

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

**August 19, 2026
7:00 PM
Civic Center**

The Granite City Council will hold its meeting in person. A Zoom link may be requested by contacting the City Clerk by email: Darla.Wilkins@ci.granite-falls.wa.us, no later than 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting. Virtual access is provided for listening purposes only. Public comment will not be accepted via Zoom. City residents who wish to provide comment may email the City Clerk with their name, address, and the message they would like to have read into the record.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.a. AB 124-2026 Approval of August 6, 2026, Claims Checks #416480 through 416513 and One EFT totaling \$138,783.15**
- 4.b. AB 125-2026 Approval of July 16, 2026, through July 31, 2026, Payroll Claims Checks #416425 through 416427 and Twenty-seven EFT's totaling \$167,620.41**

5. STAFF REPORTS

- 5.a. Planning**
- 5.b. Public Works**
- 5.c. City Manager Staff Report**
- 5.d. City Clerk**

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

(The public is encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting by emailing them directly to the city clerk at: darla.wilkins@ci.granite-falls.wa.us; and should be submitted no later than 5PM. Public comment speakers can sign up prior to the meeting, or wait for the public comment section of the meeting to be open by the presiding officer. Individual comments shall be limited to three minutes. Group comments shall be limited to five minutes).

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.a. AB 126-2026 Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) / Flock Safety Camera Program: Overview, SB 6002 (RCW) Compliance, Transparency, and Public Safety Benefits**

- 7.b. **AB 127-2026 Public Hearing 7:10 p.m., or soon thereafter,
Regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 2.08 GPMC, and consideration of
adoption of Ordinance No. 1082-2026**
- 7.c. **AB 128-2026 Consideration to Approve an Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish
County for Surface Water Management Billing Services for the term January 1,
2027, through December 31, 2036**
- 7.d. **AB 129-2026 Consideration to Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Interlocal
Agreement with Snohomish County concerning Building/Construction/Fire Plan
Review and Code Inspection Services, extending the term through December 31,
2028 and adopting a new fee schedule for 2027 and 2028**
- 8. **CURRENT BUSINESS**
 - 8.a. **AB 052-2026 Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2026-11 Adoption of the
City of Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex**
- 9. **MAYOR'S COMMENT (5 MINUTES)**
- 10. **COUNCIL COMMENTS (15 MINUTES)**
- 11. **CITY MANAGER (5 MINUTES)**
- 12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Granite Falls strives to provide access and services to all members of the public.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: AB 124-2026 Approval of August 6, 2026, Claims Checks #416480 through 416513 and One EFT totaling \$138,783.15 **Originating Dept.:** City Manager
Approval(s): City Manager Finance

Action Recommended: Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted: 8/13/2026

Exhibit(s): None

Budgeted Amount: \$138,783.15

BARS Code:

001 Current Expense \$19,437.74	101 Streets \$5,336.96
103 Community Events, Arts, Recreation \$14,031.73	401 Water \$61,510.20
402 Cif / Water \$204.45	403 Sewer \$37,081.30
405 Storm Drainage \$775.77	630 Trust Agency \$405.00

Summary Statement:

The August 19, 2026, Claims Checks are for the time period of August 6, 2026, through August 19, 2026.

Background:

Recommended Motion:

- 1) Motion to pay the claims as presented. This can be accomplished as part of the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
- 2) Motion to amend the claims and approve the minutes as amended.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: AB 125-2026 Approval of July 16, 2026, through July 31, 2026, Payroll Claims Checks #416425 through 416427 and Twenty-seven EFT's totaling \$167,620.41
Originating Dept.: City Clerk
Approval(s): City Manager
Finance

Action Recommended: Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted: 7/31/2026

Exhibit(s): None

Budgeted Amount: \$167,620.41

BARS Code:

001 Current Expense \$74,638.02	101 Streets \$14,985.61	401 Water \$25,278.35
403 Sewer \$45,911.48	405 Storm Drainage \$6,806.95	

Summary Statement:

Payroll Claims are for the time period of July 16, 2026 through July 31, 2026.

Background:

Recommended Motion:

- 1) Motion to approve the Payroll Claims as presented. This can be accomplished as part of the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
- 2) Motion to amend the Payroll Claims and approve the minutes as amended.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: Planning

Originating Dept.: Planning Department

Action Recommended:

Approval(s):

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted:

Exhibit(s):

1. 08.19.2026 Planning Staff Report

Budgeted Amount:

BARS Code:

Summary Statement:

Background:

Recommended Motion:



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Amy Hess, Community Development Director

Department: Planning and Community Development

Date: August 19, 2026

Subject: Planning Department Update

1. UPDATES

Staff is preparing to issue site plan approval for the Custom Stone project.

2. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Staff continues to process permits for mechanical, plumbing, and building permits.

First review of Tractor Supply application has been completed. This application gained a lot of attention on social media.

An application for a Unit Lot Subdivision for 86 units has been submitted and is being reviewed for completeness. This project is located between the LDS Church and Braidwood.

Applications for two new single-family residences and one detached accessory dwelling unit on the SW corner of Galena and Prospect have been submitted.

Pilchuck Crossing, on the southeast corner of Quarry/Hwy 92 and 100th Street will likely begin site work soon, awaiting final OK from WSDOT.

3. PERMITS ISSUED

No permits issued since August 5th.

4. LONG-RANGE PLANNING

The Park Impact fee code has been drafted and sent to Dept. of Commerce for the 60-day comment period. Expect to see the draft at the September 9 Work Session, with adoption anticipated in mid-late September.

Initial conversations are taking place with BHC Consultants related to the Climate Resilience Element that is required to be incorporated into our Comprehensive Plan by 2029.

5. POLICY AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Continuing research for a paper free permit and application process that is consistent with WA State Archive standards.

6. UPCOMING PRIORITIES

Review/approval of the Park Impact Fee code. PRD standards. Staff will continue to work on items identified on the 2026 work plan previously provided. If there are any sections of code that you feel should be prioritized, please share those with me.

7. SUMMARY

We are seeing an increase in development activity as was expected upon lifting of the sewer moratorium. The department remains busy with application processing and review as well as permit/process updates and ensuring responsible growth in the City.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: Public Works

Originating Dept.: Public Works

Action Recommended:

Approval(s):

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted:

Exhibit(s):

1. Public Works Staff Report 8-19-2026

Budgeted Amount:

BARS Code:

Summary Statement:

Background:

Recommended Motion:

Public Works Staff Report

August 19, 2026

STREETS

The City's contract with Waste Management (WM) expires at the end of the year. Staff is exploring a short-term extension, ideally for one year; however, the availability of a one-year agreement remains uncertain. A four-year extension would include a 6.60% rate increase in 2027. Subject to Council approval, staff will coordinate the timing of a competitive solicitation for solid waste services with the term of the approved extension.

Snohomish County Public Works completed street-striping work throughout the City on August 14, 2026. The work was delayed this year due to smoke conditions in the area. The refreshed pavement markings will improve visibility, traffic guidance, and overall roadway safety.

An RRFB unit in the 500 block of West Stanley Street was damaged during the early morning hours of August 10. Chief Dalton is working to identify the driver responsible for the damage.

One Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) funding application was submitted on July 31, 2026, covering four roadway segments. The City requested a total of \$1,065,700 in funding, with a required 10% local match. Funding awards are anticipated to be announced in October 2026.

Priority	Street Segment
1	Wabash Avenue Grand Street to Pioneer Street
2	Wallace Street Sewer Treatment Plant to Kentucky Avenue
3	Anderson Avenue Galena Street to Stanley Street
4	Anderson Avenue Union Street to Galena Street

STORM

Public Works is conducting routine inspections of stormwater ponds and water-quality facilities during the dry season. These inspections help identify maintenance needs, confirm that the facilities are functioning properly, and support compliance with the City's stormwater permit requirements.

SEWER

Both pumps at the Smoots Lift Station were pulled within the past two weeks due to debris related issues. One incident required an after-hours response from Public Works, while the other occurred during regular operating hours. In both cases, staff quickly cleared the debris and returned the pumps to service.

Staff received the annual renewal quote for the SmartCover monitoring system, totaling approximately \$1,400. The system monitors sewer flow levels and sends alarms when conditions require attention. SmartCover was acquired by Badger Meter last year, which is the same vendor the city uses for its water meters.

WATER

An increase in the City's wholesale water rate is anticipated in January or February 2027. The current rate is \$0.0223 per cubic foot, or \$2.23 per hundred cubic feet (CCF). The rate changes shown below reflect increases imposed by the City of Everett on the PUD, which the PUD is now paying. Staff anticipates a wholesale rate increase of approximately 6% to 10% from the PUD and is preparing a draft fee resolution that will incorporate the additional costs once the final rate is known.

2. Master Meters.

a. Master meter rates and charges shall be required for water districts, water associations or other organizations providing water service to sixteen or more permanent services. Organizations serving less than sixteen services and all other customers shall be charged at the individual meter rates and charges.

b. The consumption charges for master meters shall be as follows:

(1) Master meters connected east of the Snohomish River:

Master Meters East of Snohomish River	2025	2026, Jan. - July	2026, Aug. - Dec.	2027	2028 and thereafter until superseded by a new rate ordinance
Meter Charge (per meter/month)	\$539.84	\$566.83	\$606.51	\$630.77	\$656.01
Water Charge (per CCF)	\$0.780	\$0.820	\$0.877	\$0.912	\$0.949
Added Filtration Charge (per CCF)	\$1.012	\$1.093	\$1.383	\$1.439	\$1.499

A twenty or twenty-five percent rate multiplier shall be applied to the water charge in the tables above. Also, a filtration charge as stated in the table above shall be added, to arrive at the total monthly charge. No multiplier shall be applied to the filtration charge. If the city utility tax imposed

The Everett Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 4186-26, passed June 17, 2026.

PROJECTS/ MISC.

Indiana/Kentucky LID

- Approximately 35 working days remain until the anticipated substantial-completion date.
- Sidewalks poured along the 100-200 blocks of S. Indiana avenue.

Pedestrian Improvements (RRFBs)

- No significant update.

Union/Kentucky Overlay

- Larry Brown Construction completed the water-main tie-in in the 300 block of South Kentucky Avenue, marking completion of the waterline portion of the project. Staff will meet with Earthwork Solutions and Larry Browns paving contractor on August 18, 2026, to coordinate paving limits where the two projects meet.
- The City's text-alert system was used to notify subscribed residents of the planned shutdown and anticipated restoration timeline. Following restoration, one customer reported having no water, as residents were advised to do in the alert. Public Works and the contractor investigated the issue and restored service to the customer.
- Approximately 23 working days remain until substantial completion.

Legion Park

- A project kickoff meeting with RWD Landscape Architects is scheduled for August 26, 2026, to begin the Legion Park design process.

Drinking Water Well Rehab.

- Staff met with Gray & Osborne (G&O) for an initial project discussion. G&O will assist with identifying potential upfront challenges, particularly those related to projected water demand, allowable production capacity, and treatment requirements.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: City Manager Staff Report

Originating Dept.: City Council

Action Recommended:

Approval(s):

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted:

Exhibit(s):

1. City Manager Rpt

Budgeted Amount:

BARS Code:

Summary Statement:

Background:

Recommended Motion:

City of Granite Falls City Manager Staff Report

Reporting period: August 6 through August 13, 2026

Highlights

- The most significant new external development is Snohomish County Council's August 12 adoption of the 0.1% criminal justice "Justice Fund" sales tax. The Lynnwood Times reported the vote was 3-2, the tax is expected to generate nearly \$24 million per year, and the new tax chapter takes effect January 1, 2027. The city revenue-sharing amendment failed; that would have directed a portion of the revenue to a jail services and law enforcement grant program available to cities.

Purple Heart City dedication

- The City held a dedication on August 7 establishing Granite Falls as a Purple Heart City. Thank you to Mohanna and Brittany, City staff, and the Public Works team for supporting the event and the public recognition of Purple Heart recipients.

Code enforcement

- Community Development prepared and sent a code-violation letter regarding an alleged auto-repair business operating from a residential location. This was a repeat issue, neighborhood concerns had been raised, and the letter provided until August 28 to cease business operations.

Jail services and law-enforcement contract language

- Continued coordinating jail-services ILA language with the Issaquah Jail as an alternative to Yakima and Snohomish County.

Cyber incident response plan

- The City's IT provider reviewed current controls and began preparing a formal cyber incident response plan based on National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) incident-response processes. The city is currently identifying roles for incident command, technical lead, emergency system isolation, department operational decisions, external communications, legal and regulatory notifications, law enforcement, cyber insurance, HR, records, evidence retention, recovery, and post-incident review.
- This is an important risk-management step, especially for continuity of City email, financial systems, utility billing, public records, and public-facing services.

County Justice Fund sales tax adopted

- As mentioned in the Highlights, Snohomish County Council adopted the 0.1% criminal justice sales tax on August 12. The Ordinance 26-030 adds a new Chapter 4.140 to Snohomish County Code ([Snohomish County Council file 2026-1654](#)). The Lynnwood Times reported the vote was 3-2, Councilmembers Nate Nehring and Jared Mead dissented, the tax is councilmanic under RCW 82.14.345, and the new chapter takes effect January 1, 2027.
- The adopted package includes a public reporting amendment requiring the Executive's office to build and maintain a public website with annual reports, revenues, appropriations, expenditures, encumbrances, fund balance, and year-over-year comparisons.
- The amendment that would have created an 85-15 split and directed a portion of the tax into a Jail Services and Law Enforcement Grant Program available to cities failed, as did the proposed advisory-vote amendment.

- Granite Falls taxpayers will be affected by the countywide tax, but the adopted version does not provide the city revenue-sharing mechanism Council had supported in a written letter to the County Council.
- The County's Justice Fund FAQ states the tax is for law and justice services including law enforcement, jail, prosecutors, public defense, courts, and clerk functions, and estimates an average cost of about \$27 per resident or \$64 per household per year.

Stage 2 countywide outdoor burn ban

- Snohomish County moved to a Stage 2 complete outdoor burn ban effective on August 7, 2026, prohibiting all open burning, including residential yard debris and recreational fire-pit fires, and suspending all outdoor burn permits until further notice.
- The Governor extended the statewide Stage 1 burn ban through September 30, 2026.

MRSC data-center guidance

- MRSC published new guidance on August 12 regarding how local governments can prepare for data centers. The article recommends integrating land use, economic development, and utility planning; coordinating with electricity and water providers; planning for air, water, noise, waste-heat, transportation, and closure impacts; and considering temporary moratoria where needed.

ADU condominium conversion case

- MRSC published an August 11 article on Ladder Properties, LLC v. City of Snoqualmie, a Court of Appeals decision addressing whether conversion of an accessory dwelling unit to a condominium that can be sold separately is permissible. This is relevant to our housing-code administration, ADU review, and any future code updates.

Transportation and Roads

- The County's August 13 Roads Update lists continuing Granite Falls-area single-lane closures on Robe Menzel Road and Scherrer Road through August 19 for Ziply Fiber work, and continuing 84th Street NE single-lane closures between SR 9 and SR 92 through August 31 for the County's 84th St NE Spot Improvements project.

Elections and Public Records

- Snohomish County's August 4 primary unofficial results show 182,500 ballots cast out of 545,953 registered voters, for 33.43% turnout, and the Sno-Isle Libraries Proposition 1 levy lid lift was passing with 56.92%.

Parks, Community Events, and Regional Items

- The Centennial Trail South Extension community survey is open with a due date of August 29, 2026, and the County project page continues to describe the Snohomish-to-Woodinville extension planning effort ([Centennial Trail South project](#)).
- The Evergreen State Fair in Monroe is scheduled for August 27 through September 1 and September 3 through September 7 ([Evergreen State Fairgrounds](#)).
- Granite Falls Farmers Market continues on Sundays through September 13 in the FSX parking lot at 301 W. Stanley St.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: City Clerk

Originating Dept.: City Clerk

Action Recommended:

Approval(s): City Clerk

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted: 8/14/2026

Exhibit(s):

1. 08-19-2026 City Clerk Report

Budgeted Amount:

BARS Code:

Summary Statement:

Attached, please find my current staff report

Background:

Recommended Motion:



City Clerk Staff Report



★ August 19, 2026 •

Honoring Service, Sacrifice, and Purple Heart Recipients ★



★ ♥ PURPLE HEART HONOR ROLL — Business Licenses Inside City Limits 🏅 ★

★ KM Bookkeeping Solutions LLC

205 N. Bogart Ave.

Granite Falls, WA 98252-8406

License activity: Bookkeeping



★ Manholes Northwest LLC

306 S. Kentucky Ave.

Granite Falls, WA 98252-0287

License activity: New construction manholes concrete



★ T&V Sons Construction LLC

209 Wabash Ave., Apt Unit 5

Granite Falls, WA 98252-8826

License activity: Framing-construction

★ US MILITARY HONORS REGISTER — Business Licenses Outside City Limits 🏅 ★

♥ Purple Heart City • Honoring Service and Sacrifice 🏅

August 19, 2026

★ Backyard Butchers LLC

9504 Jordan Rd.

Granite Falls, WA 98252

License activity: Meat retailers, meat sales (mobile)



★ Larry Brown Construction, Inc.

2453 E 66th Ter.

Everson, WA 98247-8734

License activity: General contracting



★ JR Shelton Contracting LLC

2127 Rockefeller Ave.

Everett, WA 98201-2839

License activity: Contractor, construction



★ Johnson's Junk Removal LLC

13502 100th St. NE

Lake Stevens, WA 98258-2133

License activity: Demolition – Construction, contractor, construction cleanup



★ Robison Construction LLC

306 Orchard Ave.

Gold Bar, WA 98251-9298

License activity: Contractor, construction, construction of all types to homeowners & businesses



★ Melissa Garber Photography (Garber, Melissa Anne)

608 26th St. SE

Auburn, WA 98002-7709

License activity: All other miscellaneous retailers



★ Squatch Roofing LLC

14102 NE 189th St., Ste. 100

Woodinville, WA 98072-3603

♥ Purple Heart City • Honoring Service and Sacrifice 8

August 19, 2026

License activity: Roofing, roofing inspection



★ Head and Heart Equine Massage (Goad, Melissa S)

8413 9th PL NE
Lake Stevens, WA 98258-3436

License activity: Animal massage and bodywork



★ Telecon Design (USA) Inc.

5260 128th St. E.
Tacoma, WA 98446-4920

License activity: Telecommunications-wired

★ 🧐 HONOR GUARD REVIEW —
Disapproved Business Licenses 🛡️ ★

★ J&K Auto LLC

505 S. Kentucky Ave.
Granite Falls, WA 98252-8760

License activity: Repair service automobile

Disapproval letter sent out on July 30, 2026, as an automobile shop is not a permitted use within the DT-2,500 zone.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: AB 126-2026 Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) / Flock Safety Camera Program: Overview, SB 6002 (RCW) Compliance, Transparency, and Public Safety Benefits

Originating Dept.: City Council

Approval(s):

Action Recommended: NA - Discussion Only

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted: 8/17/2026

Exhibit(s):

1. R3 JB ALPR Flock Safety Camera Program COGF

Budgeted Amount: NA

BARS Code:

Summary Statement:

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, the Granite Falls Police Chief, and the City Manager will present an informational briefing on the ALPR/Flock Safety camera program. The presentation will provide the Council and the public with information regarding how the technology works, what a camera reviewer can and cannot see, and the legal safeguards that govern its use.

Background:

Briefing will include:

- State law compliance: Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6002 (signed March 30, 2026) establishes one of the strictest statewide ALPR frameworks in the nation. It requires registration with the Attorney General's Office within 180 days of the effective date (by September 26, 2026); all ALPRs used by the agency will be registered by September 1, 2026.

- Strict data limits: ALPR data must be deleted after 21 days, with limited exceptions. The system does not support facial recognition and captures license plates, vehicles, bicycles, and trailers; not drivers or occupants.
- Prohibited uses: No immigration enforcement, no monitoring of constitutionally protected activities, and no collection at sensitive locations such as schools, places of worship, and healthcare facilities.
- Transparency demonstration: The Granite Falls Police Chief will show actual camera captures demonstrating that a reviewer cannot identify a driver, along with recent organization and network audit results showing every search is logged with a reason and case number.
- Accountability: All search activity is permanently logged and audited; misuse subjects users to discipline, loss of access, and potential criminal or civil penalties.
- Public safety benefits: Nationwide and Washington-specific results, including recovery of missing and endangered persons, stolen vehicle recoveries, and support for felony investigations.

Recommended Motion:

NA



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office

ALPR/FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM

SB 6002 (ALPR Law)

- Signed into law on March 30, 2026
- Created one of the strictest statewide ALPR frameworks in the United States.
 - Establishes clear permitted uses
 - Imposes strict retention limits – 21 Days
 - Restricts sharing and database alerts
 - Requires policy adoption and annual reporting



State Registration

- Attorney General's Office made their Registration Form available on June 24, 2026.
- Any agency planning to use or currently using an ALPR system as of March 30, 2026, must register it with the Attorney General's Office within 180 days of the effective date (September 26, 2026).



Registration Requirements

- The agency's ALPR system meets all requirements of the Act;
- The agency has adopted a policy or policies governing the use of its ALPR system; and
- The agency has a documented training process for officers and personnel who will use the system.
- All our ALPRs will be registered by September 1, 2026.



Policy Certification and Training

- Our agency's ALPR policy, along with the allowed and prohibited uses of the system, will be added to our public facing Flock Transparency Portal.
- All users must be trained in the use of Flock/ALPR systems prior to use. (Flock Academy)
- All users must review Flock/ALPR PowerPoint Training
- All users must read and acknowledge ALPR policy
- All users must read ALPR Standard Operating Procedures



Flock Training

- Accessing Flock from Desktop and Mobile Application
- Search Criteria
- Review Desktop and Mobile Returns
- Technology Reminder
- Retention
- Reporting
- Outcomes
- Privately Held ALPR Data
- Training Search
- Annual Audit
- Misuse of the System



Geographic Restrictions

- Prohibits agencies from collecting ALPR data at or immediately surrounding certain sensitive locations, including:
 - Healthcare facilities
 - Facilities conducting immigration matters
 - Elementary and secondary schools
 - Places of worship
 - Food banks
- No Sharing with out-of-state entities unless required by a court order
- Sharing with other Washington Agencies is allowed for permitted purposes.



Usage & Investigation Limits

- Permitted Use:
 - May use ALPRs for Felonies, Gross Misdemeanors, Stolen Vehicle Investigations, and locating missing/endangered persons, and parking/traffic enforcement.
- Prohibited Use:
 - Immigration enforcement or investigations
 - Monitoring constitutionally protected activities (e.g., protests)
 - Surveillance near reproductive or gender-affirming healthcare facilities
 - In proximity to places of worship, schools, or etc.



