



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**July 15, 2026
7:00 PM
Civic Center**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Matthew Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Matthew Hartman 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 Member's names and took note of the meeting attendance.

City Manager Jeff Balentine asked to add an item to tonight's agenda - Resolution 2026-10 as New Business Item 7f. - Authorizing Application for the Execution of a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks Category Grant with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Legion Park Outdoor Plaza and Veterans Memorial Development Project, and Designating the City Manger as Authorized Representative/Agent.

Mayor Matthew Hartman recognized the request and added the item to the agenda as Item 7f.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

4.a. AB 107-2026 Approval of July 1, 2026 Minutes

4.b. AB 108-2026 Approval of July 8, 2026 Minutes

4.c. AB 109-2026 Approval of July 2, 2026 through July 15, 2026 Claims Checks #416396 through 415424 and One EFT totaling \$371,990.76

4.d. AB 110-2026 Approval of June 16, 2026 through June 30, 2026 Payroll Claims Checks #416391 through 416393 and Thirty EFT's totaling \$187,536.34

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.a. Public Works

Public Works Director Charles White commented on the following:

- Mulvaney Sewer Extension (completed)
- Road Restoration (completed next week)
- LID Project (reimbursement submitted for)
- Leaking Hydrant (fixed)
- Community Center (Wi-Fi installed and improvements ongoing)
- Kentucky & Indiana LID Project (update)
- RRFB (update)
- Union & Kentucky Overlay Project (update)
- Legion Park Update (interviews)

5.b. Planning

Community Development Director Amy Hess commented on the following:

- Pilchuck Crossing Project (update)
- Moonbird Farms Project (update)
- Tractor Supply Project (update)
- Nurtured Nuggets Daycare & Preschool (relocating)

5.c. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Darla Wilkins had nothing further to report.

5.d. City Manager Report

City Manager Jeff Ballentine commented on the following:

- 4th of July Fund Run (update)
- National Night Out (Aug. 4th, 4-7pm @ Mt. Way Elementary)
- Purple Heart City Dedication Ceremony (Aug. 7th from 9am-Noon at Community Center)
- Show N' Shine (Aug 1st)
- Looking to add "Sasquatch Day" next year with the 5K
- Asked Chief Dalton to provide an update on Flock SB 6002
- RCO Legion Park Update (grant)
- Thank you to Lyle and Charles (stormwater follow-up)
- Dept. of Ecology Update (fecal bacterial levels declined in Snohomish River)
- Fire Concern in Town with business (fire watch - resolved)
- Park Impact Fees (thank you to Amy)
- REET Flexibility (Abatement & Nuisance properties)

- TSA & TWIC Card Services (onboarding process)
- Q2 Financial Highlights

5.e. Passports

City Manager Jeff Balentine had nothing new to report on the passport office.

5.f. June 2026 Financial Update

This item was covered under the City Manager Report above.

5.g. Consultant Police Chief Report

Consultant Police Chief Tom Dalton commented on the following:

- Shared a PowerPoint presentation that included the following items of discussion:
 - New patch design for the City/Police Department
 - Illegal fireworks & fines
 - Fund Run pictures
 - Fireworks
 - Video of mini-bike/crash (driving off from PD)
 - Illegal Fireworks on Frank Mason Dock/Park

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

No one from the audience signed up or chose to comment during this portion of the meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.a. AB 111-2026 Public Hearing - 7:10 PM, or soon thereafter**
For consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 1078-2026 amending Granite Falls Municipal Code Title 19

MOTION:	Motion to open the Public Hearing for consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 1078-2026 Amending Granite Falls Municipal Code Title 19.
MOVER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member

	Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

MOTION:	Motion to Amend the original motion to include Granite Falls Municipal Code Title 21.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs
SECONDER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

City Clerk Darla Wilkins entered the following list of Public Hearing Exhibits into the record:

- Exhibit 1 - Public Hearing Notice dated July 2, 2026, 1 Page
- Exhibit 2 - Verification of Public Hearing Posting dated July 2, 2026, 1 Page
- Exhibit 3 - Affidavit of Publication from the Everett Daily Herald dated July 2, 2026, 2 Pages
- Exhibit 4 - Ordinance No. 1078-2026, 108 Pages
- Exhibit 5 - Ordinance No. 1079-2026, 8 Pages

