snohomish County Critical Areas Map of Granite Falls
 Attachment H - Notice of Public Hearing
 Attachment I - Verification of Posting

Planning Director Amy Hess stated the reason for the public hearing is to update the city's critical areas regulations (which are currently out of compliance), which will allow the city to utilize grant funds we have been awarded.

Anisa Thaci, Contract City Planner, AHBL & **Jeff Parsons**, Hererra Environmental Consultants, reviewed the schedule, proposed amendments with the Council and answered questions.

Mayor Matthew Hartman opened the public testimony portion of the public hearing.

No one had signed up to speak or chose to speak from the audience.

Mayor Matthew Hartman closed the public testimony portion of the public hearing.

MOTION:	Motion to close the public hearing with action to follow.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
AYES:	Mayor/City Councilmember Matthew Hartman, City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, City Councilmember Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

MOTION:	Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1072-2026, am Ordinance of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, amending Title 19.07.020 of the Granite Falls Municipal Code as proposed.
MOVER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs
AYES:	Mayor/City Councilmember Matthew Hartman, City

	Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, City Councilmember Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

7.b. AB 052-2026 Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2026-05 Adoption of the City of Granite Falls Personnel Policies and Procedures / Employee Handbook

City Manager Jeff Balentine reviewed the proposed changes to the handbook since the last review due to city council review and contributions.

MOTION:	I move to approve Resolution No. 2026-05, adopting the City of Granite Falls Personnel Policies and Procedures / Employee Handbook, effective March 18, 2026, as presented.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald
AYES:	Mayor/City Councilmember Matthew Hartman, City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, City Councilmember Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

7.c. AB 053-2026 E-Bike and E-Scooter Regulatory Framework Discussion for Municipal Code Development

City Manager Jeff Balentine reviewed what staff would like to see placed in an Ordinance. He added a public hearing would be forthcoming and adoption of an ordinance is expected after. For discussion purposes, the following PowerPoint presentation was shared:

- E-Bike & E-Scooter Regulatory Framework
- Why This Matters Now
- Washington State RCW Framework
- E-Bikes - Where Can They Operate?
- E-Scooter Statutory Framework
- WAC Rules for State and Public Lands

- Local Government Authority
- What Other Cities Are Doing
- Gaps Requiring Local Code
- Staff Recommendations
- Proposed Ordinance Language
- Next Steps and Requested Action

MOTION:	I move to direct staff to draft an Ordinance regulating the operating of electric-assisted bicycles and motorized foot scooters within the City of Granite Falls.
MOVER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Steven Glenn
AYES:	Mayor/City Councilmember Matthew Hartman, City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, City Councilmember Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

7.d. AB 054-2026 Approval of Salary Commission Appointments

MOTION:	I move to approve the City Manager's appointment of Scott Bower, Carol Panagos, and Paula Swisher to the City of Granite Falls Salary Commission, and to direct staff to support the Commission in completing a City Council compensation review and filing a salary schedule with the City Clerk by July 1, 2026.
MOVER:	City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
AYES:	Mayor/City Councilmember Matthew Hartman, City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, City Councilmember Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

7.e. AB 055-2026 Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2026-06 Surplus of Public Works Fleet

MOTION:	Motion to approve Resolution 2026-06, a City of Granite Falls resolution authorizing the surplus of the Public Works Department's 2010 Ford F-350.
MOVER:	City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
SECONDER:	City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald
AYES:	Mayor/City Councilmember Matthew Hartman, City Councilmember Tom FitzGerald, City Councilmember Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Councilmember David Griggs, City Councilmember Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

8. CURRENT BUSINESS

None.

9. MAYOR'S COMMENT (5 MINUTES)

Mayor Matthew Hartman commented on the following:

- The legion building was burned — what a difference!
- Legion held a birthday party last Saturday - 107 Year Old!

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS (15 MINUTES)

Mayor Pro Tem David Griggs commented on the following:

- Legion building - nice to see the view with it gone
- Cannot wait to have further discussions regarding the property

Councilmember Tom FitzGerald commented on the following:

- School Board Meeting - there was a vote to eliminate the position of the Crossroads Principal/Supervisor
- Girls Basketball - made it to the playoffs, were eliminated
- Baseball & Softball started, first games
- Council liaison positions

Councilmember Steven Glenn commented on the following:

- Blood Drive on Saturday at the church across from the high school (9am-3pm)

Councilmember Bruce Straughn commented on the following:

- Watched a video online on FD #17 — concerned about incorrect tax verbiage

11. CITY MANAGER (5 MINUTES)

City Manager Jeff Balentine commented on the following:

- Clarified financial statement on the video
- Wastewater Treatment Plant ribbon cutting - April 9th (1pm-3pm)
 - School District - flying drone overhead (invitation picture)
- Wrote up Request for Quotation for Memorial (responses expected tomorrow)
- Shared/discussed the revision of the conceptual layout at Legion Park
- Will be out of the office but available this Friday through Monday
- The government is going to be sweeping from the public works fund \$375 million dollars to the General Fund
- Millionaires tax passed
- Budget Amendment (April 15th meeting)
- Legion Park - not being funded by taxpayer dollars but by passport dollars

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

City Clerk Darla Wilkins, MMC

Mayor Matthew Hartman