Data Retention & Privacy

- Data Retention Limit – ALPR data must be deleted after 21 Days, with limited exceptions.
- Must obtain a warrant to access ALPR data from private entities. (e.g., Home Depot, or Lowes)
- Flock Safety Cameras and software do not support facial recognition and do not allow inquiries regarding gender or race. The cameras capture license plates, vehicles, bicycles, and Trailers.



County ALPR Accountability Policy

- If allegations arise that the user violated any part of the policy or SOP the user may face disciplinary action, including the suspension of their Flock access.
- **Willful and intentional misuse of the ALPR system or data may subject the user to criminal or civil penalties**



Audits

- All user search activity is permanently stored by Flock Safety
- Organization audit data contains
 - Users
 - Number of networks searched
 - Offense type
 - Case number
 - Date/time
 - License plate, vehicle fingerprint
 - Reason for the search

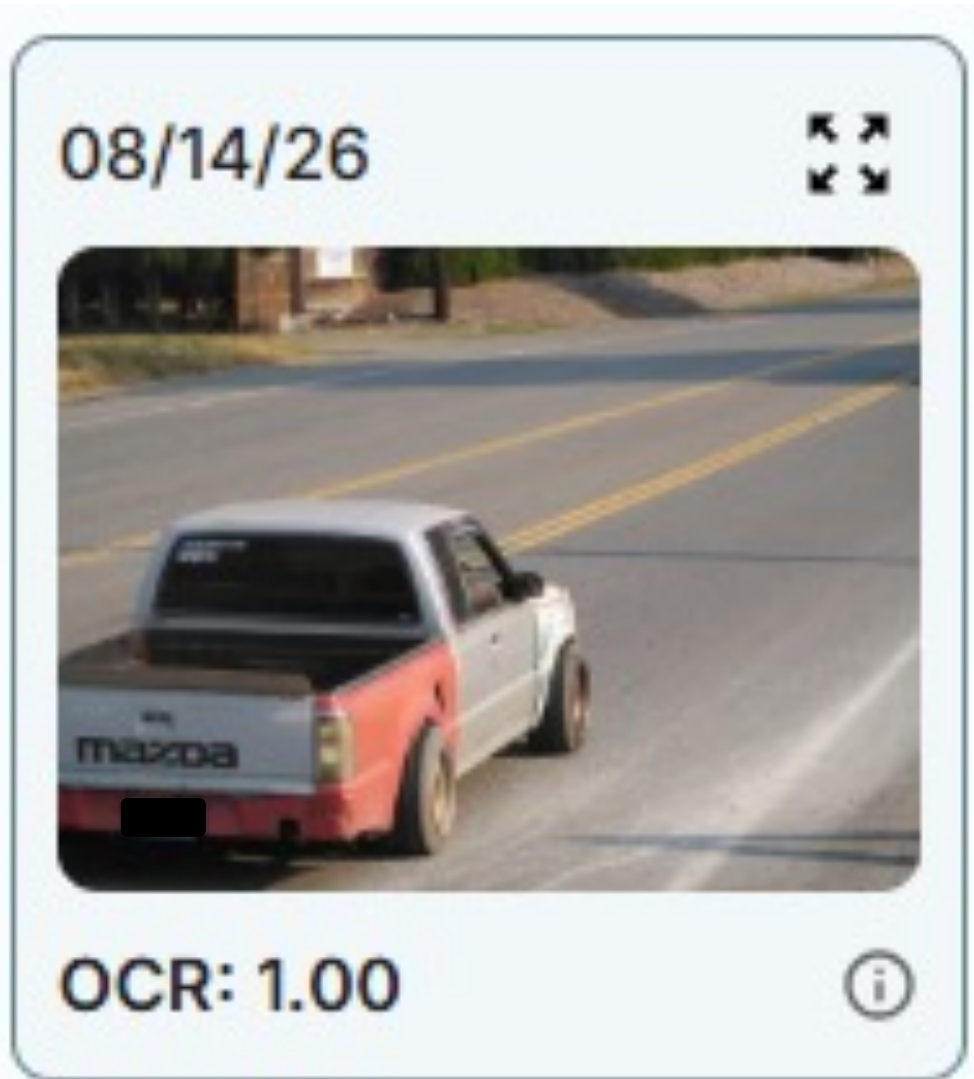


Reporting

- Public facing Flock transparency portal
- Annual audit requirements
- Mandates annual public reporting beginning 12/01/27



What the Camera Captures



- Actual capture: Quarry Road @ Mountain Loop Hwy (Aug 14, 2026).
- A rear plate read with full OCR confidence (1.00).
- As you can see, there is no way to identify the driver of the vehicle.



The Same Image, Fully Enhanced

- The same capture, enhanced to maximum detail.
- Still no way to identify the driver.



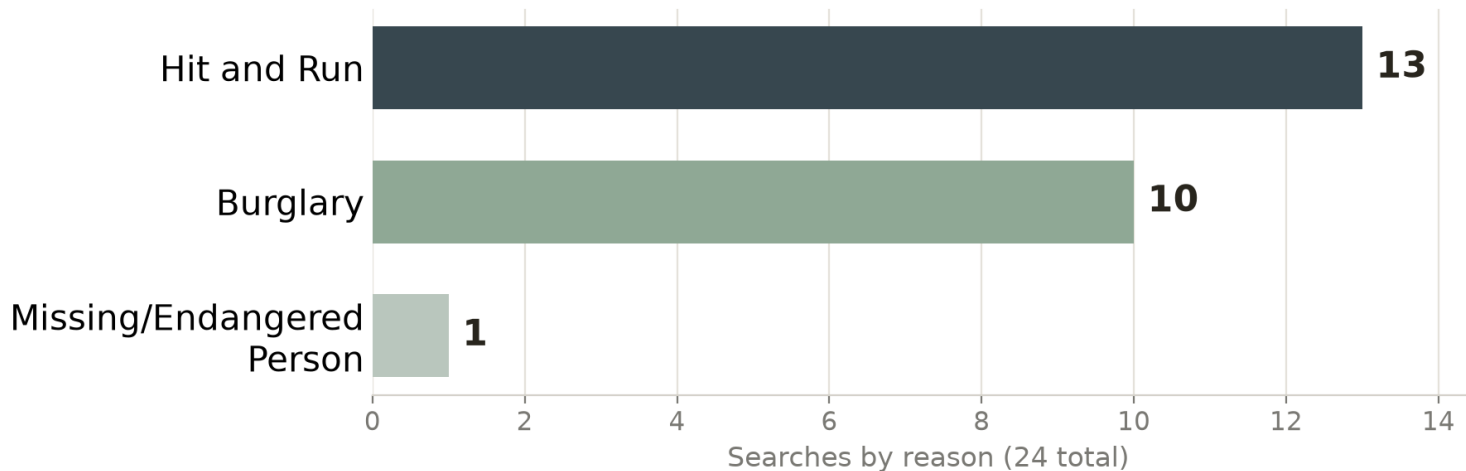
Front Views: No Facial Recognition

- Actual front-facing captures (Aug 17, 2026).
- Even from the front, there is no way to identify the driver or passengers.
- The system reads plates and vehicle details - not people.



Organization Audit: May 1 - August 14, 2026

- Only 24 searches by our organization in three and a half months.
 - Hit and Run x 13
 - Burglary x 10
 - Missing/Endangered Person x 1
- Every search is logged with an offense type, reason, and case number.



Network Audits Conducted Regularly

- Outside agencies searching our network are logged the same way.
 - Agency
 - Date
 - Reason
 - Case number

Examples:

Agency	Date	Reason for Search	Case Number
Mill Creek WA PD	Aug 14, 2026	Missing/Endangered Person - Welfare Check	Kirkland 26-32582
Lake Stevens WA PD	Aug 14, 2026	Assault/Battery (Domestic) - Assault	2026-00014881
Arlington PD (WA)	Aug 14, 2026	Robbery - Robbery Suspect	26-13156



Camera Placement: In and Out of Town Only

- Our seven cameras sit only on the routes into and out of town.
- They are not placed throughout the city, as in some other municipalities.
- They answer one question - did a vehicle of interest pass through Granite Falls? For example:
 - A missing hiker's vehicle that entered town and never returned
 - Stolen vehicles and vehicles tied to robberies
 - Identifying hit-and-run suspect vehicles
 - AMBER and Silver Alert matches



When Data Becomes Evidence

- Data tied to an active case number moves out of the automatic 21-day deletion cycle.
- It is preserved under standard evidence-handling and chain-of-custody rules, with all access logged.
- Flock's new Evidence Mode preserves case-linked data in secured cold storage - everything else still deletes on schedule.



Proven, Life-Saving Results

- In 2025, Flock technology supported more than 1 million criminal investigations nationwide.
- Helped locate more than 10,000 missing persons in a single year.
 - Abducted children, endangered seniors, and drivers with dementia - often found within hours.
- An estimated 700,000+ crimes are solved each year with this technology - roughly 10% of reported crime in the U.S.
- Over 40% of agencies report the system was involved in recovering half or more of stolen vehicles in their jurisdiction.



Bringing People Home Safely

- AMBER and Silver Alerts are matched against camera reads in real time, so officers can act within minutes - not days.
- Colorado: six abducted children recovered in five months using license plate reader alerts (Sept 2025 - Feb 2026).
 - A 14-month-old in a stolen vehicle was recovered in under 10 minutes after an alert.
- Silver Alerts: elderly and at-risk drivers, including those with dementia, are routinely located before harm occurs.
- These outcomes depend on timely alerts - minutes matter in abduction and endangered-person cases.



Results in Washington Communities

- Everett: 67% drop in monthly stolen vehicles in 2025 compared to the prior three-year average.
 - 183 arrests, 95 stolen vehicles recovered, and 386 investigative assists (Sept 2024 - Aug 2025).
- Yakima: alerts on 596 stolen vehicles and 33 missing persons located in the first year of use.
- Everett police used a real-time alert to stop a stolen vehicle and seize illegal drugs within minutes of detection.
- These results now operate under SB 6002 - one of the strictest ALPR frameworks in the nation.



How the System Is Secured

- All images and data are encrypted end to end - on the camera, in transit, and at rest (AES-256).
- Cameras have no public IP address and cannot be accessed remotely; images are deleted from the device after upload.
- CJIS data is stored in the secure AWS GovCloud; multi-factor authentication is required for every user.
- Independently audited: SOC 2 Type II, ISO 27001, FBI CJIS, and NDAA compliant.
- Agencies own their data - never sold, never shared without authorization.



Misuse Is Detected and Punished

- No anonymous searches: every search is permanently logged - who, what, when, and why.
- Audit Assistance automatically flags abnormal search activity for administrator review.
 - Proactive lockout automatically suspends accounts showing abnormal behavior, pending review.
- Audit logs have already led to discipline - and arrests - of officers who misused the system.
- Willful misuse brings discipline, loss of access, and criminal or civil penalties.



Commitment to Granite Falls

- **Transparency first:** Snohomish County's policy, permitted uses, and search audits are published on the public Flock Transparency Portal.
- **Data is deleted after 21 days:** stricter than the national default and is never sold.
- **Prohibited uses are enforced:** no immigration enforcement, no monitoring of protected activities or sensitive locations.
- **Audit Reports:** The City of Granite Falls and Snohomish County will review audit reports and publish the required annual public report.
- **Questions are always welcome:** at council meetings or via the portal.



Summary: Key Highlights

- **RCW compliant:** registered with the Attorney General by September 1, 2026, under SB 6002 - one of the strictest ALPR laws in the nation.
- **Cameras capture plates and vehicles only:** a reviewer cannot identify the driver, and there is no facial recognition.
- **Cameras cover routes in and out of town only:** seven locations at the city's entry points - not in neighborhoods.
- **Data is deleted after 21 days and prohibited uses are enforced:** no immigration enforcement, no protected activities.
- **Every search is permanently logged and audited:** misuse brings discipline and criminal or civil penalties.
- **Proven, life-saving results:** missing persons found and stolen vehicles recovered.
- **Full transparency:** public portal and annual reporting.





Questions?

CTD COMMANDER LT. TODD SWENSON T.SWENSON@SNOCO.ORG

BUREAU CHIEF MIKE MARTIN M.MARTIN@SNOCO.ORG



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: AB 127-2026 Public Hearing 7:10 p.m., or soon thereafter,
Regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 2.08 GFMC, and consideration of adoption of Ordinance No. 1082-2026

Approval(s):

Action Recommended: Adopt Ordinance No. 1082-2026, amending Chapter 2.08 GFMC as set forth in Exhibit A, with the regular meeting and regular work session start time set at ____ p.m., following the public hearing held this evening.

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted: 8/9/2026

Exhibit(s):

1. Exhibit 1 - Public Hearing Notice
2. Exhibit 2 - Verification of PH Posting
3. Exhibit 3 - Affidavit of Publication
4. Exhibit 4 - Ordinance No. 1082-2026 Chapter 2.08 Redline August 19 Public Hearing
5. Exhibit 5 - Ordinance No. 1082-2026 Chapter 2.08 Amendments August 19 Updated
6. Exhibit 6 - GFMC 2-08 PH

Budgeted Amount: NA

BARS Code: NA

Summary Statement:

Ordinance No. 1082-2026 amends Chapter 2.08 GFMC in 16 areas:

1. Public comment on New Business and Current Business items 2.08.090(C)(2), (6): Requires the presiding officer to invite public comment on each item of business appearing under New Business or Current Business, whether the item is scheduled for action or for discussion only, after the staff presentation and after Council clarifying questions, and before Council deliberation and action. Three minutes per person per item unless changed by majority vote. Comment on any other matter, including any matter not on the agenda, is taken during the Public Comments portion of the agenda.
2. Written testimony 2.08.090(C)(3): Adds an express written-comment provision requiring written comment to be received by the city clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to be distributed to Council in advance, consistent with RCW 42.30.240. Written comment received after the deadline is still distributed and entered into the record. Written comment is encouraged, and the agenda should state how to submit it.
3. Group spokesperson rule former 2.08.090(C)(3): Deleted in full. Reasonable time and manner limits are retained and may be tightened by majority vote for a particular item or meeting.
4. Workshop public comment 2.08.090(D)(2): Replaces the absolute prohibition with public comment limited to items on the work session agenda, invited after the staff presentation and Council clarifying questions, subject to time limits, with written comment encouraged.
5. Order of business and council-manager roles 2.08.070(D), (G); 2.08.090(C)(1): Adds a city manager's report with the staff reports early in the meeting while retaining mayor, Council, and city manager comments at the end. Clarifies the mayor as presiding officer and ceremonial head and the city manager as chief executive and administrative head.
6. Special meetings 2.08.080: Adds the city manager as a person who may call a special meeting, retains the mayor and three-council member authority, and adds website posting and the statutory limit on final disposition.
7. Vacancies and attendance 2.08.060: States the RCW 35A.12.060 rule directly, confirms that regular work sessions count as regular meetings, clarifies that the Council's operative action is to excuse or decline to excuse, requires notification to Council by the city manager or clerk, and cross-references GFMC 2.04.040 for mayor pro tempore.
8. Comment time limits 2.08.090(C)(11): Removes the five-minute and fifteen-minute limits on mayor, Council, and city manager comments; expands the permitted content to include business for a future agenda and information of general community interest; and clarifies that final action is deferred unless permitted by law and immediate action is appropriate.
9. Meeting logistics 2.08.070(B); 2.08.090(C)(7): Presents the start time as a bracketed choice between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; describes the meeting location by reference to the agenda and public notice rather than a fixed address; and replaces the mandatory lectern with participation at a location and in a manner designated by the presiding officer that is accessible and audible.
10. Appeal of a ruling of the chair 2.08.090(C)(9): Adds a clear motion to appeal a

ruling of the chair, with the city attorney available as parliamentarian. The existing 10:30 p.m. meeting-end provision in 2.08.090(C)(10) is not amended and remains as currently codified.

11. Voting and minutes 2.08.090(F)(1), (2): Keeps the voice vote as the default with the presiding officer announcing the result; records the aggregate result, including unanimity; preserves any member's right to request a roll call, in which case the ayes and nays are recorded, consistent with RCW 35A.12.120; and provides that where a voice vote is unclear, ambiguous, or inaudible, a roll call is taken if the presiding officer requests clarification or a member requests a roll call. A dissenting vote alone does not trigger a roll call. Deletes the rule treating silence as an affirmative vote and replaces "mayor" with "presiding officer" where appropriate.
12. Remote attendance 2.08.090(F)(8): Replaces telephonic attendance with remote attendance; removes the once-per-calendar-year cap; requires an advance request when practicable and an affirmative Council motion to permit remote attendance for that meeting; counts an approved remote member as present for quorum and voting where real-time two-way audio or an equivalent reliable means of participation exists; and provides that if remote attendance is not approved and the member does not attend, the absence is unexcused unless separately excused. Remote participation on a quasi-judicial matter is permitted only if consistent with applicable law and the due process rights of the parties and only upon the advice and direction of the city attorney. This is the single quasi-judicial remote-participation standard in the ordinance.
13. Expenses and compensation 2.08.030: Separates reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses from compensation; removes the \$100.00 per month figure and refers compensation to the Chapter 2.58 GFMC salary commission; and provides that expense claims follow the city's ordinary claims process rather than requiring a resolution for each claim.
14. Eligibility, forms of address, duties 2.08.020, .040, .050: No substantive change to 2.08.020. Aligns 2.08.040 with state law on incompatible offices while preserving the city-employee and reserve-officer prohibition. Retains the forms of address in 2.08.050, framed as professional norms.
15. Ordinances, resolutions and motions 2.08.100: Corrects the lowercase "however" to "However" in subsection (E)(1). No other change.
16. Committees 2.08.090(G): Carried forward unchanged. No amendment to this subsection is proposed.

Background:

Chapter 2.08 GFMC governs the City Council regarding elections and oath, duties, expenses, eligibility for other city positions, forms of address, vacancies, meeting rules, special meetings, meeting procedures, and enacted ordinances, resolutions and motions. Substantial portions of the chapter date from Ordinance No. 776-09 (2009), with amendments in 2010, 2014, 2015, and 2022. Several provisions no longer match state law, the council-manager form of government, or the Council's actual meeting

practice.

In spring 2026, the city manager circulated a written survey asking each Councilmember to review Chapter 2.08 section by section. Ten recurring themes emerged: public comment timing; work session comment practice; council-manager role clarity; agenda and order of business; remote attendance; voting and minutes; meeting logistics; expenses; forms of address and decorum; and compensation and the salary commission.

At its regular meeting on July 1, 2026, the Council took up the chapter and worked through each theme with the city manager and the city attorney, giving section-by-section direction by show of hands or express consensus. Council directed staff and the city attorney to prepare a redraft, return it at a work session, and, if the Council concurred, schedule a public hearing followed by consideration of an adopting ordinance.

At its work session on August 12, 2026, the Council reviewed the redline draft of Chapter 2.08 GFMC and resolved or refined the policy choices that remained open. Ordinance No. 1082-2026, attached to this agenda bill with Exhibit A, reflects the July 1, 2026 direction as confirmed at the August 12 work session. Bracketed in the draft so that the public may address both options at this hearing.

Recommended Motion:

After the close of the Public Hearing -

1) Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1082-2026, amending Chapter 2.08 GFMC as set forth in Exhibit A, with the regular meeting and regular work session start time set at ____ p.m., following the public hearing held this evening.



GRANITE FALLS

City of Granite Falls
215 S. Granite Avenue / P.O. Box 1440
Granite Falls, Washington 98252

EXHIBIT 1

P (360) 691-6441
F (360) 691-6734
www.ci.granite-falls.wa.us

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

City of Granite Falls
August 19, 2026
7:10 p.m., or soon thereafter

BEFORE THE GRANITE FALLS CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, in the Granite Falls City Hall Council Chambers at 215 S. Granite Avenue, Granite Falls, WA on Wednesday, the 19th day of August, 2026, at 7:10 p.m., or soon thereafter, a public hearing will occur to receive comments regarding proposed changes to the City Council Chapter of the Granite Falls Municipal Code 2.08

Any person may appear at the hearing and may comment on the proposed changes to the City Council Chapter of the Granite Falls Municipal Code 2.08. If you are unable to attend the public hearing in person, you may submit your written comments by 5:00 p.m., August 19, 2026, to the attention of the City Clerk at Granite Falls City Hall, 215 S Granite Avenue, Granite Falls, WA, 98252, darla.wilkins@ci.granite-falls.wa.us, in order for your comments to be considered as part of the formal record. Additional information may be obtained at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by calling 360-691-6441.

GRANITE FALLS CITY COUNCIL



Darla Wilkins, City Clerk

Dated this 7th day of August, 2026.

Notice – All Proceedings of this meeting are sound recorded



VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING POSTING
FOR CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CITY
COUNCIL CHAPTER OF THE GRANITE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE
2.08

I, Darla Reese, City Clerk for the City of Granite Falls, WA hereby certifies the Notice of Public Hearing for the Granite Falls City Council was posted in three public places as described below. This Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 7:10 p.m., or soon thereafter in person.

City Hall, 215 South Granite Avenue by: Darla date: 8/7/2026

Granite Falls Public Library, 815 East Galena Street by: BO date: 8/7/26

Granite Falls Post Office, 205 East Stanley Street by: BO date: 8/7/26

Emailed to the media parties of record

by: Darla date: 8/7/2026

Certified this 7th day of August, 2026

Darla Wilkins

By Darla Wilkins, MMC, City Clerk

Everett Daily Herald

Affidavit of Publication

State of Washington }

County of Snohomish } ss

Michael Gates being first duly sworn, upon oath deposes and says: that he/she is the legal representative of the Everett Daily Herald a daily newspaper. The said newspaper is a legal newspaper by order of the superior court in the county in which it is published and is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of the first publication of the Notice hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continually as a daily newspaper in Snohomish County, Washington and is and always has been printed in whole or part in the Everett Daily Herald and is of general circulation in said County, and is a legal newspaper, in accordance with the Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1921, as amended by Chapter 213, Laws of 1941, and approved as a legal newspaper by order of the Superior Court of Snohomish County, State of Washington, by order dated June 16, 1941, and that the annexed is a true copy of EDH1034726 NOPH CHAPTER 2.08 GF as it was published in the regular and entire issue of said paper and not as a supplement form thereof for a period of 1 issue(s), such publication commencing on 08/07/2026 and ending on 08/07/2026 and that said newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period.

The amount of the fee for such publication is \$43.00.

Subscribed and sworn before me on this

7th day of August,
2026

Randie P

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington.

City Of Granite Falls LEGAL ADS 14102095
DARLA WILKINS, MMC



City of Granite Falls
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
City of Granite Falls
August 19, 2026

7:10 p.m., or soon thereafter

BEFORE THE GRANITE FALLS CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, in the Granite Falls City Hall Council Chambers at 215 S. Granite Avenue, Granite Falls, WA, on Wednesday, the 19th day of August 2026, at 7:10 p.m., or soon thereafter, a public hearing will occur to receive comments regarding proposed changes to the City Council Chapter of the Granite Falls Municipal Code 2.08.