Community Development Director Amy Hess commented on the following items:

- Ordinance No. 1078-2026 are amendments to Title 19 related to:
 - Bulk and Dimensional Standards
 - Types of Review
 - Definitions
 - Uses
 - Purpose of Amendments
 - Minor changes made after last week's review included:
 - Tiny Houses Definition Added
 - Identified Zones in which Tiny Houses can be located
 - Mobile or Manufactured Home Park added what zones

are allowed in

- The Permitted Use Table now matches the text for allowance in MR zone only

- Ordinance No. 1079-2026 the updates are intended to provide clarity and ensure a consistent application of Impact Fees. The code currently prohibits the City from collecting impact fees for schools and parks on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's). The proposed language allows us to do this and also updates the administration fee the City can collect on behalf of the school district for staff costs.

Mayor Matthew Hartman opened the Public Testimony portion of the Public Hearing.

No one in the audience signed up or chose to comment on the Public Hearing.

Mayor Matthew Hartman closed the Public Testimony of the Public Hearing.

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

MOTION:	Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 1078-2026, an Ordinance of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, amending Title 19 of the Granite Falls Municipal Code as proposed.
MOVER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
SECONDER:	City Council Member Tom FitzGerald
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member

	Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

MOTION:	Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1079-2026, an Ordinance of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, amending Title 21 of the Granite Falls Municipal Code as proposed.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs
SECONDER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

- 7.b. **AB 111-2026 Public Hearing - 7:10 PM, or soon thereafter**
For consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 1079-2026 amending Granite Falls Municipal Code Title 21

MOTION:	Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1079-2026, an Ordinance of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, amending Title 21 of the Granite Falls Municipal Code as proposed.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs
SECONDER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

- 7.c. **AB 112-2026 Public Hearing - 7:20 PM, or soon after**
For consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 1080-2026

Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Amending the TBD Ordinance

MOTION:	Motion to open the Public Hearing for consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 1080-2026.
MOVER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
SECONDER:	City Council Member Bruce Straughn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

City Clerk Darla Wilkins entered the following list of Public Hearing Exhibits into the record:

- Exhibit 1 - Public Hearing Notice dated July 2, 2026, 1 Page
- Exhibit 2 - Verification of Public Hearing Posting dated July 2, 2026, 1 Page
- Exhibit 3 - Affidavit of Publication from the Everett Daily Herald dated July 2, 2026, 2 Pages
- Exhibit 4 - Ordinance No. 1080-2026, Amend TBD GFMC, 3 Pages

City Manager Jeff Balentine explained this Ordinance will update the current GFMC Chapter 10.85.030 which reflects the existing \$20 vehicle license fee structure, but a code amendment is recommended before a possible adoption of a TBD sales tax so that the City's code expressly references the full range of available statutory TBD revenue tools rather than relying on the current hard-coded local language.

The City of Granite Falls has had the \$20 TBD vehicle fee in place since 2016, generating about \$77,557 annually, and the City's transportation preservation and street funding needs now exceed what the decade-old fee structure can support on its own. By amending GFMC 10.85.030 now, the Council can update the code, align local authorities with current state law, and establish the legal foundation for potential increases in the future.

Mayor Matthew Hartman opened the Public Testimony portion of the Public Hearing.

No one in the audience signed up or chose to comment on the Public Hearing.

Mayor Matthew Hartman closed the Public Testimony of the Public Hearing.

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

MOTION:	Motion to adopt Ordinance No, 1080-2026 amending Chapter 10.85 GPMC and Section 10.85.030 GPMC to authorize the City, acting by and through its City Council, to impose the vehicle license fee in the amount allowed by RCW 82.80.140 and to impose a Transportation Benefit District sales and use tax as authorized by RCW 82.14.0455, subject to applicable statutory limitations.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs
SECONDER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

7.d. AB 113-2026 Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No.1081-2026; Imposing a 0.1% Transportation Benefit District Sales and Use Tax