Any person may appear at the hearing and may comment on the proposed changes to the City Council Chapter of the Granite Falls Municipal Code 2.08. If you are unable to attend the public hearing in person, you may submit your written comments by 5:00 p.m., August 19, 2026, to the attention of the City Clerk at Granite Falls City Hall, 215 S Granite Avenue, Granite Falls, WA, 98252, darla.wilkins@ci.granite-falls.wa.us, in order for your comments to be considered as part of the formal record. Additional information may be obtained at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by calling 360-591-6441.

GRANITE FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Darla Wilkins, City Clerk
Published: August 7, 2026.

EDH1034726

2.08.010 Elections - Oath.

The five members of the council shall be elected and each serve a four-year term pursuant to RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330. Each council member, before entering upon the duties of the office, shall take, and file with the city clerk, an oath of office.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009)

2.08.020 Duties.

The council shall be the legislative division of the city government and shall perform such duties and have such powers as may be authorized by statute.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009)

2.08.030 Expenses and compensation.

(A) Expense reimbursement. Council members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of official duties upon submission of a claim in the form and manner required by the city's ordinary claims process and applicable city financial policies. A separate resolution of the council is not required for each individual claim; claims are approved through the city's regular voucher and claims approval process.

(B) Compensation. Compensation of council members shall be in the amount established, and as thereafter increased or decreased, by the independent salary commission established under Chapter 2.58 GFMC, subject to applicable state law. Compensation is separate and distinct from reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses under subsection (A) of this section.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1023 § 1, 2022; Ord. 1082-2026 § , 2026)

2.08.040 Eligibility for other city positions.

An elected or appointed city council member shall not hold the position of police reserve officer or city employee for the city. In addition, no council member shall hold any other office or position that is incompatible with the office of council member under state law, and the eligibility of a council member to hold any other office or position shall be determined in accordance with applicable state law.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § , 2026)

2.08.050 Forms of address.

The mayor shall be addressed as "mayor (surname)." Members of the council shall be addressed as "council member (surname)." These forms of address state the professional norms of the council and are intended to support an orderly and respectful meeting; they are not intended to create a basis for a point of order or other procedural objection.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § , 2026)

2.08.060 Vacancies; attendance.

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Deleted: Council members may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the discharge of official duties upon presentation of a claim therefor and its allowance and approval by resolution of the council. Compensation shall be \$100.00 per month until increased or decreased by the salary commission established by Chapter 2.58 GFMC.

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Deleted: If a member of the council is absent from three consecutive meetings, unless by permission of the council, the office shall be declared vacant by the council. Vacancies in the council shall be filled by a majority vote of the council. An appointed council member shall hold office only until the next general election, at which time a person shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term....

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(A) Vacancy for nonattendance. Consistent with RCW 35A.12.060, a council position shall become vacant if the council member fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the council without being excused by the council. For purposes of this section, "regular meetings" includes regular work session meetings held under GFMC 2.08.070(B), because those meetings are regular meetings of the council under state law.

(B) Council action. The action taken by the council with respect to each absence is the action to excuse, or to decline to excuse, that absence under GFMC 2.08.070(F). No separate declaration of vacancy is required for the vacancy to occur. When a vacancy has occurred under subsection (A) of this section, the city manager or the city clerk shall notify the council, and the clerk shall make an appropriate notation in the record.

(C) Filling vacancies. Vacancies in the council shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the council in accordance with applicable state law. An appointed council member shall hold office only until the next general municipal election at which the position may lawfully be filled, at which time a person shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(D) Mayor pro tempore. The selection, term, and authority of the mayor pro tempore (also referred to as deputy mayor) are governed by GFMC 2.04.040 and applicable state law, including RCW 35A.12.065 and 35A.12.110, and are not restated in this chapter.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § , 2026)

2.08.070 Meeting rules.

(A) Statutory Compliance Required. Meetings of the council shall be conducted in accordance with the laws of the state as the same are now or hereafter shall be in force.

(B) Time and Place. Legal Holidays. Regular meetings of the council shall be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the hour of [6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m., policy choice reserved for Council], and a regular work session meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at the hour of [6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m., policy choice reserved for Council]. The meetings shall be held at the location stated on the agenda and public notice for the meeting, and shall be open to the public. Regular meetings may be adjourned from time to time during the month, as necessity may require, by the majority vote of the council members present at any such regular meeting. Less than a quorum of the governing body may also adjourn from time to time, and if all members are absent from any regular or adjourned meeting, the city clerk may declare the meeting adjourned to a stated time and place and provide notice in accordance with RCW 42.30.080 and 42.30.090. In the event a regular meeting of the council occurs on a legal holiday, the council shall hold its regular meeting on the next secular day following the legal holiday.

(C) Open to the Public. All meetings of the city council shall be open to the public, except as provided for in RCW 42.30.110 or 42.30.140.

(D) Presiding Officer. The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council. In the council-manager plan of government under Chapter 35A.13 RCW, the mayor is chosen from among the members of the council, serves as chair of the council and as the ceremonial head of the city, and has no regular administrative duties; the city manager is the chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of city government. In case of the mayor's absence or temporary disability, the mayor pro tempore selected under GFMC 2.04.040 shall preside. If both the mayor and the mayor pro tempore are absent, the members present may, by majority vote, select one of their number to preside, and the member so selected retains the right to vote as a council member. The member presiding is referred to as "presiding officer" in this chapter.

(1) Preservation of Order. The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum, confining council members to debate the question under discussion.

(2) Powers. The mayor shall:

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Deleted: in the council chambers of City Hall, 206 S. Granite Ave., Granite Falls, Washington,

Deleted: the council, by majority vote, shall appoint a mayor pro tempore from its membership.

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(a) Be the official and ceremonial head of the city and shall represent the city on ceremonial occasions, except that, when illness or other duties prevent the mayor's attendance, the mayor pro tempore or other council member or suitable person may be designated by the mayor to represent the city on such occasion.

(b) Perform such other duties as are assigned to the presiding officer by this chapter and by state law, and, if and to the extent authorized by ordinance or by state law, serve in the role provided for the mayor in an emergency or civil emergency.

(E) Quorum. Attendance of a majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum thereof, consistent with RCW 35A.12.120.

(F) Attendance/Excused Absences. If absence is anticipated, a council member shall contact the presiding officer, fellow council member, or city clerk prior to the meeting and state the reason for his or her inability to attend the meeting. Following roll call, the presiding officer, fellow council member, or city clerk shall inform the council of the member's absence and state the reason for such absence. If there is a motion to excuse the member, this motion shall be nondebatable. Upon passage of such motion by a majority of members present, the absent member shall be considered excused and the clerk will make an appropriate notation in the minutes. An absence that is not excused by the council is an unexcused absence for purposes of GFMC 2.08.060. A member permitted to attend remotely under GFMC 2.08.090(F)(8) is present at the meeting and is not absent for purposes of this subsection or GFMC 2.08.060.

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(G) Preparation of Agenda/Council Material. As a guideline for advance preparation of the agenda, the city clerk, under the direction of the city manager, shall arrange a list of proposed matters according to the order of business, and prepare and distribute a draft agenda by 5:00 p.m. Friday, at least five days before the next regular city council meeting. Council members may direct the city manager to add items to the agenda as long as the request is received by noon Thursday at least six days before the next regular city council meeting. A copy of the preliminary agenda and supporting materials, including the city manager's written report and staff reports, shall be distributed to council members and city manager and made available to other staff, the media, and city residents in advance of the meeting. At the city council meeting, the city council may, by majority vote of the council members present, delete any item from the agenda, or add any item to it, after stating the reasons for the change.

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(H) Public Notice of Preliminary Meeting Agendas. The public shall be notified of the preliminary agenda for forthcoming council meetings by the city clerk posting a copy of the preliminary agenda at city hall, the post office, and the library by 5:00 p.m. at least two days prior to the scheduled meeting. The preliminary agenda shall also be posted on the city website, The agenda for a regular work session meeting should identify the meeting as a work session.

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(I) Minutes. The city clerk shall be ex officio clerk of the council and shall keep the minutes and records as required by state law, of all council proceedings including public hearings, regular meetings, and special meetings, and perform such other duties in the meeting as may be required by the council or city manager. The minutes kept shall identify the general discussion of the issue in summary form and complete detail of the official action or consensus reached, if any, and shall record votes as provided in GFMC 2.08.090(F).

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 864 § 1, 2014; Ord. 875 § 1, 2014; Ord. 904 § 4, 2015; Ord. 1082-2026 § , 2026)

2.08.080 Special meetings.

Special meetings of the council may be called by the mayor, by the city manager, or upon the written request of three council members, consistent with RCW 42.30.080; provided, that:

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(A) Notice of the special meeting shall be prepared in writing by the city clerk. The notice shall specify the time and location and the business to be transacted of the meeting. Final disposition shall not be taken on any other matter at the special meeting; and

(B) Notice shall be delivered to each council member, the mayor, and the business office of each local newspaper, radio and/or television station which has on file a written request for notice of special meetings. The notice must be delivered at least 24 hours prior to the start of the special meeting. The notice shall also be posted on the city website and, if applicable, at the physical locations required by RCW 42.30.080.

(C) The notices provided in this section may be dispensed with or disregarded within the circumstances provided by RCW 42.30.080, that is:

- (1) Any member who, at or prior to the time the meeting convenes, files with the city clerk a written waiver of notice;
- (2) Any member who was actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes; and
- (3) In the event a special meeting is called to deal with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property or the likelihood of such injury or damage, when time requirements of such notice would make notice impractical and increase the likelihood of such injury or damage.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § , 2026)

2.08.090 Meeting procedures.

(A) Rules of Order. Rules of order and questions of parliamentary procedure not otherwise specified by statute, ordinance or resolution shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition. The city attorney may serve as parliamentarian to the council and may advise the presiding officer and the council on questions of parliamentary procedure and points of order.

Deleted: – 10th Edition, or any revisions or amendments thereto...

(1) A council member desiring to speak shall address the presiding officer and, upon recognition by the presiding officer, shall speak to the issues in a civil manner, respecting the viewpoints of others and avoiding personalities, focusing on the issue at hand, sharing their own motives and reasons for supporting or not supporting an item for discussion, in a polite and courteous manner towards each other and the public.

(2) A council member, while speaking, should not be interrupted unless it be to call the council member to order.

(3) Council members have the right to speak more than once on the same question; provided, however, that before speaking a second time, all other council members who have not yet spoken on the question and who desire the floor must be allowed the opportunity first.

(B) Motions. All items of business placed before the council that require the expenditure of council and/or administration resources shall be in the form of an affirmative motion. Affirmative motions are preferred to prevent "approval by default" of a failed negative motion.

(C) Order of Business - ~~Regular Meetings - First and Third Wednesdays~~. The accepted order of business of all the regular meetings of the council held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month shall be transacted as shown in the following list; provided, however, that during a council meeting the council may, by majority vote, rearrange the order of the items on the agenda, or postpone any item, or add any item to the agenda, to conduct the business before the council more expeditiously or in a manner desired by the council. This accepted order of business may also be changed periodically from the format shown as follows:

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- (1) (a) Call to order.
- (b) Flag salute.
- (c) Roll call.
- (d) Consent agenda.

(e) City manager's report.

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(f) Staff reports.

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(g) Public comment on items not on the agenda.

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(h) New business.

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(i) Current business.

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(j) Mayor's comments.

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(k) Council comments.

Deleted: (i) Mayor's comments (five minutes).

(l) City manager's comments.

Deleted: (j) Council comments (15 minutes).

(m) Executive session (if requested).

Deleted: (k) City manager's comments (five minutes).

(n) Adjourn.

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(2) Public comment on New Business and Current Business items. For each item of business appearing on the agenda under New Business or Current Business, whether or not final action on the item is contemplated at that meeting, the presiding officer shall invite public comment on that item after the staff presentation and after council members have had the opportunity to ask questions of staff for clarification, and before council deliberation, discussion, and any action on the item. Public comment under this subsection is limited to three minutes per person per item unless the council by majority vote sets a different limit. Comment on any other matter, including any matter not appearing on the agenda, shall be made during the public comment portion of the agenda provided for in subsection (C)(1)(g) of this section. No final action may be taken at a meeting unless the public has been given the opportunity to comment.

Deleted: (2) All subjects on the current agenda under public comment, and public comment on items not on the agenda, are limited to three minutes per individual unless revised by the city council by majority vote (see subsection (C)(4) of this section).

(3) Written comment. Any person may submit written comment on any matter, whether or not it appears on the agenda. Written comment is encouraged, and the agenda and public notice should state how written comment may be submitted. In order to be distributed to the council in advance of the meeting, written comment must be received by the city clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Written comment that is accepted shall be distributed to the members of the council, consistent with RCW 42.30.240. Written comment received after the deadline shall be distributed to the council as soon as practicable and entered into the record.

Deleted: (3) In the event of single subject group comment, a spokesperson shall be designated to speak on behalf of the group and be limited to five minutes. However, at the discretion of the council by majority vote, additional time allocation for a spokesperson may be allowed. Groups that qualify for this special treatment shall submit to the mayor, prior to comment, a list of present group constituents or others in agreement so that duplication shall not occur.

(4) The city council desires to allow a maximum opportunity for public comment. However, the business of the city must proceed in an orderly, timely manner. At any time, the council, at its sole discretion, may set such reasonable limits on the time and manner of public comment by majority vote as are necessary to prevent disruption of other necessary business. Reasonable limits may include reducing the per-speaker time limit for a particular item or meeting. The presiding officer may decline to take oral comment only where taking comment would make the orderly conduct of the meeting infeasible, consistent with RCW 42.30.240.

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(5) Subjects Not on the Current Agenda. Any member of the public may request time to address the council after first stating their name, address or neighborhood (at the option of the speaker), and the subject of their comments. The presiding officer may then allow the comments subject to the time limitations set forth in this section. Following such comments, the presiding officer may place the matter on a future agenda, or refer the matter to city staff or a council committee for follow up.

(6) Subjects on the Current Agenda. Any member of the public who wishes to address the council on an item on the current agenda appearing under New Business or Current Business may do so when the presiding officer invites comment on that item under subsection (C)(2) of this section. Comment on any other subject shall be made during the public comment portion of the agenda. As an option, the presiding officer may invoke a sign-in procedure. The presiding officer may change the order of speakers so that comment is heard in the most logical groupings.

Deleted: shall make such request to the presiding officer at the time when comments from the public are requested during the agenda item discussion.

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(7) Comments shall be made from a location and in a manner designated by the presiding officer that is accessible to the speaker and audible to the council and the public, first giving the speaker's name and address or neighborhood (at the option of the speaker). Anyone making "out of order" or disruptive comments shall be subject to removal from the meeting.

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(8) There will be no demonstrations (i.e., clapping or cheering) before, during, or at the conclusion of anyone's presentation.

(9) Appeal of a ruling of the chair. Any council member may appeal a ruling of the presiding officer by moving to appeal the ruling immediately after the ruling is made. The motion requires a second. The presiding officer may briefly state the basis for the ruling and the appealing member may briefly state the basis for the appeal; the motion is not otherwise debatable. The question shall be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be sustained?" The ruling of the chair is sustained unless a majority of the members present votes to overrule it. The presiding officer or any member may request the advice of the city attorney, acting as parliamentarian, before the vote is taken.

Deleted: (9) Any ruling by the presiding officer may be overruled by a vote of a majority of members present.

(10) Adjournment. No meeting shall be permitted to continue beyond 10:30 p.m. without the approval of a simple majority of council members present and eligible to vote. The council shall be deemed to have approved an extension of the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. unless a member requests a vote to whether to extend or adjourn. A new time limit must be established before taking a council vote to extend the meeting. The items not acted upon or considered shall be deferred to the next regular council meeting, as old business, unless the council, by a majority vote of council members present, determines otherwise.

(11) City Manager, Mayor and Council Member Comments and Concerns. The agenda shall provide a time when the city manager ("city manager's comments"), mayor ("mayor's comments") or any council member ("council comments") may bring before the council any business that the speaker feels should be deliberated upon by the council or added to a future agenda, and may share information of general community interest. These matters need not be specifically listed on the agenda, but formal action on such matters shall be deferred until a subsequent council meeting, except that action may be taken where permitted by law and the council determines that immediate action is appropriate, upon a vote of a majority of all council members present. No time limit applies to comments under this subsection.

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Deleted: that for those items that need immediate council action or approval, such action or approval may be taken upon a vote of a majority of all council members present....

(D) Order of Business. Regular Work Session Meetings. Second Wednesday. The accepted order of business of all the regular work session meetings of the council held on the second Wednesday of each month shall be transacted as shown in the following list; provided, however, that during a council meeting the council may, by majority vote, rearrange the order of the items on the agenda, or postpone any item, or add any item to the agenda, to conduct the business before the council more expeditiously or in a manner desired by the council. This accepted order of business may also be changed periodically from the format shown as follows:

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(1) (a) Call to order.

(b) Roll call.

(c) Discussion topics.

(d) Executive session (if requested).

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(e) Adjourn.

(2) Public comment at work session meetings. Regular work session meetings are regular meetings of the council, although final action is not typically taken at a work session. Public comment is permitted at regular work session meetings and is limited to the items appearing on the work session agenda. For each discussion item, the presiding officer shall invite public comment after the staff presentation and after council members have had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification, and before council discussion of the item. Comment is limited to three minutes per person per item unless the council by

Deleted: (2) No public comment shall be taken or permitted by the city council at any point during regular work session meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month....

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majority vote sets a different limit, and the reasonable time and manner limits in subsection (C)(4) of this section apply. Written comment on work session agenda items is encouraged and shall be distributed to the council as provided in subsection (C)(3) of this section.

(E) Citizens' Comments. For meetings which include public comment as an agenda item, time shall be set aside for the council to hear from the public, subject to subsections (C)(2) through (C)(7) and (D)(2) of this section.

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(1) No member of the public shall be heard until recognized by the presiding officer. Any member of the public interrupting city council proceedings, approaching the dais without permission, otherwise creating a disturbance, or failing to abide by these rules of procedure in addressing the city council, may be charged with disorderly conduct (RCW 9A.84.030, a misdemeanor) and, at the direction of the presiding officer or the majority of the council, may be removed from council chambers.

(2) All remarks shall be made to the city council as a body and not to an individual council member or to the presiding officer.

(3) Each person who addresses the city council shall not make personal, impertinent, slanderous or profane remarks to any council member, the presiding officer, city staff, or the general public. Any person who makes such remarks, or who utters loud, threatening, personal or abusive language, or engages in any other disorderly conduct which disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any city council meeting shall, at the discretion of the presiding officer or a majority of the council, be removed from the council chambers and be barred from further audience before the council during that council meeting.

(4) Warning. The presiding officer shall request that a person who is breaching the rules of decorum be orderly and silent. If, after receiving a warning or warnings from the presiding officer, a person persists in disturbing the meeting, the presiding officer or a majority of the council shall order him or her to leave the council meeting. If such person does not remove himself or herself, the presiding officer or a majority of the council may order any law enforcement officer to remove the person from council chambers. Any person who resists removal by the law enforcement officer may be charged with a violation of this section.

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(F) Voting. The votes during all meetings of the council shall be transacted as follows:

(1) Unless otherwise provided for by statute, ordinance, or resolution, all votes shall be taken by voice, and the presiding officer shall announce the result of each vote, except that at the request of any council member, a roll call vote shall be taken by the city clerk and the ayes and nays shall be recorded, consistent with RCW 35A.12.120. The order of the roll call vote shall be determined by the city clerk.

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(2) Recording of votes. For a voice vote, the minutes shall record the aggregate result announced by the presiding officer, including a statement that the vote was unanimous where that is the case. Any council member may request a roll call vote as provided in subsection (F)(1) of this section, in which case the ayes and nays shall be recorded. If the result of a voice vote is unclear or ambiguous, or if any member's vote is not clearly audible, a roll call vote shall be taken if the presiding officer requests clarification of the vote or any council member requests a roll call, so that each member's vote is accurately recorded in the minutes. Individual votes shall be recorded in the minutes only where a roll call vote has been taken or where the member's individual vote has otherwise been clearly stated on the record.

Deleted: (2) In the event the presiding officer has called for both aye and nay votes, in addition to abstentions, silence of a council member during a voice vote shall be counted and recorded as an affirmative vote.

(3) In case of a tie vote on any proposal or question, the proposal or question shall fail.

(4) The passage of any ordinance, grant or revocation of franchise or license, and any resolution for the payment of money, shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the whole membership of

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the council, consistent with RCW 35A.12.120. On a five-member council, this requires three affirmative votes regardless of the number of members present.

(5) The passage of any public emergency ordinance (an ordinance that takes effect immediately), such as an ordinance for provisions for emergencies or expenditures necessary for the protection of the public health, public safety, public property, or public peace, shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority plus one of the whole membership of the council. Public emergency ordinances may not levy taxes; grant, renew or extend a franchise; or authorize the borrowing of money.

(6) The passage of any motion or resolution shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the council members who are present and eligible to vote, unless otherwise authorized or required by provisions of Washington State law, the Granite Falls Municipal Code, or this chapter (see subsection (F)(4) of this section).

(7) A motion or request by a council member (with or without a second) to "call the question" (or similar words indicating an intent to terminate further debate and take a vote on a pending motion) allows a vote on the pending motion to immediately take place, unless any council member requests that the motion to "call the question" be put to a vote, in which case, debate is only terminated if adopted by a two-thirds vote of the council members present.

(8) Remote Attendance.

(a) Request. A council member who wishes to attend a meeting remotely shall notify the city clerk in advance of the meeting whenever practicable so that the necessary connection can be arranged.

(b) Council approval. The council may, by affirmative motion adopted by a majority of the members present, permit a council member to attend that meeting remotely. Approval applies to the meeting for which it is granted.

(c) Effect of approval. A council member permitted to attend remotely is counted as present for purposes of quorum and voting, so long as real-time participation is available throughout the member's participation. Real-time participation requires two-way audio, or an equivalent reliable means of participation, by which the member can hear all that is spoken at the meeting, all persons at the meeting can hear or otherwise reliably receive the member's statements and votes, the member has received the materials for the meeting, and the member's vote can be clearly recorded.

(d) Failure of connection. If real-time participation is lost and cannot promptly be restored, the presiding officer shall so state on the record, and the member shall be treated as absent from the remainder of the meeting unless and until participation is restored.

(e) Effect of denial. If the council does not approve remote attendance and the member does not attend the meeting, the absence is an unexcused absence for purposes of GFMC 2.08.060 unless the council separately votes to excuse the absence under GFMC 2.08.070(F).

(f) Quasi-judicial matters. A council member may participate and vote remotely on a quasi-judicial matter only if doing so is consistent with applicable law and the due process rights of the parties, and only upon the advice and direction of the city attorney.

(g) No annual limit. There is no limit on the number of meetings a council member may attend remotely under this subsection; the council retains discretion under subsection (F)(8)(b) of this section to approve or deny each request.

(G) Committees. All special committee members shall be appointed by the city manager with the approval of the council.

Deleted: (8) Telephonic Attendance. A council member may attend a council meeting via telephone once per calendar year. Telephonic attendance of a council member shall not constitute a quorum of the council. In order to attend a council meeting via telephone, a council member shall inform the city clerk no later than three working days before the meeting in order for a telephone connection to be arranged, whereby the voice of the council member can be identified, the council member can hear all that is spoken at the meeting, and all persons at the meeting can hear the council member speak. To attend a council meeting by telephone, a council member shall have received in advance all materials for the meeting. Telephone attendance of a council member for purposes of voting on a quasi-judicial matter at a council meeting is prohibited.

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(H) Reading of Minutes. Unless a reading of the minutes of a previous council meeting is requested by a council member, such minutes may be approved without reading; provided, that the city clerk has furnished each council member with a written copy of the minutes prior to the present meeting.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 803 § 1, 2010; Ord. 904 § 5, 2015; Ord. 1082-2026 § , 2026)

2.08.100 Enacted ordinances, resolutions and motions.

(A) An enacted ordinance is a legislative act prescribing general, uniform, and permanent rules or regulations relating to the operation and corporate affairs of the municipality. Council action shall be taken by ordinance when required by law, or where such conduct is enforced by penalty.

(B) An enacted resolution is an administrative act which is a formal statement of policy concerning matters of special or temporary character. Council action shall be taken by resolution when required by law and in those instances where an expression of policy more formal than a motion is desired.

(C) An enacted motion is a form of action taken by the council to direct that a specific action be taken on behalf of the municipality. A motion, once approved and entered into the record, is the equivalent of a resolution in those instances where a resolution is not required by law, and where such motion is not in conflict with existing state or federal statutes, city ordinances, resolutions or these rules.

(D) Resolutions. A resolution may be put to its final passage on the same day on which it was introduced. The title of each resolution shall, in all cases, be read prior to its passage; provided, should a council member request that the entire resolution or certain of its sections be read, such requests shall be granted.

(E) Ordinances. The procedures for consideration and adoption of ordinances are as follows:

(1) An ordinance may be put to its final passage on the same day on which it was introduced by passage of a council member's motion for first and final reading and adoption of the ordinance. However, council may invoke two separate readings of the ordinance at separate council meetings to facilitate public understanding of and/or comment on the ordinance. At each reading, the title of an ordinance shall, in all cases, be read prior to its passage; provided, that should a council member request that the entire ordinance or certain of its sections be read, such request shall be granted.

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(2) Any ordinance repealing any portion of the Granite Falls Municipal Code shall also repeal the respective portions of the underlying ordinance(s).

(F) Reconsideration. Any action of the council shall be subject to a motion to reconsider, including final action on applications for legislative changes in land use status, but excluding a reconsideration of any action previously reconsidered. Motions to adjourn, motions to suspend the rules, an affirmative vote to lay on the table or to take from the table, or a vote electing to office one who is present and does not decline are not subject to a reconsideration motion. Reconsideration can be requested only by motion of a member of the prevailing side of the original motion. A motion to reconsider must be made at the next regular city council meeting for action to be reconsidered. A motion to reconsider is debatable only if the action being reconsidered is debatable. Upon passage of a motion to reconsider, the subject matter is returned to the table anew for any action the council deems advisable.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § , 2026)

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CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 1082-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 2.08 GFMC RELATING TO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS, PROCEDURES, PUBLIC COMMENT, SPECIAL MEETINGS, VACANCIES, ATTENDANCE, VOTING, EXPENSES, AND RELATED MATTERS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Granite Falls is a noncharter code city operating under the council-manager plan of government provided in Chapter 35A.13 RCW, under which the city manager is the chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of city government and the mayor, chosen from among the members of the council, presides at council meetings and serves as the ceremonial head of the city; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.08 GFMC governs the City Council, including its meetings, procedures, public comment, special meetings, vacancies, attendance, voting, and expenses, and portions of that chapter have not been comprehensively reviewed since their adoption by Ordinance No. 776-09 in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 776-09 repealed Ordinance No. 307 and Ordinance No. 506 and repealed and replaced Chapter 2.08 GFMC in its entirety with a new chapter entitled "City Council" relating to city council policies and procedures, and as originally adopted GFMC 2.08.030 was entitled "Compensation" and provided for compensation of \$100.00 per month together with reimbursement of actual expenses upon presentation of a claim and its allowance and approval by resolution of the council; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 803-10 amended Ordinance No. 776-09 and GFMC 2.08.090(C) to change the order of business to provide for receipt of staff reports earlier in the conduct of regular meetings of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 864-2014 amended GFMC 2.08.070(B) to set the regular meetings of the City Council on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. with a workshop on the second Monday, and Ordinance No. 875-2014 thereafter amended GFMC 2.08.070(B) to revise the regular meetings of the City Council to 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month with a work session on the second Wednesday, which is the schedule presently codified; and

WHEREAS, following the election of November 2015 at which the voters of the City adopted the council-manager plan of government set forth in Chapter 35A.13 RCW, Ordinance No. 904-2015 amended various sections of the Granite Falls Municipal Code, including GFMC 2.08.070 and GFMC 2.08.090, to reflect the change in the form of government from the mayor-council plan to the council-manager plan, principally by substituting the term "city manager" for the terms "city administrator" and "mayor" and by removing the elected mayor's role as executive head of the executive branch of city government, and certain mayor-council terminology nonetheless remains in Chapter 2.08 GFMC and should now be corrected; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 1023-2022 amended GFMC 2.08.030, changed the title of that section from "Compensation" to "Expenses," and added a new Chapter 2.58 GFMC establishing an independent salary commission pursuant to RCW 35.21.015, while retaining in GFMC 2.08.030 the statement that compensation shall be \$100.00 per month until increased or decreased by the salary commission, with the result that the section presently combines two distinct subjects and states a compensation figure that no longer reflects the determination of the salary commission; and

WHEREAS, in 2026 the City Council undertook a section-by-section review of Chapter 2.08 GFMC, beginning with a written survey of Councilmembers and continuing with a facilitated discussion at the regular City Council meeting of July 1, 2026, at which the city manager and the city attorney reviewed each section with the Council and the Council provided non-binding direction to staff; and

WHEREAS, at the July 1, 2026 meeting the Council directed staff and the city attorney to prepare a redraft of Chapter 2.08 GFMC reflecting that direction, to return the redraft to the Council at a work session, and thereafter, if the Council concurred, to schedule a public hearing and consideration of an adopting ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the draft amendments at its regular work session on August 12, 2026, and provided further direction to staff; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed amendments on August 19, 2026, at which all persons wishing to be heard were given an opportunity to comment orally and in writing, and the Council considered the testimony received; and

WHEREAS, RCW 42.30.240 requires that, except in an emergency, the governing body provide an opportunity for public comment at or before every regular meeting at which final action is taken, permits that comment to be oral or written, requires that written testimony that is accepted be distributed to the members of the governing body, and permits reasonable deadlines for written testimony and reasonable limits on the time, place, and manner of comment; and

WHEREAS, RCW 42.30.080 provides that a special meeting may be called by the presiding officer or by a majority of the members of the governing body upon at least twenty-four hours' written notice specifying the time, place, and business to be transacted, and that final disposition may not be taken on any other matter at the special meeting, and the City Council desires to add the city manager as a person who may call a special meeting without diminishing the authority conferred by statute; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.12.060 provides that a council position shall become vacant if the councilmember fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the council without being excused by the council, and the City Council desires that Chapter 2.08 GFMC state that rule clearly and consistently with state law; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.12.120 provides that a majority of the council constitutes a quorum, that at the desire of any member any question shall be voted upon by roll call with the ayes and nays recorded, and that the passage of any ordinance, grant or revocation of franchise or license, and any resolution for the payment of money requires the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the whole membership of the council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that amending Chapter 2.08 GFMC as set forth in this ordinance will align the written code with state law, with the council-manager form of government, and with the City Council's actual and intended meeting practice, and will expand and clarify the opportunity for the public to participate in Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the amendments adopted by this ordinance are in the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Granite Falls;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of Chapter 2.08 GFMC. Chapter 2.08 of the Granite Falls Municipal Code, entitled "City Council," is hereby amended to read as set forth in Exhibit A, attached to this ordinance and incorporated by this reference as if fully set forth. Consistent with RCW 35A.12.150, each section

of Chapter 2.08 GFMC amended by this ordinance is set forth at full length in Exhibit A. Sections 2.08.010 and 2.08.020 GFMC are not amended by this ordinance and are reproduced in Exhibit A for the convenience of the reader only.

Section 2. Specific sections amended. The following sections of Chapter 2.08 GFMC are amended by this ordinance as set forth at full length in Exhibit A: GFMC 2.08.030 (Expenses and compensation); GFMC 2.08.040 (Eligibility for other city positions); GFMC 2.08.050 (Forms of address); GFMC 2.08.060 (Vacancies; attendance); GFMC 2.08.070 (Meeting rules); GFMC 2.08.080 (Special meetings); GFMC 2.08.090 (Meeting procedures); and GFMC 2.08.100 (Enacted ordinances, resolutions and motions).

Section 3. Findings. The recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as findings of the City Council in support of this ordinance.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance, or its application to any other person or circumstance, and the remainder of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Corrections by the city clerk or code reviser. Upon approval of the city attorney, the city clerk and the code reviser are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors; references to other local, state, or federal laws, codes, rules, or regulations; ordinance numbering and section and subsection numbering and lettering; and any references to those numbers or letters.

Section 6. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance and prior to its effective date is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 7. Publication by summary. This ordinance, or a summary of this ordinance consisting of its title, shall be published in the official newspaper of the City as provided by RCW 35A.12.160.

Section 8. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect five (5) days after its publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof, and APPROVED by the Mayor of the City this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

Matthew Hartman, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Darla Wilkins, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Emily Guildner, City Attorney

**FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
PUBLISHED:
EFFECTIVE DATE:**

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1082-2026

of the City of Granite Falls, Washington

On the ____ day of _____, 2026, the City Council of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, passed Ordinance No. 1082-2026. A summary of the content of said ordinance, consisting of the title, provides as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 2.08 GFMC RELATING TO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS, PROCEDURES, PUBLIC COMMENT, SPECIAL MEETINGS, VACANCIES, ATTENDANCE, VOTING, EXPENSES, AND RELATED MATTERS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The full text of this ordinance will be mailed upon request to the City Clerk, City of Granite Falls.

Darla Wilkins, City Clerk

Date of publication: _____

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.08 GFMC - City Council

As amended by Ordinance No. 1082-2026 (amended sections set forth at full length)

2.08.010 Elections - Oath.

The five members of the council shall be elected and each serve a four-year term pursuant to RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330. Each council member, before entering upon the duties of the office, shall take, and file with the city clerk, an oath of office.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009)

2.08.020 Duties.

The council shall be the legislative division of the city government and shall perform such duties and have such powers as may be authorized by statute.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009)

2.08.030 Expenses and compensation.

(A) Expense reimbursement. Council members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of official duties upon submission of a claim in the form and manner required by the city's ordinary claims process and applicable city financial policies. A separate resolution of the council is not required for each individual claim; claims are approved through the city's regular voucher and claims approval process.

(B) Compensation. Compensation of council members shall be in the amount established, and as thereafter increased or decreased, by the independent salary commission established under Chapter 2.58 GFMC, subject to applicable state law. Compensation is separate and distinct from reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses under subsection (A) of this section.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1023 § 1, 2022; Ord. 1082-2026 § __, 2026)

2.08.040 Eligibility for other city positions.

An elected or appointed city council member shall not hold the position of police reserve officer or city employee for the city. In addition, no council member shall hold any other office or position that is incompatible with the office of council member under state law, and the eligibility of a council member to hold any other office or position shall be determined in accordance with applicable state law.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § __, 2026)

2.08.050 Forms of address.

The mayor shall be addressed as "mayor (surname)." Members of the council shall be addressed as "council member (surname)." These forms of address state the professional norms of the council and are intended to support an orderly and respectful meeting; they are not intended to create a basis for a point of order or other procedural objection.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § __, 2026)

2.08.060 Vacancies; attendance.

(A) Vacancy for nonattendance. Consistent with RCW 35A.12.060, a council position shall become vacant if the council member fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the council without being excused by the council. For purposes of this section, "regular meetings" includes regular work

session meetings held under GFMC 2.08.070(B), because those meetings are regular meetings of the council under state law.

(B) Council action. The action taken by the council with respect to each absence is the action to excuse, or to decline to excuse, that absence under GFMC 2.08.070(F). No separate declaration of vacancy is required for the vacancy to occur. When a vacancy has occurred under subsection (A) of this section, the city manager or the city clerk shall notify the council, and the clerk shall make an appropriate notation in the record.

(C) Filling vacancies. Vacancies in the council shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the council in accordance with applicable state law. An appointed council member shall hold office only until the next general election at which the position may lawfully be filled, at which time a person shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(D) Mayor pro tempore. The selection, term, and authority of the mayor pro tempore (also referred to as deputy mayor) are governed by GFMC 2.04.040 and applicable state law, including RCW 35A.12.065 and 35A.12.110, and are not restated in this chapter.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § __, 2026)

2.08.070 Meeting rules.

(A) Statutory Compliance Required. Meetings of the council shall be conducted in accordance with the laws of the state as the same are now or hereafter shall be in force.

(B) Time and Place - Legal Holidays. Regular meetings of the council shall be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the hour of [6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m. - policy choice reserved for Council], and a regular work session meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at the hour of [6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m. - policy choice reserved for Council]. The meetings shall be held at the location stated on the agenda and public notice for the meeting, and shall be open to the public. Regular meetings may be adjourned from time to time during the month, as necessity may require, by the majority vote of the council members present at any such regular meeting. Less than a quorum of the governing body may also adjourn from time to time, and if all members are absent from any regular or adjourned meeting, the city clerk may declare the meeting adjourned to a stated time and place and provide notice in accordance with RCW 42.30.080 and 42.30.090. In the event a regular meeting of the council occurs on a legal holiday, the council shall hold its regular meeting on the next secular day following the legal holiday.

(C) Open to the Public. All meetings of the city council shall be open to the public, except as provided for in RCW 42.30.110 or 42.30.140.

(D) Presiding Officer. The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council. In the council-manager plan of government under Chapter 35A.13 RCW, the mayor is chosen from among the members of the council, serves as chair of the council and as the ceremonial head of the city, and has no regular administrative duties; the city manager is the chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of city government. In case of the mayor's absence or temporary disability, the mayor pro tempore selected under GFMC 2.04.040 shall preside. If both the mayor and the mayor pro tempore are absent, the members present may, by majority vote, select one of their number to preside, and the member so selected retains the right to vote as a council member. The member presiding is referred to as "presiding officer" in this chapter.

(1) Preservation of Order. The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum, confining council members to debate the question under discussion.

(2) Powers. The mayor shall:

(a) Be the official and ceremonial head of the city and shall represent the city on ceremonial occasions, except that, when illness or other duties prevent the mayor's attendance, the mayor pro tempore or other council member or suitable person may be designated by the mayor to represent the city on such occasion.

(b) Perform such other duties as are assigned to the presiding officer by this chapter and by state law, and, if and to the extent authorized by ordinance or by state law, serve in the role provided for the mayor in an emergency or civil emergency.

(E) Quorum. Attendance of a majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum thereof, consistent with RCW 35A.12.120.

(F) Attendance/Excused Absences. If absence is anticipated, a council member shall contact the presiding officer, fellow council member, or city clerk prior to the meeting and state the reason for his or her inability to attend the meeting. Following roll call, the presiding officer, fellow council member, or city clerk shall inform the council of the member's absence and state the reason for such absence. If there is a motion to excuse the member, this motion shall be nondebtable. Upon passage of such motion by a majority of members present, the absent member shall be considered excused and the clerk will make an appropriate notation in the minutes. An absence that is not excused by the council is an unexcused absence for purposes of GFMC 2.08.060. A member permitted to attend remotely under GFMC 2.08.090(F)(8) is present at the meeting and is not absent for purposes of this subsection or GFMC 2.08.060.

(G) Preparation of Agenda/Council Material. As a guideline for advance preparation of the agenda, the city clerk, under the direction of the city manager, shall arrange a list of proposed matters according to the order of business, and prepare and distribute a draft agenda by 5:00 p.m. Friday, at least five days before the next regular city council meeting. Council members may direct the city manager to add items to the agenda as long as the request is received by noon Thursday at least six days before the next regular city council meeting. A copy of the preliminary agenda and supporting materials - including the city manager's written report and staff reports - shall be distributed to council members and city manager and made available to other staff, the media, and city residents in advance of the meeting. At the city council meeting, the city council may, by majority vote of the council members present, delete any item from the agenda, or add any item to it, after stating the reasons for the change.

(H) Public Notice of Preliminary Meeting Agendas. The public shall be notified of the preliminary agenda for forthcoming council meetings by the city clerk posting a copy of the preliminary agenda at city hall, the post office, and the library by 5:00 p.m. at least two days prior to the scheduled meeting. The preliminary agenda shall also be posted on the city website. The agenda for a regular work session meeting should identify the meeting as a work session.

(I) Minutes. The city clerk shall be ex officio clerk of the council and shall keep the minutes and records as required by state law, of all council proceedings including public hearings, regular meetings, and special meetings, and perform such other duties in the meeting as may be required by the council or city manager. The minutes kept shall identify the general discussion of the issue in summary form and complete detail of the official action or consensus reached, if any, and shall record votes as provided in GFMC 2.08.090(F).

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 864 § 1, 2014; Ord. 875 § 1, 2014; Ord. 904 § 4, 2015; Ord. 1082-2026 § __, 2026)

2.08.080 Special meetings.

Special meetings of the council may be called by the mayor, by the city manager, or upon the written request of three council members, consistent with RCW 42.30.080; provided, that:

(A) Notice of the special meeting shall be prepared in writing by the city clerk. The notice shall specify the time and location and the business to be transacted of the meeting. Final disposition shall not be taken on any other matter at the special meeting; and

(B) Notice shall be delivered to each council member, the mayor, and the business office of each local newspaper, radio and/or television station which has on file a written request for notice of special meetings. The notice must be delivered at least 24 hours prior to the start of the special meeting. The notice shall also be posted on the city website and, if applicable, at the physical locations required by RCW 42.30.080.

(C) The notices provided in this section may be dispensed with or disregarded within the circumstances provided by RCW 42.30.080, that is:

- (1) Any member who, at or prior to the time the meeting convenes, files with the city clerk a written waiver of notice;
- (2) Any member who was actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes; and
- (3) In the event a special meeting is called to deal with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property or the likelihood of such injury or damage, when time requirements of such notice would make notice impractical and increase the likelihood of such injury or damage.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § __, 2026)

2.08.090 Meeting procedures.

(A) Rules of Order. Rules of order and questions of parliamentary procedure not otherwise specified by statute, ordinance or resolution shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition. The city attorney may serve as parliamentarian to the council and may advise the presiding officer and the council on questions of parliamentary procedure and points of order.

- (1) A council member desiring to speak shall address the presiding officer and, upon recognition by the presiding officer, shall speak to the issues in a civil manner, respecting the viewpoints of others and avoiding personalities, focusing on the issue at hand, sharing their own motives and reasons for supporting or not supporting an item for discussion, in a polite and courteous manner towards each other and the public.
- (2) A council member, while speaking, should not be interrupted unless it be to call the council member to order.
- (3) Council members have the right to speak more than once on the same question; provided, however, that before speaking a second time, all other council members who have not yet spoken on the question and who desire the floor must be allowed the opportunity first.

(B) Motions. All items of business placed before the council that require the expenditure of council and/or administration resources shall be in the form of an affirmative motion. Affirmative motions are preferred to prevent "approval by default" of a failed negative motion.

(C) Order of Business - Regular Meetings - First and Third Wednesdays. The accepted order of business of all the regular meetings of the council held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month shall be transacted as shown in the following list; provided, however, that during a council meeting the council may, by majority vote, rearrange the order of the items on the agenda, or postpone any item, or add any item to the agenda, to conduct the business before the council more expeditiously or in a manner desired by the council. This accepted order of business may also be changed periodically from the format shown as follows:

- (1) (a) Call to order.

- (b) Flag salute.
- (c) Roll call.
- (d) Consent agenda.
- (e) City manager's report.
- (f) Staff reports.
- (g) Public comment on items not on the agenda.
- (h) New business.
- (i) Current business.
- (j) Mayor's comments.
- (k) Council comments.
- (l) City manager's comments.
- (m) Executive session (if requested).
- (n) Adjourn.

(2) Public comment on New Business and Current Business items. For each item of business appearing on the agenda under New Business or Current Business, whether the item is listed for action or for discussion, and whether or not final action on the item is contemplated at that meeting, the presiding officer shall invite public comment on that item after the staff presentation and after council members have had the opportunity to ask questions of staff for clarification, and before council deliberation, discussion, and any action on the item. Public comment under this subsection is limited to three minutes per person per item unless the council by majority vote sets a different limit. Comment on any other matter, including any matter not appearing on the agenda, shall be made during the public comment portion of the agenda provided for in subsection (C)(1)(g) of this section. No final action may be taken at a meeting unless the public has been given the opportunity to comment.

(3) Written testimony. Any person may submit written comment on any matter, whether or not it appears on the agenda. Written comment is encouraged, and the agenda and public notice should state how written comment may be submitted. In order to be distributed to the council in advance of the meeting, written comment must be received by the city clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting or public hearing, as applicable. Written testimony that is accepted shall be distributed to the members of the council, consistent with RCW 42.30.240. Written comment received after the deadline shall be distributed to the council as soon as practicable and entered into the record.

(4) The city council desires to allow a maximum opportunity for public comment. However, the business of the city must proceed in an orderly, timely manner. At any time, the council, at its sole discretion, may set such reasonable limits on the time and manner of public comment by majority vote as are necessary to prevent disruption of other necessary business. Reasonable limits may include reducing the per-speaker time limit for a particular item or meeting. The presiding officer may decline to take oral comment only where taking comment would make the orderly conduct of the meeting infeasible, consistent with RCW 42.30.240.

(5) Subjects Not on the Current Agenda. Any member of the public may request time to address the council after first stating their name, address or neighborhood (at the option of the speaker), and the subject of their comments. The presiding officer may then allow the comments subject to the time limitations set forth in this section. Following such comments, the presiding officer may

place the matter on a future agenda, or refer the matter to city staff or a council committee for follow up.

(6) Subjects on the Current Agenda. Any member of the public who wishes to address the council on an item on the current agenda appearing under New Business or Current Business may do so when the presiding officer invites comment on that item under subsection (C)(2) of this section. Comment on any other subject shall be made during the public comment portion of the agenda. As an option, the presiding officer may invoke a sign-in procedure. The presiding officer may change the order of speakers so that comment is heard in the most logical groupings.