MOTION:	Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1081-2026 imposing a Transportation Benefit District sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for transportation improvements as authorized by Chapter 36.73 RCW, RCW 82.14.0455, and Chapter 10.85 GPMC, while maintaining
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	the City's current \$20 TBD vehicle license fee.
MOVER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	City Council Member Tom FitzGerald
RESULT:	Passed

7.e. AB 114-2026 Consideration to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for Urban Tree Canopy Mapping services

MOTION:	Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute the Intergovernmental Services Agreement between Snohomish County and the City of Granite Falls for the Urban Tree Canopy Mapping Project, with the City's cost for services not to exceed \$1,000.00
MOVER:	City Council Member Tom FitzGerald
SECONDER:	City Council Member Bruce Straughn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

7.f. Consideration of Approval of Resolution 2026-10 Authorizing Application for the Execution of a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks Category Grant with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Legion Park Outdoor Plaza and Veterans Memorial Development Project, and Designating the City Manger as Authorized Representative/Agent.

MOTION:	Motion to approve Resolution 2026-10 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, authorizing application for and execution of a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks
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	Category Grant with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Legion Park Outdoor Plaza and Veterans Memorial Development Project, and designating the City Manager as the Authorized Representative/Agent.
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs
SECONDER:	City Council Member Tom FitzGerald
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

8. CURRENT BUSINESS

There were no Current Business items for this meeting.

9. MAYOR'S COMMENT (5 MINUTES)

Mayor Matthew Hartman mentioned there will be a magic show at the library on July 25, 2026 from 4-5 PM.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS (15 MINUTES)

Mayor Pro-Tem / Council Member David Griggs gave an update on the Show 'N Shine Car Show.

Council Member Tom FitzGerald commented on the following:

- SCC Dinner - Tomorrow night at Terracotta Red
- Attending DEM Training (Tuesday)
- Will miss the September 2nd meeting (Hawaii)

Council Member Steven Glenn commented on the following:

- Looking forward to the library events
- Thanked local businesses & clubs for youth activities

Council Member Bruce Straughn had no comments.

11. CITY MANAGER (5 MINUTES)

City Manager Jeff Balentine gave his reports earlier in the meeting.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 12.a. RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation and RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review performance of a public employee with possible action on Amendment to the City Manager Employment Agreement (20 minutes)**

8:48 PM -

MOTION:	Motion to enter into Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss Pending Litigation and RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review Performance of a Public Employee with Possible Action on Amendment to the City Manager Employment Agreement for 20 minutes.
MOVER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
SECONDER:	City Council Member Bruce Straughn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Tom FitzGerald, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Passed

8:48 PM -

Deputy City Manager Brent Kirk went to the council room doors, opened them, and said the Executive Session was going to start.

9:08 PM -

Council exited the Executive Session.

Deputy City Manager Brent Kirk went to the council room doors, opened them, and said the Executive Session was over.

9:08 PM -

Council went back into its Regular Meeting.

MOTION:	Motion to approve the Amendment to the City Manager Employment Agreement with Jeff Balentine, Option C, with the based salary increased from the proposed \$17,500 a month to \$18,000 a month, effective July 16, 2026, as set forth in the attached amendment, and authorize the Mayor
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	to execute the amendment subject to final review and approval as to form by the City Attorney.
MOVER:	City Council Member Bruce Straughn
SECONDER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
AYES:	
NAYS:	
RESULT:	

MOTION:	Motion to Amend the Main Motion to change the number from \$17,500 to \$18,500.
MOVER:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman
SECONDER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	City Council Member Tom FitzGerald
RESULT:	Passed

MOTION:	Motion to approve the Amendment to the City Manager Employment Agreement with Jeff Balentine, Option C, with the based salary increased to \$18,500 a month, effective July 16, 2026, as set forth in the attached amendment, and authorize the Mayor to execute the amendment subject to final review and approval as to form by the City Attorney.
MOVER:	City Council Member Bruce Straughn
SECONDER:	City Council Member Steven Glenn
AYES:	Mayor/City Council Member Matthew Hartman, City Council Member Steven Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem/City Council Member David Griggs, City Council Member Bruce Straughn
NAYS:	City Council Member Tom FitzGerald
RESULT:	Passed

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.

City Clerk Darla Wilkins, MMC

Mayor Matthew Hartman