(7) Comments shall be made from a location and in a manner designated by the presiding officer that is accessible to the speaker and audible to the council and the public, first giving the speaker's name and address or neighborhood (at the option of the speaker). Anyone making "out of order" or disruptive comments shall be subject to removal from the meeting.

(8) There will be no demonstrations (i.e., clapping or cheering) before, during, or at the conclusion of anyone's presentation.

(9) Appeal of a ruling of the chair. Any council member may appeal a ruling of the presiding officer by moving to appeal the ruling immediately after the ruling is made. The motion requires a second. The presiding officer may briefly state the basis for the ruling and the appealing member may briefly state the basis for the appeal; the motion is not otherwise debatable. The question shall be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be sustained?" The ruling of the chair is sustained unless a majority of the members present votes to overrule it. The presiding officer or any member may request the advice of the city attorney, acting as parliamentarian, before the vote is taken.

(10) Adjournment. No meeting shall be permitted to continue beyond 10:30 p.m. without the approval of a simple majority of council members present and eligible to vote. The council shall be deemed to have approved an extension of the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. unless a member requests a vote to whether to extend or adjourn. A new time limit must be established before taking a council vote to extend the meeting. The items not acted upon or considered shall be deferred to the next regular council meeting, as old business, unless the council, by a majority vote of council members present, determines otherwise.

(11) City Manager, Mayor and Council Member Comments and Concerns. The agenda shall provide a time when the city manager ("city manager's comments"), mayor ("mayor's comments") or any council member ("council comments") may bring before the council any business that the speaker feels should be deliberated upon by the council or added to a future agenda, and may share information of general community interest. These matters need not be specifically listed on the agenda, but formal action on such matters shall be deferred until a subsequent council meeting, except that action may be taken where permitted by law and the council determines that immediate action is appropriate, upon a vote of a majority of all council members present. No time limit applies to comments under this subsection.

(D) Order of Business - Regular Work Session Meetings - Second Wednesday. The accepted order of business of all the regular work session meetings of the council held on the second Wednesday of each month shall be transacted as shown in the following list; provided, however, that during a council meeting the council may, by majority vote, rearrange the order of the items on the agenda, or postpone any item, or add any item to the agenda, to conduct the business before the council more expeditiously or in a manner desired by the council. This accepted order of business may also be changed periodically from the format shown as follows:

(1) (a) Call to order.

(b) Roll call.

- (c) Discussion topics.
- (d) Executive session (if requested).
- (e) Adjourn.

(2) Public comment at work session meetings. Regular work session meetings are regular meetings of the council, although final action is not typically taken at a work session. Public comment is permitted at regular work session meetings and is limited to the items appearing on the work session agenda. For each discussion item, the presiding officer shall invite public comment after the staff presentation and after council members have had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification, and before council discussion of the item. Comment is limited to three minutes per person per item unless the council by majority vote sets a different limit, and the reasonable time and manner limits in subsection (C)(4) of this section apply. Written comment on work session agenda items is encouraged and shall be distributed to the council as provided in subsection (C)(3) of this section.

(E) Citizens' Comments. For meetings which include public comment as an agenda item, time shall be set aside for the council to hear from the public, subject to subsections (C)(2) through (C)(7) and (D)(2) of this section.

(1) No member of the public shall be heard until recognized by the presiding officer. Any member of the public interrupting city council proceedings, approaching the dais without permission, otherwise creating a disturbance, or failing to abide by these rules of procedure in addressing the city council, may be charged with disorderly conduct (RCW 9A.84.030, a misdemeanor) and, at the direction of the presiding officer or the majority of the council, may be removed from council chambers.

(2) All remarks shall be made to the city council as a body and not to an individual council member or to the presiding officer.

(3) Each person who addresses the city council shall not make personal, impertinent, slanderous or profane remarks to any council member, the presiding officer, city staff, or the general public. Any person who makes such remarks, or who utters loud, threatening, personal or abusive language, or engages in any other disorderly conduct which disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any city council meeting shall, at the discretion of the presiding officer or a majority of the council, be removed from the council chambers and be barred from further audience before the council during that council meeting.

(4) Warning. The presiding officer shall request that a person who is breaching the rules of decorum be orderly and silent. If, after receiving a warning or warnings from the presiding officer, a person persists in disturbing the meeting, the presiding officer or a majority of the council shall order him or her to leave the council meeting. If such person does not remove himself or herself, the presiding officer or a majority of the council may order any law enforcement officer to remove the person from council chambers. Any person who resists removal by the law enforcement officer may be charged with a violation of this section.

(F) Voting. The votes during all meetings of the council shall be transacted as follows:

(1) Unless otherwise provided for by statute, ordinance, or resolution, all votes shall be taken by voice, and the presiding officer shall announce the result of each vote, except that at the request of any council member, a roll call vote shall be taken by the city clerk and the ayes and nays shall be recorded, consistent with RCW 35A.12.120. The order of the roll call vote shall be determined by the city clerk.

- (2) Recording of votes. For a voice vote, the minutes shall record the aggregate result announced by the presiding officer, including a statement that the vote was unanimous where that is the case. Any council member may request a roll call vote as provided in subsection (F)(1) of this section, in which case the ayes and nays shall be recorded. If the result of a voice vote is unclear or ambiguous, or if any member's vote is not clearly audible, a roll call vote shall be taken if the presiding officer requests clarification of the vote or any council member requests a roll call, so that each member's vote is accurately recorded in the minutes. Individual votes shall be recorded in the minutes only where a roll call vote has been taken or where the member's individual vote has otherwise been clearly stated on the record.
- (3) In case of a tie vote on any proposal or question, the proposal or question shall fail.
- (4) The passage of any ordinance, grant or revocation of franchise or license, and any resolution for the payment of money, shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the whole membership of the council, consistent with RCW 35A.12.120. On a five-member council, this requires three affirmative votes regardless of the number of members present.
- (5) The passage of any public emergency ordinance (an ordinance that takes effect immediately), such as an ordinance for provisions for emergencies or expenditures necessary for the protection of the public health, public safety, public property, or public peace, shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority plus one of the whole membership of the council. Public emergency ordinances may not levy taxes; grant, renew or extend a franchise; or authorize the borrowing of money.
- (6) The passage of any motion or resolution shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the council members who are present and eligible to vote, unless otherwise authorized or required by provisions of Washington State law, the Granite Falls Municipal Code, or this chapter (see subsection (F)(4) of this section).
- (7) A motion or request by a council member (with or without a second) to "call the question" (or similar words indicating an intent to terminate further debate and take a vote on a pending motion) allows a vote on the pending motion to immediately take place, unless any council member requests that the motion to "call the question" be put to a vote, in which case, debate is only terminated if adopted by a two-thirds vote of the council members present.
- (8) Remote Attendance.
- (a) Request. A council member who wishes to attend a meeting remotely shall notify the city clerk in advance of the meeting whenever practicable so that the necessary connection can be arranged.
 - (b) Council approval. The council may, by affirmative motion adopted by a majority of the members present, permit a council member to attend that meeting remotely. Approval applies to the meeting for which it is granted.
 - (c) Effect of approval. A council member permitted to attend remotely is counted as present for purposes of quorum and voting, so long as real-time participation is available throughout the member's participation. Real-time participation requires two-way audio, or an equivalent reliable means of participation, by which the member can hear all that is spoken at the meeting, all persons at the meeting can hear or otherwise reliably receive the member's statements and votes, the member has received the materials for the meeting, and the member's vote can be clearly recorded.

(d) Failure of connection. If real-time participation is lost and cannot promptly be restored, the presiding officer shall so state on the record, and the member shall be treated as absent from the remainder of the meeting unless and until participation is restored.

(e) Effect of denial. If the council does not approve remote attendance and the member does not attend the meeting, the absence is an unexcused absence for purposes of GFMC 2.08.060 unless the council separately votes to excuse the absence under GFMC 2.08.070(F).

(f) Quasi-judicial matters. A council member may participate and vote remotely on a quasi-judicial matter only if doing so is consistent with applicable law and the due process rights of the parties, and only upon the advice and direction of the city attorney.

(g) No annual limit. There is no limit on the number of meetings a council member may attend remotely under this subsection; the council retains discretion under subsection (F)(8)(b) of this section to approve or deny each request.

(G) Committees. All special committee members shall be appointed by the city manager with the approval of the council.

(H) Reading of Minutes. Unless a reading of the minutes of a previous council meeting is requested by a council member, such minutes may be approved without reading; provided, that the city clerk has furnished each council member with a written copy of the minutes prior to the present meeting.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 803 § 1, 2010; Ord. 904 § 5, 2015; Ord. 1082-2026 § __, 2026)

2.08.100 Enacted ordinances, resolutions and motions.

(A) An enacted ordinance is a legislative act prescribing general, uniform, and permanent rules or regulations relating to the operation and corporate affairs of the municipality. Council action shall be taken by ordinance when required by law, or where such conduct is enforced by penalty.

(B) An enacted resolution is an administrative act which is a formal statement of policy concerning matters of special or temporary character. Council action shall be taken by resolution when required by law and in those instances where an expression of policy more formal than a motion is desired.

(C) An enacted motion is a form of action taken by the council to direct that a specific action be taken on behalf of the municipality. A motion, once approved and entered into the record, is the equivalent of a resolution in those instances where a resolution is not required by law, and where such motion is not in conflict with existing state or federal statutes, city ordinances, resolutions or these rules.

(D) Resolutions. A resolution may be put to its final passage on the same day on which it was introduced. The title of each resolution shall, in all cases, be read prior to its passage; provided, should a council member request that the entire resolution or certain of its sections be read, such requests shall be granted.

(E) Ordinances. The procedures for consideration and adoption of ordinances are as follows:

(1) An ordinance may be put to its final passage on the same day on which it was introduced by passage of a council member's motion for first and final reading and adoption of the ordinance. However, council may invoke two separate readings of the ordinance at separate council meetings to facilitate public understanding of and/or comment on the ordinance. At each reading, the title of an ordinance shall, in all cases, be read prior to its passage; provided, that should a council member request that the entire ordinance or certain of its sections be read, such request shall be granted.

(2) Any ordinance repealing any portion of the Granite Falls Municipal Code shall also repeal the respective portions of the underlying ordinance(s).

(F) Reconsideration. Any action of the council shall be subject to a motion to reconsider, including final action on applications for legislative changes in land use status, but excluding a reconsideration of any action previously reconsidered. Motions to adjourn, motions to suspend the rules, an affirmative vote to lay on the table or to take from the table, or a vote electing to office one who is present and does not decline are not subject to a reconsideration motion. Reconsideration can be requested only by motion of a member of the prevailing side of the original motion. A motion to reconsider must be made at the next regular city council meeting for action to be reconsidered. A motion to reconsider is debatable only if the action being reconsidered is debatable. Upon passage of a motion to reconsider, the subject matter is returned to the table anew for any action the council deems advisable.

(Ord. 776 § 1, 2009; Ord. 1082-2026 § __, 2026)



CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

GFMC Chapter 2.08

Public Hearing · Regular Meeting · Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Ordinance No. 1082-2026



PURPOSE

Objectives

Council reviewed the draft of Chapter 2.08 at the August 12, 2026 work session. Tonight, Council holds the noticed public hearing, takes oral and written testimony - including on the bracketed start-time options - and then considers adoption of Ordinance No. 1082-2026.

What has changed

The July 1 direction is now drafted code language, reviewed section by section at the August 12 work session and set out at full length.

What tonight is for

Take public testimony on the proposed amendments and resolve the choices that remain.

What comes next

If adopted, Ordinance No. 1082-2026 is published by summary and takes effect five days after publication.



PROCESS

Schedule

JUL 1

Council direction

Section-by-section discussion with the city manager and city attorney. Non-binding direction given on each theme.

AUG 12

Work session review

Council reviewed the draft section by section and narrowed the choices still bracketed.

AUG 19

Public hearing

Noticed public hearing on the proposed amendments, including both start-time options.

AFTER

Adoption and publication

If adopted, the ordinance is published by summary and takes effect five days after publication.



JULY 1 DIRECTION

What Council directed - and the revised Code 2.08

Public comment

Invite comment on New Business and Current Business items after the staff report and Council questions - action or discussion.

Written testimony

Add it to code with a 3:00 p.m. deadline; distribute to Council.

Group spokesperson

Remove it. Keep reasonable time and manner limits instead.

Workshop comment

Allow comment limited to work session agenda items; encourage written comment.

Order of business

City manager report early with staff reports; keep all three comment items at the end.

Special meetings

Add the city manager as a caller; keep mayor and three-member authority.

Vacancies

Three consecutive unexcused absences, work sessions included; Council excuses or declines.

Comment time limits

Strike the 5- and 15-minute limits; keep the process.

Start time

Carry both 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to the public hearing.

Voting and minutes

Voice vote, aggregate result; roll call on any member's request.

Remote attendance

Replace telephonic; remove the annual cap; approved remote members count for quorum.

Expenses

Split compensation from reimbursement; drop the \$100 figure.



LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

History of our current chapter 2.08

Chapter 2.08 GFMC was built up over six ordinances.

Ordinance	Year	What it did to Chapter 2.08	Impacts
Ord. 776-09	2009	Repealed Ords. 307 and 506; repealed and replaced Chapter 2.08 GFMC with a new "City Council" chapter. 2.08.030 was titled "Compensation": \$100/month plus expenses approved by resolution.	Source of the group-spokesperson rule, the 10:30 p.m. rule, silence-as-affirmative, and telephonic attendance.
Ord. 803-10	2010	Amended 2.08.090(C), the order of business, to receive staff reports earlier in regular meetings.	Precedent for moving the city manager report up with staff reports.
Ord. 864-2014	2014	Amended 2.08.070(B): first and third Mondays at 7:30 p.m., workshop the second Monday.	Council has changed the meeting day and time before, by ordinance.
Ord. 875-2014	2014	Amended 2.08.070(B) again: first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., work session the second Wednesday.	Source of today's schedule and of the fixed City Hall address in the code.
Ord. 904-2015	2015	Adopted after voters approved the council-manager plan. Amended many sections, including 2.08.070 and 2.08.090, substituting "city manager" for "mayor" / "city administrator."	Removed the mayor's executive-head language but left mayor-council residue elsewhere in the chapter.
Ord. 1023-2022	2022	Amended 2.08.030, retitled it "Expenses," and added Chapter 2.58 GFMC (salary commission) - while keeping the \$100/month sentence.	Why one section now mixes compensation and expenses, and why an outdated figure remains.



FRAMING

Legal guardrails vs. Council policy choices

Some of what follows is fixed by state law. The rest is Council's to decide. Knowing which is which keeps tonight efficient.

FIXED BY STATE LAW

- Public-comment opportunity at or before every regular meeting where final action is taken; written testimony that is accepted must be distributed to Council (RCW 42.30.240).
- Special meetings: presiding officer or a majority may call; 24-hour notice specifying time, place, and business; final disposition limited to the noticed business (RCW 42.30.080).
- Council-manager form: the city manager is chief executive and administrative head; the mayor chairs, presides, and is ceremonial head (Ch. 35A.13 RCW).
- Three consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings create a vacancy (RCW 35A.12.060).
- Majority is a quorum; any member may demand a roll call with ayes and nays recorded; ordinances, franchises, and payment resolutions need a majority of the whole membership (RCW 35A.12.120).

COUNCIL POLICY DISCRETION

- Whether and when to invite comment on each agenda item beyond the legal minimum - including at work sessions.
- Meeting start time and how the location is described.
- Order of business; comment categories and time limits.
- How votes are recorded in the minutes, within the roll-call right in RCW 35A.12.120.
- Remote-attendance policy within Open Public Meetings Act limits.
- Adding the city manager as a person who may call a special meeting - an addition to, not a subtraction from, the statute.



CHANGE 1 · GFMC 2.08.090(C)(2)-(4), (6)

Public comment on New and Current Business items

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- Comment on items not on the agenda is taken after the speaker states name, address, and subject.
- Comment on agenda items is permitted, but only on request during the item discussion, and the presiding officer rules on appropriateness item by item.
- A single-subject group must designate a spokesperson limited to five minutes and file a list of constituents.

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- For each New Business and Current Business item - action or discussion alike - the presiding officer invites public comment after the staff presentation and after Council questions of staff, and before Council deliberation and action.
- Three minutes per person per item, unless Council sets a different limit by majority vote.
- Written comment is expressly allowed on any matter and is due by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting for distribution to Council, consistent with RCW 42.30.240.
- The group-spokesperson rule is deleted in full - the city attorney advised it is hard to administer live and invites litigation risk.
- Comments on any other subject, including non-agenda items, are taken during the Public Comments portion of the agenda. Reasonable time and manner limits are retained.

CONFIRMED AT THE AUGUST 12 WORK SESSION

- Written testimony is due at 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.
- Confirm the sequence: staff report → Council questions → public comment → Council discussion.



CHANGE 2 · GFMC 2.08.090(D)(2)

Public comment at work session meetings

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- The code states flatly that no public comment shall be taken or permitted at any point during the regular work session meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month.
- Practice has differed from the written rule.

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- The absolute prohibition is removed. Public comment is permitted at work sessions, limited to items on the work session agenda.
- Same sequence as a regular meeting: staff presentation, Council clarifying questions, then comment, then Council discussion.
- Three minutes per person per item, with the same reasonable limits available.
- Written comment on work session items is encouraged and distributed to Council.
- Work sessions are regular meetings under state law, even though final action is not typical.

CONFIRMED AT THE AUGUST 12 WORK SESSION

- Confirmed: comment is limited to work session agenda items only - not general comment - and written comment is encouraged in the same provision.



CHANGE 3 · GFMC 2.08.070(D), (G); .080; .090(C)(1)

Council-manager roles, order of business, special meetings

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- The order of business lists staff reports early, then mayor, council, and city manager comments near the end.
- GFMC 2.08.070(D) still carries mayor-council residue from before the 2015 transition.
- Special meetings may be called by the mayor or on the written request of three councilmembers.

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- A city manager's report is added early, with the staff reports; the written report goes out with the packet.
- Mayor, Council, and city manager comments all stay at the end of the agenda - Council was clear on this.
- GFMC 2.08.070(D) states the council-manager structure: the mayor chairs, presides, and is ceremonial head; the city manager is chief executive and administrative head.
- If both the mayor and mayor pro tempore are absent, the members present may select a member to preside, who keeps the right to vote.
- GFMC 2.08.080 adds the city manager as a person who may call a special meeting, keeping mayor and three-member authority, and adds website posting and the limit on final disposition.

CONFIRMED AT THE AUGUST 12 WORK SESSION

- Confirmed: the three comment items stay at the end and the city manager is added as a special-meeting caller.



CHANGE 4 · GFMC 2.08.060

Vacancies, attendance, and mayor pro tempore

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- The section says that if a member is absent from three consecutive meetings without permission, "the office shall be declared vacant by the council" - which reads as both automatic and requiring Council action.
- Mayor pro tempore rules appear both here and in GFMC 2.04.040.

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- States the RCW 35A.12.060 rule directly: the position becomes vacant on three consecutive regular meetings missed without being excused.
- Confirms that regular work sessions count, because they are regularly scheduled and therefore regular meetings.
- Makes clear the Council's operative action is to excuse or decline to excuse an absence - no separate declaration of vacancy is needed.
- The city manager or city clerk notifies Council when a vacancy has occurred.
- Mayor pro tempore rules are cross-referenced to GFMC 2.04.040 and state law rather than restated.
- A member approved to attend remotely is present, not absent.

CONFIRMED AT THE AUGUST 12 WORK SESSION

- Confirmed: regular work sessions count toward the three consecutive meetings, and mayor pro tempore rules are cross-referenced rather than duplicated.



CHANGE 5 · GFMC 2.08.070(B); .090(C)(7)

Meeting logistics: start time, location, accessibility

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- Regular meetings are on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., with a work session the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., in the council chambers of City Hall, 206 S. Granite Ave.
- Public comment must be made from the microphone at the lectern, and no comment may be made from any other location.

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- The start time is carried in brackets as [6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m. / Other] for both regular meetings and work sessions, so the public can comment on both at the August 19 hearing.
- The location is described as stated on the agenda and public notice, rather than a fixed street address - allowing the library, a community center, or another accessible venue.
- The lectern requirement is replaced: comment is made from a location and in a manner designated by the presiding officer that is accessible to the speaker and audible to Council and the public.
- The work session agenda should identify the meeting as a work session.

FOR COUNCIL DECISION TONIGHT

- Select the start time: [6:00 p.m.] or [7:00 p.m.]. Council directed that both go to the public hearing; one must be chosen before adoption.



CHANGE 6 · GFMC 2.08.090(C)(9), (11)

Appeals of the chair and comment time limits

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- Any ruling by the presiding officer "may be overruled by a vote of a majority of members present," with no process stated.
- The 10:30 p.m. meeting-end provision stands as currently codified - no change is proposed.
- Mayor comments are capped at five minutes, Council comments at fifteen, city manager comments at five.

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- A clear appeal procedure: a member moves to appeal immediately, the motion needs a second, brief statements are allowed, and the question is "Shall the ruling of the chair be sustained?" The ruling stands unless a majority of members present overrules it.
- The city attorney may serve as parliamentarian and advise the chair and Council before the vote.
- GFMC 2.08.090(C)(10) is not amended - the existing 10:30 p.m. meeting-end language is retained without change.
- The five- and fifteen-minute comment limits are struck; the process stays.
- Comments may include business for a future agenda and information of general community interest, with final action deferred unless permitted by law and immediate action is appropriate.

CONFIRMED AT THE AUGUST 12 WORK SESSION

- Confirmed: the 10:30 p.m. provision is left unchanged and is not part of this amendment.



CHANGE 7 · GPMC 2.08.090(F)(1)-(4)

Voting and how votes are recorded

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- Votes are by voice unless "the mayor or any council member" requests a roll call.
- Silence during a voice vote is counted and recorded as an affirmative vote.
- Minutes have shown individual votes as though a roll call were taken, even when none was.

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- Voice vote remains the default, and the presiding officer announces the result of every vote - including stating when it is unanimous.
- The minutes record the aggregate result of a voice vote.
- Any member may request a roll call, and the ayes and nays are then recorded - the right guaranteed by RCW 35A.12.120.
- A dissenting vote alone does not trigger a roll call. A roll call is taken if a member requests one, or if a vote is unclear or inaudible and the chair asks for clarification.
- The silence-as-affirmative rule is deleted, and "presiding officer" replaces "mayor" where appropriate.
- The draft states that ordinances, franchises, and payment resolutions need three affirmative votes on a five-member council, regardless of attendance.

CONFIRMED AT THE AUGUST 12 WORK SESSION

- Confirmed: the automatic roll call on a dissenting vote is removed; the member-request right and roll call for clarity remain.



CHANGE 8 · GFMC 2.08.090(F)(8)

Remote attendance replaces telephonic attendance

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- A councilmember may attend by telephone once per calendar year.
- Telephonic attendance does not count toward a quorum.
- The member must notify the clerk three working days ahead and must have received all materials.
- The current code speaks only to telephone attendance and predates two-way remote participation.

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- "Telephonic" is replaced with "remote," and the once-per-calendar-year cap is removed.
- The member requests remote attendance in advance when practicable; Council permits it for that meeting by affirmative motion.
- If approved, the member counts as present for quorum and voting, so long as real-time participation is available - two-way audio or an equivalent reliable means, materials received, and the vote clearly recordable.
- If real-time participation is lost and cannot be restored, the chair states it on the record and the member is treated as absent for the remainder.
- If remote attendance is not approved and the member does not attend, the absence is unexcused unless Council separately excuses it.
- Quasi-judicial matters: a single standard - remote participation only if consistent with applicable law, due process, and the advice and direction of the city attorney.

CONFIRMED AT THE AUGUST 12 WORK SESSION

- One conservative quasi-judicial standard: law, due process, and city attorney direction.
- Confirm the motion-to-permit mechanism as the safeguard against abuse.



CHANGE 9 · GFMC 2.08.030, .040, .050, .100

Expenses, compensation, eligibility, forms of address

WHAT THE CODE SAYS TODAY

- GFMC 2.08.030 combines expense reimbursement "by resolution of the council" with a statement that compensation is \$100.00 per month until changed by the salary commission - a structure left over from Ord. 776-09 and Ord. 1023-2022.
- GFMC 2.08.040 bars service as a city employee or police reserve officer.
- GFMC 2.08.050 sets forms of address.
- GFMC 2.08.100(E)(1) begins a sentence with a lowercase "however."

WHAT THE REVISED CODE 2.08 DOES

- GFMC 2.08.030 is split: subsection (A) covers reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses through the ordinary claims process, with no resolution required for each claim; subsection (B) refers compensation to the Chapter 2.58 GFMC salary commission.
- The \$100.00 per month figure is removed from the code.
- GFMC 2.08.040 keeps the city-employee and reserve-officer prohibition and adds alignment with state law on incompatible offices.
- GFMC 2.08.050 is kept, framed as professional norms rather than a basis for a point of order.
- GFMC 2.08.100(E)(1): "however" corrected to "However." No other change.
- GFMC 2.08.020 (Duties) and 2.08.010 (Elections - Oath): no change.

CONFIRMED AT THE AUGUST 12 WORK SESSION Confirmed: removal of the \$100 figure and the referral of compensation to the Chapter 2.58 salary commission, subject to city attorney confirmation.



DECISION CHECKLIST

One choice to resolve tonight; two items settled

Everything else follows July 1 direction and the August 12 review. Only the start time remains open; the other items below were settled on August 12.

1	Regular meeting start time	[6:00 p.m.] or [7:00 p.m.]	A majority favored 6:00 p.m. on July 1; one member described real conflicts. Both are before the public tonight; one must be chosen before adoption. Applies to work sessions as well.
2	Written-testimony deadline	3:00 p.m. day of meeting - set	Set at 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Late submissions are still distributed and entered into the record.
3	Remote attendance - quasi-judicial	Attorney-advice rule - set	A single conservative standard: remote participation only if consistent with law, due process, and city attorney direction.

No change proposed: the committees subsection (GFMC 2.08.090(G)) and the 10:30 p.m. meeting-end provision are not amended - no Council action is needed on either tonight.



APPENDIX

Draft summary by section (1 of 2)

Section	Current code	As redlined
2.08.010	Elections - Oath. Five members, four-year terms, oath filed with the clerk.	No change.
2.08.020	Duties. Council is the legislative division of city government.	No change. Role clarity is handled in 2.08.070(D).
2.08.030	Expenses. Reimbursement by resolution; compensation \$100.00 per month until changed by the salary commission.	Retitled "Expenses and compensation." Split into (A) reimbursement through the ordinary claims process and (B) compensation set by the Chapter 2.58 salary commission. \$100 figure removed.
2.08.040	Eligibility. No council member may be a police reserve officer or city employee.	Prohibition retained; alignment with state law on incompatible offices added.
2.08.050	Forms of address. "Mayor (surname)" and "council member (surname)."	Retained, framed as professional norms rather than a basis for a point of order.
2.08.060	Vacancies. Three consecutive absences without permission: the office "shall be declared vacant by the council."	Rewritten as (A) vacancy under RCW 35A.12.060 including work sessions, (B) Council excuses or declines and staff notifies, (C) filling vacancies, (D) mayor pro tempore cross-reference.



APPENDIX

Redline summary by section (2 of 2)

Section	Current code	As redlined
2.08.070	Meeting rules. 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays at City Hall, 206 S. Granite Ave.; presiding officer; quorum; absences; agenda; notice; minutes.	Start time bracketed [6:00 / 7:00 p.m.]; location by agenda and notice; council-manager role language; presiding order if mayor and pro tem absent; unexcused absences tied to 2.08.060; city manager report added to the packet.
2.08.080	Special meetings. Called by the mayor or three council members; 24-hour notice; waiver and emergency.	City manager added as a caller; website posting added; final disposition limited to the noticed business.
2.08.090	Meeting procedures. Order of business; comment rules; group spokesperson; lectern; 10:30 p.m.; voting; telephonic attendance; committees.	Comment on New Business and Current Business items; written testimony added with a 3:00 p.m. deadline; group spokesperson deleted; work session comment allowed; lectern replaced; appeal of the chair added; 10:30 p.m. unchanged; voting and vote recording rewritten; remote attendance replaces telephonic; committees unchanged.
2.08.100	Enacted ordinances, resolutions and motions. Subsection (E)(1) begins a sentence with a lowercase "however."	Corrected to "However." No other change.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: AB 128-2026 Consideration to Approve an Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for Surface Water Management Billing Services for the term January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2036

Originating Dept.: City Council

Approval(s):

Action Recommended: Authorize the City Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for Surface Water Management Billing Services for the term January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2036.

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted: 8/9/2026

Exhibit(s):

1. 20260724GraniteFalls_ILA2026-2037(aatf)2

Budgeted Amount: NA

BARS Code: NA

Summary Statement:

The proposed Interlocal Agreement, entered into under Chapter 39.34 RCW, continues the long-standing arrangement under which Snohomish County bills and collects the City's storm and surface water management service charges. The service charges are imposed on real property within the City under Chapter 13.20 of the Granite Falls Municipal Code (GFMC), and the County places them on its combined annual property tax and surface water billing statement as a single line item.

The Agreement replaces and supersedes the January 1, 2017 interlocal agreement between the City and the County, which has been renewed on an annual basis through calendar year 2026. If the new Agreement becomes effective, the 2017 agreement

terminates immediately and is of no further force or effect. The new term is January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2036, ten years, replacing the current practice of annual renewals.

Under the Agreement the County acts as the City's independent contractor. The City continues to set its own rates, and the City reimburses the County for the County's actual reasonable costs of performing the billing and collection services through an Annual Service Fee.

Background:

The City has contracted with Snohomish County for surface water management billing services since January 1, 2017. Billing the City's service charges on the County's combined property tax statement uses systems, staffing and workflows the County already maintains for this purpose, and avoids the need for the City to operate a separate parcel-based billing system. The County and City now wish to replace the annually renewed 2017 agreement with a single ten-year agreement.

- Term: January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2036
- County responsibilities: maintain the customer information systems; provide the City an annual extract of customer information (the "membership") for use in setting the coming year's charges; bill and collect the service charges on the combined property tax and surface water billing statement as a single line item; deposit collections in a separate account and remit them to the City; report accounts three full years delinquent by the end of each year; and respond to ratepayer inquiries about processes within the County's control.
- City responsibilities: maintain the legislation authorizing the County to collect the charges and to act as the City's agent; deliver the updated membership file to the County on or before December 1 each year showing the billing amount for the subsequent tax year; provide a City representative able to respond to the County within 24 hours during the tax statement process in the first two weeks of January; bill and collect service charges for public rights-of-way, federal real property, and real property without a Snohomish County tax parcel number; respond to ratepayer inquiries within the City's control; and pay the Annual Service Fee.
- Exemptions: real property owned by low-income senior citizens or disabled persons is exempt from the service charges where approved by the County Assessor, for as long as the County provides such exemptions.
- Remittance schedule: the County delivers collected service charges (without accrued interest) to the City by May 31 for January through April; by August 31 for May through July; by November 30 for August through October; and by January 31 of the following year for November and December.
- Annual Service Fee: the City reimburses the County for all reasonable costs and expenses of billing and collection. The County delivers a written non-binding estimate for the following calendar year on or before June 30; the City may respond within 30 days identifying errors, omissions or needed corrections. The

County submits its invoice for the preceding calendar year on or before June 30, and the City pays within 30 days. The City may raise invoice concerns in writing within 10 days; the County must provide supporting documentation or correct the invoice and explain deviations from the estimate, after which the City has 30 days to pay the revised invoice.

- Delinquent accounts: the County reports accounts three full years delinquent by the end of each year. Within 60 days the City authorizes removal of those accounts from the tax rolls and the cessation of County collection efforts, after which the City is responsible for actions against those accounts. The County retains any interest or penalties it collected before removal. Collection of current charges occurs through the County's property tax billing and foreclosure processes.
- Termination: either party may terminate for any reason or no reason on 90 days' advance written notice. The County continues performing through the termination date and the City compensates the County for services performed through that date.

Recommended Motion:

Move to authorize the City Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for Surface Water Management Billing Services for the term January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2036.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT BILLING SERVICES

This INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT BILLING SERVICES (this “Agreement”) is made and entered into as of this _____ day of _____, 2026, by and between the **CITY OF GRANITE FALLS**, a Washington municipal corporation (the “City”), and **SNOHOMISH COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Washington (the “County”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need for comprehensive surface water management to preserve and protect the environment, public and private property and the health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City represents that it has adopted the necessary legislation authorizing the City to enter into this Agreement and to establish a surface water management program and service charge; and

WHEREAS, the County has systems, staffing and workflows in place for billing surface water management service charges on annual tax statements which can be used for another jurisdiction’s billing when an interlocal agreement is entered into for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 39.34 RCW, the Interlocal Cooperation Act, authorizes public agencies, including cities and counties, to enter into cooperative agreements with one another to make the most efficient use of their respective resources; and

WHEREAS, the City and the County are the parties to that certain Interlocal Agreement between Snohomish County and the City of Granite Falls, dated January 1, 2017, and published on the Snohomish County Interlocal Agreement website (the “2017 ILA”), which has been renewed on an annual basis through calendar year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City now desires to have the County continue to perform surface water management billing services for the City, and the County agrees to perform said services, all under the terms and conditions described in this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City and the County intend that this Agreement shall replace and supersede the 2017 ILA. Accordingly, if and when this Agreement becomes effective, the 2017 ILA shall immediately terminate and be of no further force or effect;

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the agreement set forth below and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the City and the County agree as follows:

1. PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Purpose of Agreement

This Agreement is authorized by and entered into pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 39.34 RCW. The purpose and intent of this Agreement is for the County to perform surface water management billing and collection services for properties located within the incorporated limits of the City and within the County. The Agreement establishes a means whereby the County can act as the City's independent contractor in performing the services. The City shall cooperate with the County to the extent reasonably necessary for accomplishing the services and shall reimburse the County for the County's costs incurred in performing the services, as more fully described in Section 4 below. The parties agree that no separate legal or administrative entities are necessary to carry out this Agreement. Except as expressly provided to the contrary in this Agreement, any real or personal property used or acquired by either party in connection with the performance of this Agreement will remain the sole property of such party, and the other party shall have no interest therein.

1.2 Administrators

Each party to this Agreement shall designate an individual (an "Administrator"), which may be designated by title or position, to oversee and administer such party's participation in this Agreement. The parties' initial Administrators shall be the following individuals:

City's Initial Administrator:

Jeff Ballentine
City Manager
City of Granite Falls
215 S. Granite Ave
Granite Falls, WA 98252
Office: (360) 691-6441
Cell: (425) 647-9815
Fax: (360) 691-6734
Email: Jeff.Balentine@ci.granite-falls.wa.us

County's Initial Administrator:

Alison Fernandez
Snohomish County
Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources SWM
3000 Rockefeller Avenue M/S 303
Everett, Washington 98201
Telephone: (425) 312-0621
Facsimile: (425) 388-6455
Email: Alison.Fernandez@snoco.org

Either party may change its Administrator at any time by delivering physical or electronic written notice of such party's new Administrator to the other party.

1.3 Condition Precedent to Effectiveness

As provided by RCW 39.34.040, this Agreement shall not take effect unless and until it has been: (i) duly executed by both parties; and (ii) either filed with the County Auditor or posted on the County's Interlocal Agreements website.

2. TERM

This Agreement shall govern services provided from January 1, 2027 (the “Commencement Date”) through December 31, 2036 (the “Expiration Date”); PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the County’s obligations after December 31, 2026, are contingent upon local legislative appropriation of the necessary funds for this specific purpose in accordance with the Snohomish County Charter and applicable law. The term of the Agreement shall be the period between the Commencement Date and the Expiration date (the “Term”).

3. SERVICE CHARGE BILLING AND COLLECTIONS SERVICES

3.1 Service Charges

Chapter 13.20 of the Granite Falls Municipal Code (“GFMC”) imposes on real property located within the City certain service charges (the “Service Charges”) to fund the City’s storm and surface water management utility. Each calendar year during the Term of this Agreement, the City shall have the option to instruct the County to handle for the City billing and collection of the Service Charges, as more fully described in this Section 3. The City shall at all times remain responsible for establishing rates for the Service Charges.

3.2 County Responsibilities

- (i) The County will maintain customer information systems as necessary to provide for Service Charges billing and collection. Annually, the County shall provide an extract of the customer information from these systems (membership) and provide the information to the City for the City’s use in setting charges for the coming year. The membership will include only data native to County systems including the current year charge and shall be inclusive of all parcels for the coming tax year. The membership shall include one instance of the parcel number for each type of charge levied by the City.
- (ii) The County shall collect Service Charges from real property owners within the incorporated limits of the City and lying within Snohomish County using a combined property tax and surface water billing statement in accordance with the charges provided by the City based upon the assigned category and property characteristics adopted in the GFMC, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, if approved by the County Assessor, real property owned by low income senior citizens or disabled persons, shall be exempt from Service Charges as long as the County provides such exemptions. The County shall not bill or collect Service Charges for public rights-of-way, federal real property, and real property without a Snohomish County tax parcel number.
- (iii) The County shall deposit the Service Charges received into a separate account and will disburse the Service Charges to the City, less any accrued interest, in accordance with Section 3.4 of this Agreement. The County shall not be

responsible to the City for any Service Charges not received by the County for any reason whatsoever.

- (iv) The County, through its Surface Water Management Division, shall provide the City with information about accounts three full years delinquent (the “Delinquent Accounts”) by the end of each year.
- (v) The County shall respond to ratepayer inquiries regarding processes within the County’s control and refer to the City all other customer service inquiries related to billing and revenue collection for City property owners.
- (vi) The County may provide other incidental services that are reasonably related to the billing and collection of the Service Charges as requested by the City and determined appropriate by the County.

3.3 City Responsibilities

- (i) For each calendar year during the Term of this Agreement, the City shall ensure it has provided legal authority for this Agreement by enacting legislation which:
 - (a) Authorizes the County to collect Service Charges from owners of real property located in the City; and
 - (b) Permits the County to act as the City’s agent for collecting the Service Charges and providing related services.
- (ii) On or before December 1 of each calendar year during the Term of this Agreement, the City shall provide to the County the membership file updated to reflect the billing amount for the subsequent tax year to be billed for each property. The City shall exempt properties owned by low-income senior citizens or disabled persons from Service Charges, if approved by the County Assessor for a property tax exemption, as long as the County provides such exemptions. The City further agrees that if a senior citizen/disabled person exemption is cancelled after the date of mailing of the combined property tax and surface water billing statement, the change in exemption status will not go into effect until the following year. The city will ensure that there is a city representative capable of responding to the county within twenty-four (24) hours regarding questions about charges on properties during the tax statement process that occurs during the first two weeks of January.
- (iii) The City shall respond to ratepayer inquiries regarding service charges and processes within the City’s control, including actions against Delinquent Accounts.
- (iv) Upon receiving information from the County about the Delinquent Accounts as provided in section 3.2(iv) above, the City shall, within sixty (60) days, furnish the County with a written authorization to remove the Delinquent Accounts from the tax rolls and to cease collection efforts. Thereafter, the City shall be

responsible for all actions against Delinquent Accounts. The County shall retain any interest or penalties collected by the County prior to removing the Delinquent Accounts from the tax rolls.

- (v) The City shall be responsible for billing and collecting Service Charges for public rights-of-way, federal real property, and real property without a Snohomish County tax parcel number.
- (vi) For each calendar year during the Term of this Agreement, the City shall pay to the County an Annual Service Fee as defined in Section 4 below.

3.4 Delivery of Service Charges

In any calendar year for which the County collects Service Charges for the City, the County shall deliver to the City the Service Charges it collects, without any accrued interest, according to the following schedule, or such other schedule as the parties may agree upon:

- (i) By May 31, the County shall deliver to the City all Service Charges collected for the months of January, February, March and April.
- (ii) By August 31, the County shall deliver to the City all Service Charges collected for the months of May, June and July.
- (iii) By November 30, the County shall deliver to the City all Service Charges collected for the months of August, September and October.
- (iv) By January 31 of the following calendar year, the County shall deliver to the City all Service Charges collected for the months of November and December.

4. COMPENSATION

4.1 County Estimate of Annual Service Fee

The City shall reimburse the County for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the County related to the billing and collection of Service Charges (the “Annual Service Fee”) under this Agreement. On or before June 30 of each calendar year during the Term of this Agreement, the County shall deliver to the City a written non-binding estimate (the “Estimate”) of the Annual Service Fee for the following calendar year. The Estimate shall describe in reasonable detail the amount of time anticipated to be spent by the County on services and the cost of any material or equipment expected to be used by the County in performing its obligations under this Agreement.

4.2 City Response to the County Estimate

The City may respond to the Estimate within thirty (30) days by delivering written notice to the County identifying any errors or omissions contained in, or other corrections needed to, the Estimate.

4.3 Invoicing and Payment

On or before June 30 of each calendar year during the Term of this Agreement, the County shall submit an invoice for the Annual Service Fee to the City. The invoice shall describe in reasonable detail the amount of time spent by the County on services and the cost of any material or equipment used by the County in performing said services for the preceding calendar year. The City shall pay the invoice within thirty (30) days of receiving same. The invoice shall be sent to the following address:

Attn: Jeff Balentine
City of Granite Falls
PO Box 1440
Granite Falls, WA 98252

4.4 Invoice Dispute and Remedy

The City shall respond in writing to the County within ten (10) days of receiving the County invoice advising the County of any errors or omissions contained in, or other corrections needed to, the invoice. The County shall respond to each City concern with sufficient documentation to support the charge or adjust the invoice if it is in error. The County shall provide explanation where charges deviate from the estimate. When the City and County have agreed that charges listed in the invoice or adjusted charges accurately represent the true cost of reimbursement, the City shall have thirty (30) days to pay the revised invoice.

4.5 Combined Property Tax and Surface Water Billing Statement

The County's combined property tax and surface water billing statements (the "Tax Statement") contains all taxes and charges levied or otherwise imposed on a subject parcel by all taxing jurisdictions within a tax code area. The County will include all surface water management charges in a single line item.

5. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

All work performed by the County pursuant to this Agreement shall be performed by the County as an independent contractor and not as an agent or employee of the City. The County shall furnish, employ, and have exclusive control of all persons to be engaged in performing the County's obligations under this Agreement (collectively, the "County Personnel") and shall prescribe and control the means and methods of performing such obligations by providing adequate and proper supervision. The County Personnel shall for all purposes be solely the employees or agents of the County and shall not be deemed to be

employees or agents of the City for any purpose whatsoever. With respect to the County Personnel, the County shall be solely responsible for compliance with all rules, laws, and regulations relating to employment of labor, hours of labor, working conditions, payment of wages and payment of taxes, such as employment, Social Security, and other payroll taxes including applicable contributions from the County Personnel when required by law.

6. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

This Agreement may be terminated by either party for any reason or for no reason, by giving ninety (90) days advance written notice of termination to the other party. Any termination notice delivered pursuant to this Section 6 shall specify the date on which the Agreement will terminate. If this Agreement is terminated pursuant to this Section 6, the County shall continue performing services through the date of termination. The City shall compensate the County for all services performed by the County through the date of termination. The City's obligation to make such final payment to the County shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

7. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

The City and the County shall at all times exercise their rights and perform their respective obligations under this Agreement in full compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations of any public authority having jurisdiction.

8. INDEMNIFICATION

Each party shall defend, protect and hold harmless and indemnify the other party from and against all claims, suits or actions arising from any intentional or negligent act or omission of that party's employees, agents and/or authorized subcontractor(s) while performing under the terms of this Agreement.

9. LIABILITY RELATED TO CITY ORDINANCES, POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS

In executing this Agreement, the County does not assume liability or responsibility for or in any way release the City from any liability or responsibility which arises in whole or in part from the existence or effect of City ordinances, policies, rules or regulations. If any cause, claim, suit, action or administrative proceeding is commenced in which the enforceability and/or validity of any such City ordinance, policy, rule or regulation is at issue, the City shall defend the same at its sole expense and, if judgment is entered or damages are awarded against the City, the County, or both, the City shall satisfy the same, including all chargeable costs and reasonable attorney's fees

10. DEFAULT AND REMEDIES

If either party to this Agreement fails to perform any act or obligation required to be performed by it hereunder, the party to whom such performance was due shall deliver written notice of such failure to the non-performing party. The non-performing party shall have

thirty (30) days after its receipt of such notice in which to correct its failure to perform the act or obligation at issue, after which time it shall be in default (“Default”) under this Agreement; provided, however, that if the non-performance is of a type that could not reasonably be cured within said thirty (30) day period, then the non-performing party shall not be in Default if it commences cure within said thirty (30) day period and thereafter diligently pursues cure to completion. In the event of a party’s Default under this Agreement, then after giving notice and an opportunity to cure, the party to whom the performance was due shall have the right to exercise any or all rights and remedies available to it at law or in equity.

11. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE LAWS

The City and the County each acknowledges, agrees and understands that the other party is a public agency subject to certain disclosure laws, including, but not limited to Washington’s Public Records Act, chapter 42.56 RCW. Each party understands that records related to this Agreement and the County’s performance of services under this Agreement may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act or other similar law. Neither the City nor the County anticipates that the performance of either party’s obligations under this Agreement will involve any confidential or proprietary information.

12. NOTICES

Each notice, demand, request, consent, approval, disapproval, designation or other communication that is required to be given by one party to the other party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be given or made or communicated by (i) United States registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, (ii) any nationally recognized overnight carrier or express mail service (such as FedEx or DHL) that provides receipts to indicate delivery, (iii) by personal delivery, (iv) by facsimile (with proof of successful transmission), or (v) by any other electronic communication medium that provides confirmation of receipt. All such communications shall be addressed to the appropriate Administrator of this Agreement, as that term is defined in Section 1.2 above. All notices shall be deemed given on the day each such notice is personally delivered, transmitted by facsimile (with evidence of receipt), or delivered by overnight courier service, or on the third business day following the day such notice is mailed if mailed in accordance with this Section.

13. MISCELLANEOUS

13.1 Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter hereof, and supersedes any and all prior oral or written agreements between the parties regarding the subject matter contained herein. This Agreement may not be modified or amended in any manner except by written agreement executed by both parties.

13.2 Interpretation

This Agreement shall be governed by and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington. This Agreement and each of the terms and provisions of it are deemed to

have been explicitly negotiated by the parties, and the language in all parts of this Agreement shall, in all cases, be construed according to its fair meaning and not strictly for or against either of the parties hereto. The captions and headings in this Agreement are used only for convenience and are not intended to affect the interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement. This Agreement shall be construed so that wherever applicable the use of the singular number shall include the plural number, and vice versa, and the use of any gender shall be applicable to all genders.

13.3 Severability

If any provision of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, for any reason and to any extent, be found invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement and the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby, but shall instead continue in full force and effect, to the extent permitted by law.

13.4 No Waiver

A party's forbearance or delay in exercising any right or remedy with respect to a Default by the other party under this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of the Default at issue. Nor shall a waiver by a party of any particular Default constitute a waiver of any other Default or any similar future Default.

13.5 Assignment

This Agreement shall not be assigned, either in whole or in part, by either of the parties hereto. Any attempt to assign this Agreement in violation of the preceding sentence shall be null and void and shall constitute a Default under this Agreement.

13.6 Warranty of Authority

Each of the signatories hereto warrants and represents that he or she is competent and authorized to enter into this Agreement on behalf of the party for whom he or she purports to sign this Agreement.

13.7 No Joint Venture

Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as creating any type or manner of partnership, joint venture or other joint enterprise between the parties.

13.8 No Third Party Beneficiaries

This Agreement is made and entered into for the sole benefit of the City and the County. No third party shall be deemed to have any rights under this Agreement; there are no third-party beneficiaries to this Agreement.

13.9 Execution in Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City and the County have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

THE CITY:

City of Granite Falls, a Washington
municipal corporation

By _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

Approved as to Form:

 7/24/26

City Attorney

THE COUNTY:

Snohomish County, a political subdivision of
the State of Washington

By _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

Approved as to Form:

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: AB 129-2026 Consideration to Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County concerning Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspection Services, extending the term through December 31, 2028 and adopting a new fee schedule for 2027 and 2028

Originating Dept.: City Council

Approval(s):

Action Recommended: Authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for building, construction, and fire plan review and code inspection services, extending the term through December 31, 2028.

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted: 8/9/2026

Exhibit(s):

1. Granite Falls Inspections ILA Amend. No. 1- 07.28.26
2. ILA - FireConst Plan Review 2022 - 2026

Budgeted Amount: NA

BARS Code: NA

Summary Statement:

The City and Snohomish County are parties to the “Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Granite Falls and Snohomish County Concerning Provision of Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspection Services,” executed on April 13, 2022 (the “Original Agreement”). Under that agreement, the County’s Department of Planning and Development Services provides the City with building,

construction and fire plan review and code inspection services on an as-requested, hourly basis.

Amendment No. 1 extends the term of the Original Agreement by two years, to a new expiration date of December 31, 2028; and it adopts a new fee schedule setting hourly rates for calendar years 2027 and 2028. Except as modified by the Amendment, all other terms of the Original Agreement remain in force and effect and are ratified and affirmed.

Background:

Since 2022 the City has relied on Snohomish County Planning and Development Services for fire life safety inspections and fire plan review, and for construction inspections associated with permitting. The arrangement gives the City access to certified inspectors and plan reviewers without maintaining that capacity in-house, and the City is charged only for the hours of service it requests.

Section 9 of the Original Agreement authorizes the Director of the County's Department of Planning and Development Services to execute an amendment of this kind. Section 1 of the Amendment extends the term specified in Section 8 of the Original Agreement by two years, establishing a new expiration date of December 31, 2028. Section 2 adopts the new fee schedule set out below. Section 3 ratifies the remainder of the Original Agreement, and Section 4 permits execution in counterparts.

Current 2026 Hourly Rate: \$145.00 (new rate = +45%)

Hourly rates:

- Fire inspections (fire life safety) and fire plan review: \$210 (2027 hourly rate)
\$220 (2028 hourly rate)
- Building inspections (construction inspections for permitting): \$162 (2027 hourly rate) \$170 (2028 hourly rate)

Recommended Motion:

Move to authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County for building, construction, and fire plan review and code inspection services, extending the term through December 31, 2028.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY
CONCERNING BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION/FIRE PLAN REVIEW
AND CODE INSPECTION SERVICES**

THIS AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY CONCERNING BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION/FIRE PLAN REVIEW AND CODE INSPECTION SERVICES (this "Amendment") is made and entered into as of this ___ day of _____, 20___, by and between Snohomish County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington (the "County"), and the City of Granite Falls, a Washington municipal corporation (the "City").

RECITALS

- A. The County and City are parties to the "Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Granite Falls and Snohomish County Concerning Provision of Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspection Services" executed on April 13, 2022 (the "Original Agreement").
- B. Pursuant to Section 9 of the Original Agreement, the Director of the County's Department of Planning and Development Services has authority to execute an amendment to the Original Agreement to the extent and under the circumstances more fully described herein.
- C. The County and City now desire to amend the Original Agreement to extend the Term of the Original Agreement through December 31, 2028, to allow the County to continue to provide Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspection Services to the City.
- D. The County and City now desire to amend the Original Agreement to adopt a new fee schedule that provides annual rates for 2027 and 2028, the term extended by this Amendment.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the respective agreements set forth below and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the City and the County agree as follows:

Section 1. EXTENSION OF TERM

The County and City agree that the Term specified in Section 8 of the Original Agreement shall be extended by two years. The new Expiration Date of the Agreement is December 31, 2028.

Section 2. ADOPTION OF NEW FEE SCHEDULE

The County and City agree to adopt a new fee schedule as provided herein:

FEE SCHEDULE/HOURLY RATES INCLUDED IN CONTRACT FOR:

FIRE INSPECTIONS (FIRE LIFE SAFETY) AND FIRE PLAN REVIEW

2027	2028
\$210	\$220

BUILDING INSPECTIONS (CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS FOR PERMITTING)

2027	2028
\$162	\$170

Section 3. RATIFICATION

Except as modified by this Amendment, the Original Agreement shall remain in force and effect in accordance with its terms and is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 4. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS

This Amendment may be executed in counter parts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County and City have executed this Amendment as of the day and year first written above.

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Jeff Balentine

Name: Darren Groth

Title: City Manager

Title: Interim Director, Department of
Planning and Development Services

Email: jeff.balentine@ci.granite-falls.wa.us

Email: Darren.Groth@snoco.org

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY
CONCERNING PROVISION OF BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION/FIRE PLAN REVIEW
AND CODE INSPECTION SERVICES**

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY CONCERNING PROVISION OF BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION/FIRE PLAN REVIEW AND CODE INSPECTION SERVICES (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of this 13th day of April, 2022, by and between Snohomish County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington (the "County") and the City of Granite Falls, a Washington municipal corporation (the "City").

RECITALS

1. The City has expressed interest in an interlocal agreement with the County to provide the following services: building/construction/fire plan review and code inspection.
2. The purpose of this Agreement is to allow the County to provide the above listed services to the City.
3. The Washington State Building Code, as periodically amended by the Washington State Legislature, is in effect in the both County and City as set forth in chapter 19.27 RCW, and is relied upon for plan review and inspection services performed under this Agreement.
4. This Agreement is made pursuant to the authority granted by the Interlocal Cooperation Act, chapter 39.34 RCW.

[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the respective agreements set forth below and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the City and the County agree as follows:

Section 1. SCOPE OF SERVICES FOR BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION/FIRE PLAN REVIEW AND CODE INSPECTION

- 1.1 The County, through the Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS) and Office of the County Fire Marshal ("OCFM"), will conduct Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspections of industrial, commercial and residential projects on a case-by-case basis as requested by the City. The above mentioned Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspections are to be performed to determine compliance with applicable requirements of the Washington State Building Code and any local amendments adopted thereto by the City. The Code Inspections requested by the City under this Agreement may include, but not be limited to, new construction inspections, annual inspections for fire and life/safety, and code enforcement related inspections. Pursuant to the request of the City, the OCFM may perform any and all duties associated with the position of acting Fire Code Official for the City.
- 1.2 The City will determine when plans will be reviewed by PDS and OCFM.
- 1.3 The review of the plans will be scheduled in the order they are submitted by the City and will be subject to the processing timelines applicable to the other plans being reviewed by PDS and OCFM.
- 1.4 PDS and OCFM shall employ only certified and trained personnel in the Washington State Building Code, to conduct Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspections.
- 1.5 Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review will be conducted for determining compliance with the Washington State Building Code, as well as other subsidiary codes and local amendments as appropriate.
- 1.6 PDS and OCFM will provide plan mark-up and notation customary for professional plan review standards, and forward said plans to the City for return to applicants.
- 1.7 PDS and OCFM will conduct on-site Building/Construction/Fire Code Inspections as requested by the City, customarily with one day prior notice. Inspections shall be conducted and corrections noted as customary for professional Building/Construction/Fire Code Inspection standards, with correction notices provided to the City for records management.
- 1.8 The City shall be the responsible permit issuing agency, and shall collect all permit fees, issue all permits, and defend any and all challenges related to plan review, inspections, and permit decisions performed under this Agreement.

- 1.9 The parties understand and agree that the County's ability to perform a requested service pursuant to this Agreement may be limited, delayed, or otherwise impacted by the availability of County personnel. If the County determines that sufficient staff time is not available to allow it to provide a requested service, it shall so notify the City as soon as possible after receiving the request for that service.

Section 2. COMPENSATION

- 2.1 The City shall pay the County for Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspection Services pursuant to Section 1 of this Agreement on an hourly basis in accordance with the rate schedule in Appendix A.
- 2.2 County staff time will be billed in one-tenth hour increments.
- 2.3 The County agrees to provide the City with a written invoice for Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspection Services rendered pursuant to this Agreement no later than 90 days after the date on which the services were rendered.
- 2.4 The City agrees to remit payment in full within 30 days of receipt of an invoice. Payment for these services shall be made to the County. County invoices shall be itemized to indicate each project and the time/cost allocated to the various projects.
- 2.5 The County will maintain all records reflecting fees and costs billed to the City.
- 2.6 All billing invoices and payments shall be delivered to the following:

County: Snohomish County
Planning and Development Services, Accounting
M/S 604, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201-4046

City : City of Granite Falls
215 S. Granite Ave.
P.O. Box 1440
Granite Falls, WA 98252

Section 3. INSURANCE

- 3.1 Each party shall maintain and provide evidence to the other of insurance or self-insurance adequate to cover its liability obligations under this Agreement and/or arising out of each party's activities hereunder.
- 3.2 The City is part of a Public Entity insurance pool sanctioned by the Washington State Office of Financial Management Risk Management Division. The City will provide a letter signed and executed by an authorized agent indicating its participation in said pool.

- 3.3 The County self-insures its common law and assumed liability for bodily injury and/or property damage to third parties. The County maintains a fully-funded self-insurance program as defined in Snohomish County Code 2.90 for the protection and handling of the County's liabilities, including injuries to persons and damage to property. The self-funded program will respond if an incident occurs involving negligence of County employees acting in the scope of their employment. The County will provide a letter of self-insurance signed and executed by an authorized agent.

Section 4. INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY

- 4.1 City Held Harmless. The County shall indemnify and hold harmless the City and its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them from any and all claims, actions, suits, liability, loss, costs, expenses, and damages of any nature whatsoever, by any reason of or arising out of any negligent act or omission of the County, its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them relating to or arising out of performing services pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that any such suit based upon such a claim, action, loss, or damages is brought against the City, the County shall defend the same at its sole cost and expense; provided that the City reserves the right to participate in said suit if any principle of governmental or public law is involved; and if final judgment in said suit be rendered against the City, and its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them, or jointly against the City and the County and their respective officers, agents, and employees, or any of them, the County shall satisfy the same.
- 4.2 County Held Harmless. The City shall indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them from any and all claims, actions, suits, liability, loss, costs, expenses, and damages of any nature whatsoever, by any reason of or arising out of any negligent act or omission of the City, its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them relating to or arising out of performing services pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that any suit based upon such a claim, action, loss, or damages is brought against the County, the City shall defend the same at its sole cost and expense; provided that the County reserves the right to participate in said suit if any principle of governmental or public law is involved; and if final judgment be rendered against the County, and its officers, agents, and employees, or any of them, or jointly against the County and the City and their respective officers, agents, and employees, or any of them, the City shall satisfy the same.
- 4.3 Liability Related to City Ordinances, Policies, Rules and Regulations. In executing this Agreement, the County does not assume liability or responsibility for, or in any way release the City from any liability or responsibility which arises in whole or in part from the existence or effect of City ordinances, policies, rules or regulations. If any cause, claim, suit, action or administrative proceeding is commenced in which the enforceability and/or validity of any such City ordinance, policy, rule or regulation is at issue, the City shall defend the same at its sole expense and, if judgment is entered or damages are awarded against the City, the County, or both, the City shall satisfy the same, including all chargeable costs and reasonable attorney's fees.
- 4.4 Waiver Under Washington Industrial Insurance Act. The foregoing indemnity is specifically intended to constitute a waiver of each party's immunity under Washington's

Industrial Insurance Act, Chapter 51 RCW, as respects the other party only, and only to the extent necessary to provide the indemnified party with a full and complete indemnity of claims made by the indemnitor's employees. The parties acknowledge that these provisions were specifically negotiated and agreed upon by them.

Section 5. GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington. The venue of any action arising out of this Agreement shall be in the Superior Court of the State of Washington, in and for Snohomish County.

Section 6. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

Both parties shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws in the performance of this Agreement.

Section 7. PROPERTY

Any real or personal property used or acquired by either party in connection with the performance of this Agreement will remain the sole property of such party, and the other party shall have no interest therein, except as expressly provided to the contrary elsewhere in this Agreement.

Section 8. DURATION AND TERMINATION

- 8.1 This Agreement will become effective upon execution by the parties and being posted on the Snohomish County Council website pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, RCW 39.34.040. This Agreement shall remain in effect until December 31, 2026, unless the parties renew the Agreement in accordance with Section 9. Changes to Appendix A are subject to Section 13 below.
- 8.2 Either party may terminate this Agreement, for any reason, upon providing thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. The City would then pay the County for all Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspection Services provided up to and including the date of termination in accordance with Section 2.
- 8.3 The terms and conditions contained in Sections 2 and 4 of this Agreement shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- 8.4 The County will immediately cease work, stop its review and return all City and/or applicant/business records to the City upon the effective date of the termination or expiration of this Agreement. The County will retain all fees already paid.

Section 9. AMENDMENT AND/OR RENEWAL

- 9.1 The Director of the County's Department of Planning and Development Service (the "Director") shall have the authority to amend and/or renew this Agreement on behalf of the County to the extent and under the circumstances described in this Section 9,

without the need to obtain additional approvals from the County Council or the County Executive.

- 9.2 The Director shall have the authority to extend the term one or more times, for a total extension period not to exceed ten (10) years.
- 9.3 If both parties wish to renew the Agreement, negotiations of the hourly compensation rates of Appendix A must be completed 45 days prior to December 31, 2026. Changes to Appendix A are subject to Section 13 below.
- 9.4 In order to be effective, any renewal or amendment of this Agreement must be memorialized in writing, executed by both parties, and posted on the Snohomish County Council web site pursuant to RCW 39.34.040. A sample form of amendment is attached to this Agreement as Appendix B.

Section 10. NOTICES

All notices, including requests to terminate the Agreement, shall be delivered to the following:

County: Snohomish County
Planning and Development Services, Director
M/S 604, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201-4046

City: City of Granite Falls
215 S. Granite Ave.
P.O. Box 1440
Granite Falls, WA 98252

Notices mailed by any party shall be deemed effective on the date mailed. Any party may change its address for receipt of reports, notices, invoices, payments and other documents by giving the other party written notice of not less than seven (7) calendar days prior to the effective date of the address change.

Section 11. DESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATOR

The Director of the Department of Planning and Development Services or his/her designee is the County's administrator of this Agreement for purposes of the Interlocal Cooperation Act. The City Manager or his/her designee is the City's administrator of this Agreement for purposes of the Interlocal Cooperation Act.

Section 12. NO WAIVER

No term or provision in this Agreement shall be waived and no breach excused unless such waiver or consent shall be in writing and signed by the party claimed to have waived or consented.

Section 13. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter hereof and supersedes any and all prior oral or written agreements between the parties regarding the subject matter contained herein. This Agreement may not be modified or amended in any manner except by a written document signed by the party against whom such modification is sought to be enforced.

Section 14. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

All privileges and immunities from liability, exemption from ordinances, rules, laws, all pension, disability, workers compensation and other benefits which apply to the activities of Snohomish County employees while performing their functions within the territorial limits of Snohomish County shall apply to current planners, building inspectors, inspectors and plan review to the same degree and extent while they are engaged in the performance of any of their authorized functions and duties within the City under the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 15. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES: NO JOINT VENTURE

This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the City and County and shall not confer third-party beneficiary status on any non-party to this Agreement. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as creating any type or manner of partnership, joint venture or other joint enterprise between the parties. County employees who provide services under this Agreement shall at all times be acting in their official capacities as employees of Snohomish County.

Section 16. CONTINGENCY

The obligations of the City and County in this Agreement are contingent on the availability of funds through local legislative appropriation and allocation in accordance with law. Either party may terminate the Agreement under Section 8 of this Agreement in the event funding is withdrawn, reduced, or limited in any way after the effective date of this Agreement.

Section 17. SEVERABILITY

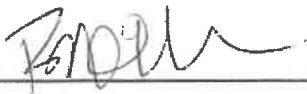
If any provision of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, for any reason and to any extent, be found invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement and the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby, but shall instead continue in full force and effect, to the extent permitted by law.

Section 18. AUTHORIZATION

The City hereby authorizes County personnel to conduct Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspections as described in this Agreement, and all acts incidental to the provision of these services, within the City's jurisdictional boundaries.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Agreement, effective on the date indicated herein.

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

By: 
Brent Kirk, City Manager

Date: March 16, 2022

Attest:


Approved as to form:
Office of the City Attorney



SNOHOMISH COUNTY

By: 
Dave Somers, Executive

Klein, Kenneth
2022.04.13 10:48:56
-07'00'

Date: _____

Attest: _____

Approved as to form:
Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office

 3/3/2022

COUNCIL USE ONLY	
Approved	<u>4/13/2022</u>
ECAF #	<u>2022-0323</u>
MOT/ORD	<u>Motion 22-148</u>

APPENDIX A

**FEE SCHEDULE/HOURLY RATES INCLUDED IN CONTRACT
FOR BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION/FIRE PLAN REVIEW
AND CODE INSPECTION SERVICES**

Rate Per Hour

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
\$125.00	\$130.00	\$135.00	\$140.00	\$145.00

APPENDIX B
Sample Form of Amendment

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS
AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY CONCERNING BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION/FIRE PLAN
REVIEW AND CODE INSPECTION SERVICES**

THIS AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY CONCERNING BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION/FIRE PLAN REVIEW AND CODE INSPECTION SERVICES (this "Amendment") is made and entered into as of this ___ day of _____, 20___, by and between Snohomish County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington (the "County"), and the City of Granite Falls, a Washington municipal corporation (the "City").

RECITALS

- A. The County and City are parties to the "Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Granite Falls and Snohomish County Concerning Provision of Building/Construction/Fire Plan Review and Code Inspection Services" executed on _____, 20___ (the "Original Agreement").
- B. Pursuant to Section 9 of the Original Agreement, the Director of the County's Department of Planning and Development Services has authority to execute an amendment to the Original Agreement to the extent and under the circumstances more fully described herein.
- C. The County and City now desire to amend the Original Agreement to extend the Term [INSERT REASON].
- D. The County and City now desire to amend the Original Agreement to adopt a new fee schedule due to [INSERT REASON].
- E. [INSERT ANY OTHER PERTINENT RECITALS.]

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the respective agreements set forth below and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the City and the County agree as follows:

Section 1. EXTENSION OF TERM

The County and City agree that the Term specified in Section 8 of the Original Agreement shall be extended by [INSERT AMOUNT OF TIME]. The new Expiration Date of the Agreement is [INSERT NEW EXPIRATION DATE].

Section 2. ADOPTION OF NEW FEE SCHEDULE

The County and City agree to adopt a new fee schedule as provided herein:

[INSERT NEW FEE SCHEDULE/HOURLY RATE]

Section 3. RATIFICATION

Except as modified by this Amendment, the Original Agreement shall remain in force and effect in accordance with its terms and is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 4. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS

This Amendment may be executed in counter parts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County and City have executed this Amendment as of the day and year first written above.

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

By: 
Name: BRENT KIRL
Title: CITY MGR

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: Director, Department of Planning
And Development Services



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

Subject: AB 052-2026 Consideration to Approve Resolution No. 2026-11 Adoption of the City of Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex

Originating Dept.: City Council

Approval(s): City Manager
Consultant City Attorney

Action Recommended: Approve Resolution No. 2026-11 - Adoption of the City of Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Date Submitted:

Exhibit(s):

1. Resolution 2026-11
2. FINAL Granite Falls HMP

Budgeted Amount: N/A

BARS Code: N/A

Summary Statement:

The City has partnered Livable City Year (LCY) of UW to collaborate on preparation of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex. UW students worked to develop an Initial Conditions Report (ICR), which was presented to Council earlier this year. From the ICR, staff and UW students developed the City's HMP in collaboration with Snohomish County DEM. The Draft HMP meets all the standards of compliance required by FEMA and has been reviewed and approved by Snohomish County. Adoption of the City's annex by resolution is the final step in the planning process and completes the City's participation in the countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

Background:

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local governments to maintain and adopt a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to remain eligible for federal hazard mitigation grant funding. Snohomish County, in coordination with participating

cities, towns, tribes, and special purpose districts, completed the 2025 update to the Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The County's base plan was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and adopted by the Snohomish County Council on July 1, 2026. Participating jurisdictions are required to adopt their own jurisdictional annexes, which identify local hazards, community assets, vulnerabilities, existing capabilities, and mitigation strategies specific to their community. Adoption of the annex satisfies FEMA's local adoption requirement, supports coordinated regional mitigation planning, and preserves eligibility for federal hazard mitigation assistance programs.

The City has partnered Livable City Year (LCY) of UW to collaborate on preparation of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex. UW students worked to develop an Initial Conditions Report (ICR), which was presented to Council earlier this year. From the ICR, staff and UW students developed the City's HMP in collaboration with Snohomish County DEM. The Draft HMP meets all of the standards of compliance required by FEMA and has been reviewed and approved by Snohomish County.

Recommended Motion:

1) I move to approve Resolution No. 2026-11, adopting the City of Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex.

**CITY OF GRANITE FALLS
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON,
ADOPTING THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (HMP) ANNEX IN
COORDINATION WITH SNOHOMISH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the City of Granite Falls, Washington, is vulnerable to natural hazards—including flood risks from the Stillaguamish and Pilchuck rivers, severe storms, and earthquakes—that pose risks to human life, public health, and property; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County, through the Department of Emergency Management, has developed a countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan that identifies hazards and mitigation strategies affecting the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Granite Falls has partnered with Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management to develop a City-specific Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex (the “HMP Annex”) that identifies local risks, vulnerabilities, and mitigation actions; and

WHEREAS, proactive mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk and prevent costly disaster recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) and 44 CFR §201.6 require local governments to formally adopt a hazard mitigation plan to remain eligible for pre- and post-disaster grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, the City of Granite Falls has actively participated as a planning partner with Snohomish County and a coalition of local cities to assess regional risks and develop effective hazard mitigation strategies;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS WASHINGTON,
DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The City of Granite Falls hereby adopts the Snohomish County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, including the city-specific jurisdictional HMP Annex, in its entirety. Copies shall be on file with the Community Development Director of the City.

Section 2. The City of Granite Falls will use the adopted portions of the plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of identified hazards, coordinating these strategies with the city's [20-Year Comprehensive Plan](#) and emergency management initiatives.

Section 3. The City will continue to participate in the planning coalition and coordinate local mitigation activities with the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management.

Section 4. The City Council authorizes appropriate city staff to execute any necessary documentation and submit this resolution to the Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division and FEMA Region 10 to finalize formal plan approval.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of August, 2026.

APPROVED by the Mayor this ____ day of August, 2026.

Matthew Hartman, Mayor

Attest:

Darla Wilkins, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Thomas H. Graafstra, City Attorney
Emily Guildner, City Attorney



The City of Granite Falls

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026

City of Granite Falls

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

June 2026

Prepared for:
City of Granite Falls
215 S. Granite Avenue
Granite Falls, WA 98252

Prepared by:



University of Washington students in the Master's of Urban Design and Planning program: Alejandro De La Cerda, Alicia McAfee, Audrey Sei, Brianne Chitwood, Caleb Osborne, Caroline Webster, Emily Waldoch, Hannah Groenke, Jane Marie Gunn, Joelle Dlugozima, Seeun Pyo, Trenton Blair, Zoe Love

Prepared with:

University of Washington instructors: Saeideh Sobhaninia and Robert Freitag

Acknowledge:



UW's Livable City Year

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Granite Falls Plan Annex

The Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Annex is a jurisdiction-specific supplement to the Snohomish County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, developed in compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and maintained to ensure the City's continued eligibility for federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs. This annex identifies the natural and human-caused hazards posing the greatest risk to Granite Falls's residents, property, and critical infrastructure; assesses the City's unique vulnerability within the broader county risk landscape; and establishes locally tailored mitigation measures and prioritized actions to reduce long-term risk and strengthen community resilience. The plan was developed through an inclusive public engagement process and reflects coordination among City departments, partner agencies, and the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management. Upon adoption by the Granite Falls City Council, approval by FEMA, and adoption of the base plan, this annex will remain in effect for five years, during which designated City staff will track implementation progress, pursue mitigation funding opportunities, and coordinate with the County on plan maintenance and the next update cycle.

8.1 Hazard Mitigation Points of Contact

Primary Point of Contact	Secondary Point of Contact
Jeff Balentine City Manager 215 S. Granite Avenue Granite Falls, WA 98252 Phone: (360) 691-6441 Email: jeff.balentine@ci.granite-falls.wa.us	Amy Hess, AICP Planning Director 215 S. Granite Avenue Granite Falls, WA 98252 Phone: (360) 691-6441 ext. 1001 Email: amy.hess@ci.granite-falls.wa.us

8.2 Granite Falls Profile

This section provides background and a profile on the City of Granite Falls. It includes the following sections: Population and Employment, Development Trends, Geography and Climate, and Governance.

Granite Falls is located between the Pilchuck and Stillaguamish Rivers in the western foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range. The city covers 2.21 square miles and lies near the center of Snohomish County, northeast of Everett, Lake Stevens, and Marysville. The surrounding area includes notable natural features such as the Granite Falls on the South Fork Stillaguamish River, the Mountain Loop Highway, and nearby access to Mount Pilchuck State Park and the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness. These areas are characterized by forested terrain, river valleys, and steep mountain slopes, which contribute to the region's scenic value and potential natural hazards. According to

the 2024 Snohomish County Growth Monitoring Report, Granite Falls has a population of 4,768 residents.

Historically, the current Granite Falls was the site of former Native American fishing grounds. The city of Granite Falls was incorporated in 1903, when lumber was the predominant industry. It later became a railroad station on the route between Monte Cristo (now a ghost town) and Everett. The city's first timber mill was opened by 1891, and a dozen mills were operating by 1906. Now, Granite Falls is largely a residential community whose occupants commute to other parts of Snohomish and King Counties.

Granite Falls has multiple roads and connection points. Highway 92 leads to Highway 9, Jordan Road connects to Arlington, and Highway 530. The city is also the southern entrance of the Mountain Loop Highway.

Major utility providers include Snohomish County PUD, which provides both power and drinking water to the City; Puget Sound Energy, which provides natural gas; and the City, which provides sanitary sewer. The City has completed upgrading the wastewater treatment plant, which processes wastewater for City residents and public infrastructure.

Population and Employment

According to the 2024 Snohomish County Growth Monitoring Report, Granite Falls has a population of 4,768 residents. Additional demographic information below:

- The median age is 36.6 years.
- 24.4% of residents are under age 18; 13.4% are age 65 or older.
- The population is 53.9% female and 46.1% male.
- Racial composition:
 - 64.1% White alone;
 - 15.6% Asian alone;
 - 6.4% Hispanic or Latino;
 - 1.9% American Indian or Alaskan Native alone.
- Among residents aged 25 and over, 91.8% have completed high school or higher, and 25.5% hold a bachelor's degree or higher.
- 69.5% of residents aged 16 and over participate in the civilian labor force; many residents commute outside the city for work.

Development Trends

Granite Falls has transitioned from a historically resource-based community to a primarily residential city with strong regional commuting ties. Citywide residential patterns remain predominantly low-density and single-family, with limited multifamily

housing concentrated near the downtown core and newer development occurring toward the city's edges. The City anticipates an increase in single-family residence permitting, driven by recent submittals and approvals of new subdivisions and housing developments. As Granite Falls is expected to continue growing through 2044, maintaining infrastructure capacity, access to services, and coordinated land use planning will be important, particularly where residential expansion intersects with environmental constraints and transportation corridors that are critical during hazard events.

Granite Falls' economy is based on gravel and subassembly manufacturing, light and heavy industrial manufacturing, and retail that serves residents and tourists traveling along the Mountain Loop Recreation Area. According to the 2022 Census Data, 2,001 residents commute outside of Granite Falls for work, 818 commute to Granite Falls for employment, and 121 are employed and live in Granite Falls. Iron Mountain Quarry, one of the largest businesses in Granite Falls, employs approximately 60 employees. A majority of the Quarry resides just outside of the city limits, but the soil remediation/asphalt plant facility is located on a parcel within the city. Public administration and accommodation and food services make up a substantial portion of the city's employment base, supported by institutions such as the Granite Falls School District and local government. These sectors provide stable jobs and play a key role in sustaining the community.

The largest annual event in Granite Falls is the October Railroad Days, which can bring upwards of 2,500 people per year. A seasonal Farmers Market provides locals with a venue to sell and shop for local goods and brings in visitors. The annual Christmas Tree lighting festival reinforces the City's investment in community and commitment to its residents. The Annual Show 'N Shine car show in August also attracts an ever-increasing number of visitors, helping to support local businesses.

Geography and Climate

Granite Falls enjoys a temperate four-season climate, with average low and high temperatures of 33°F and 77°F, respectively¹. The average annual rainfall is 44.3 inches. The average annual snowfall accumulation is 16.7 inches. The hottest months in Granite Falls are July and August, with the coolest temperatures between November and February. Wind speed in Granite Falls is generally calm to light, with annual ranges between 3 and 7 mph. The windiest conditions occur from mid-October to early April, with average wind speeds exceeding 3.7 miles per hour; the calmest month of the year

¹ Weather Spark, "Average Weather in Granite Falls, Washington, water impacts from decreasing snowpack, leading to, United States, Year-Round," accessed May 15, 2026, [Weather Spark](#).

is August, with average wind speeds of 2.6 miles per hour.² Wind direction varies throughout the year, occurring most often from the east between November and February.

The city sits at around 400 feet above sea level and is located in the foothills of the Cascade Range. Granite Falls is split into two watershed boundaries, the Stillaguamish Watershed on the north side and the Snohomish Watershed on the south side. The unincorporated Urban Growth Area boundaries fall within these two watersheds. The topography of Granite Falls contains very significant variations in elevation, with a maximum elevation gain of about 960 feet.³ The lowest-lying areas are to the north and south of the city, along the rivers, in the floodplains.

Climate change is set to have serious consequences on the Pacific Northwest, specifically impacting the water, ecosystems, forests, oceans, and coasts, and humans. The region is already seeing water impacts from decreasing snowpack, leading to shifts in water availability. Rain patterns are also set to change, with increased rainfall in Fall, Winter, and Spring and decreased amounts in the summer. The forests of the Pacific Northwest are expected to experience the impacts of climate change through disturbances such as drought, wildfire, and disease. Additionally, as the temperatures rise in the region, the climate will no longer be suitable for some tree species. This could cause large issues within the ecosystem. Forests are not the only habitats or species affected by climate change. With rising temperatures, ecosystems across the region will be affected. Coasts and oceans are examples of other ecosystems that will be impacted. The northwest region is projected to see an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events. The region is already experiencing sea level rise, but ocean acidification and warming are also threatening the wildlife, infrastructure, and communities along the coasts. And lastly, all of these consequences are predicted to have serious impacts on human health with increased risk of diseases, illness, injury, malnutrition, and death.⁴

Granite Falls is expected to experience increased severity and frequency of extreme heat, storms, flooding, and wildfires, along with reduced snowpack.⁵ Snohomish County

² Weather Spark, "Average Weather in Granite Falls, Washington, United States, Year-Round," accessed May 27, 2026, [Weather Spark](#).

³ "Granite Falls Topographic Map," *Topographic-Map.com*, accessed May 27, 2026, <https://en-us.topographic-map.com/map-k17h57/Granite-Falls/?popup=48.08837%2C-121.95512>

⁴ University of Washington Climate Impacts Group. (n.d). Climate Impacts. <https://cig.uw.edu/learn/climate-impacts/>

⁵ Snohomish County. (2023). SnoCo Climate Change Fact Sheet. <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/106917/SnoCo-Climate-Change-Vulnerability-Risk-Assessment-Public-Outreach-Meetings>

predicts that by 2050, there will be between 8 and 20 more days of extreme heat per year, and the snowpack is expected to decrease by 45%.⁶ The storms will be more frequent and stronger, leading to more flooding from increased rainfall. With the increase in wildfires, air quality may worsen due to smoke.⁷

Governance

Granite Falls is a non-charter code city, governed by a strong council-manager system of government, with five elected city council members for four-year terms. Council members serve as the voice of the Granite Falls residents. A ceremonial mayor is selected for the council to manage the council meetings. The Council will assume responsibility for adopting this plan.

Judicial services for the City of Granite Falls are provided by Snohomish County. Consequently, municipal court functions, including prosecution, court administration, and related judicial services, are managed through the county's judicial system, which encompasses both District and Superior Courts. This collaborative arrangement enables Granite Falls to focus its resources on essential city services while leveraging the county's established legal and judicial infrastructure.

Daily operations are overseen by the City Manager, who is appointed by the council. City services include a clerk's office, finance office, planning/development services, and public works. These departments provide services directly to the community. Police services are contracted through the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. Granite Falls Fire District #17 serves as the local fire and emergency medical services

⁶ University of Washington Climate Impacts Group. (2026). Climate Mapping for a Resilient Washington. <https://data.cig.uw.edu/climatemapping/>

⁷ Snohomish County. (n.d.). Communitywide Climate Resiliency Plan. https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/6604/Communitywide-Climate-Resiliency-Plan?utm_source=chatgpt.com

8.3 Granite Falls Risk Summary

This section describes 13 hazard risks (identified by the Snohomish County HMP) and how they would affect Granite Falls if they were to occur. This section includes previous hazard events, hazard risks and vulnerabilities, and assets at risk.

Table 8.1 lists the hazard event history for Granite Falls. No direct assistance was needed for Granite Falls in the last 15 years. Below are hazards that have affected Snohomish County and Granite Falls.

Table 8.1: Granite Falls Previous Hazard Events

Type of Event *Denotes declared disasters in Snohomish County	FEMA Disaster Number	Date of Hazard Declaration	Casualties/ Preliminary Damage Assessment	Research/Justification
*Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides	EM-3629-WA	12/12/2025	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	High water levels at the fish ladder were reported by King 5 News Landslide on mountain loop highway cleared by Snohomish County DEM: Link to FB post
Severe Rain, Flooding, Landslides	No FEMA disaster declaration identified	Flooding reported on 12/5/2023; local emergency proclaimed 12/6/2023	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Flooding and damage to homes near the Stillaguamish river reported by Fox 13 News Flooding reported by King 5 News and Fox 13 HWY 530 shut down, reported by the Herald Net Marten Creek Slide Repair Snohomish County, WA - Official Website "Snohomish County Road Maintenance completed an emergency slide repair on Mountain Loop Highway east of Granite Falls at milepost 20.6 following severe rain and flooding"

				events in November and December 2023.”
*Severe Winter Storm, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides	DR-4682-WA	1/12/2023, Incident period Nov 3 - 8, 2022	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Could not find evidence of impacts in Granite Falls
*Bolt Creek Fire	FM-5455-WA	9/10/2022	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Air quality impacts (?)
*Severe Winter Storm: Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides	DR-4593-WA	4/8/2021, Incident Period: December 29, 2020 – January 16, 2021	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Could not find evidence of impacts in Granite Falls
*Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides	DR-4539-WA	4/23/2020, Incident Period: Jan. 20, 2020 - Feb. 10, 2020	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Flooding and high river levels, reported by Live Storms Media
*Covid-19 Pandemic	DR-4481-WA	3/22/2020	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Extreme regional and economic impacts
*Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides, Tornado	DR-4418-WA	3/4/2019, Incident Period: Dec. 10, 2018 - Dec. 24, 2018	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Could not find evidence of impacts in Granite Falls
*Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides	DR-4249-WA	1/15/2016	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Dec 9, 2015 event: “The Stillaguamish River was also running high through Granite Falls.” Reported by King 5

				Seems to have affected people outside of GF along the Mountain Loop Highway (Forest Road 4037), reported by Kiro 7
*Severe Windstorm	DR-4242-WA	10/15/2015	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	In Granite Falls, one family had at least seven trees fall on top of their house." Reported by King 5 News
Oso Landslide	EM-3370-WA	3/24/2014	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Caused regional impacts due to Darrington residents having to route through the Mountain Loop Highway
*Severe Winter Storm, Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides	DR-4056-WA	3/5/2012	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Previous HMP
Severe Winter Storm	N/A	2/2011	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Previous HMP
*Severe Winter Storm, Record and Near-Record Snow	1825-DR-WA	3/2/2009	No Assistance was requested by Granite Falls	Previous HMP
Wind Storm	N/A	3/2003	\$250,000	Previous HMP
Earthquake (Nisqually)	DR-1361-WA	3/1/2001	Minor damage	Previous HMP
Earthquake (Duvall)	N/A	5/1996	Damage to private businesses	Previous HMP
Severe Storms/Flood	DR-1100-WA	2/9/1996	No significant damage	Previous HMP
Flood	1079-DR	12/1995	No significant damage	Previous HMP

Hazard Risk and Vulnerability

Table 8.2 discusses the specific hazard risk and vulnerability summary for Granite Falls. The table discusses the hazard risks, vulnerabilities, and impact summary of each hazard, and the probability of that hazard occurring. The vulnerability and impact assessment for each risk follows the Snohomish County guidance on vulnerability:

1. Minimum Impact:

- a. Shutdown of critical facilities for less than 24 hours
- b. No/minor injuries
- c. Less than 10% of property severely damaged
- d. Impact on the environment would not require remediation.

2. Low Impact:

- a. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for one week
- b. Some injuries
- c. More than 10% of property severely damaged
- d. Impact on the environment would be minimal and only require a local response.

3. Medium Impact:

- a. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for two weeks
- b. Multiple severe injuries
- c. More than 25% of property severely damaged
- d. Localized and temporary Impacts to the environment as a result of the event and/or cascading effects. No immediate health threat to people, and environmental remediation would restore the environment to acceptable limits.

4. High Impact:

- a. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for 30 days or more
- b. Multiple deaths
- c. More than 50% of property severely damaged
- d. Catastrophic impacts to the environment as a result of the event and/or cascading effects. Environmental impacts would have immediate and long-term health effects on people. Significant resources required for remediation.

The probability assessment for each risk follows the Snohomish County guidance on probability and includes a discussion of climate change impacts:

- 5. Unlikely:** <1% probability in the next 100 years. No emergency declarations are likely.

6. **Possible:** Between 1 to 10% probability in the next year, or at least 1 in the next 100 years. Very few emergency declarations have occurred.
7. **Likely:** Between 10 and 100% probability in the next year, or at least one chance in 10 years. Some emergency declarations have occurred.
8. **Highly Likely:** Near 100% probability in the next year. Many emergency declarations have occurred.

Table 8.2: Granite Falls Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Summary.

Hazard	Hazard Risk, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary	Probability of Future Occurrence
Earthquake & Tsunami	Earthquakes pose a high risk due to their high potential impact and Granite Falls' vulnerability to isolation. The entire area is expected to experience MMI 7 (very strong) shaking from a Southern Whidbey earthquake scenario (a shallow Magnitude 7.4 earthquake).⁸ This will cause "considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures."⁹ Older buildings are especially susceptible to damage; "The majority of the buildings in the City's downtown commercial district (70%+) are constructed of older brick masonry and historic building materials with no seismic retrofitting."¹⁰ Additionally, earthquakes pose a threat to gas, electrical, and sewer infrastructure. There is a moderate risk of liquefaction, higher along the Stillaguamish and Pilchuck rivers. Earthquakes can also have a high impact on transportation into and out of the city, causing isolation. Earthquakes could disrupt bus service and block transportation routes, complicating movement into and out of the city. Bridge 102 is functionally obsolete and could be severely damaged in an earthquake, blocking access to and from the Mountain Loop Highway. The major risk during earthquakes is isolation. Due to Granite Falls' isolated geographic location and reliance on essential services from cities such as Everett, it is defined as a 'population island', "where mobility outside of the immediate area may be significantly limited, or impossible". This makes Granite Falls at risk of being cut off from receiving emergency services and water supply from Everett, which can have direct impacts on essential needs and medical services in the case of a hazard. Additionally, isolation has the potential to block necessary food and supplies, as well as access to residents' jobs and families who live outside the immediate area, placing vulnerable populations that rely on these services and communications at increased risk. Granite Falls is not located within the Tsunami inundation zone but may experience consequences from regional impacts.	Likely - same probability as the County. It is unknown if climate change affects the probability of earthquake events. Climate change impacts on earthquake probability are unknown; however, secondary impacts could be magnified by climate change.¹¹ The probability of tsunamis increases through other natural events like sea level rise, landslides, and increased volcanic and earthquake activity.
Wildfire	Wildfires pose a high risk to Granite Falls due to the medium potential impact, exacerbated by its vulnerability to isolation and climate change. Wildfires are influenced by drought, limited snowpack, and local weather conditions, with 85% of wildfires being human-caused, and about 52% were negligently or	Likely - same risk as the County. This is due to Granite Falls' geographical location, vegetation type/density, and the

⁸ Snohomish County Emergency Management (n.d.) *Snohomish County Hazard Viewer*. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/28d8e2c49c6a406b875ed20fad52139a?item=1>.

⁹ <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/modified-mercalli-intensity-scale>

¹⁰ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2015. "Update Hazard Mitigation Plan Volume 2: Planning Partner Annexes. Chapter 8: City of Granite Falls Annex"

¹¹ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. "Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1." p. 119.

Hazard	Hazard Risk, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary	Probability of Future Occurrence
	intentionally started. ¹² There is a low wildfire hazard within the City boundaries, but a moderate to high hazard exists in the wild-urban interface East of the city. Granite Falls is within an interface community, meaning it “exists where structures directly abut wildland fuels,” putting the community at an increased risk of wildfires, as the surrounding woods can provide potential fuel to wildfires. ^{13,14} Some trees are more hazardous (dead or diseased trees, overcrowded trees, trees with more ladder fuels, or specific species), which can increase risk. Wildfires pose risks that include strain on the resources of local fire agencies, power outages, and road and highway closures, which may impact fire response. This can disproportionately affect residents who rely on powered medical equipment, people without vehicles to evacuate, and groups that are sensitive to unhealthy air quality, especially the elderly. ¹⁵	increasing presence of climate change. Climate change will lead to increased heat and drought which help fuel fires, increasing the probability of wildfires. Over the next 30 years, Granite Falls is predicted to have a moderate risk of wildfire. ¹⁶
Dam Failure	Dam failure may result in a medium impact in Granite Falls due to regional transportation disruptions, isolation, and delayed emergency response. Although Culmback Dam has had no issues of concern for dam failure in its 55-year history and has consistently received FERC’s highest safety rating of “satisfactory” during annual inspections, Granite Falls remains vulnerable to indirect impacts from a dam failure scenario. ¹⁷ Granite Falls is outside the direct inundation zone of the Culmback Dam and upper Sultan River, reducing the likelihood of severe structural flood damage within the city. However, in the event of a Culmback Dam failure, severe downstream flooding could occur in Sultan and along the Sultan River corridor, disrupting regional transportation networks and emergency service routes that connect Granite Falls to surrounding communities. Critical access routes, including State Route 92 and connections to U.S. Highway 2, may be obstructed or indirectly impacted, limiting evacuation and access to medical care, utilities, and essential goods. Dam failure may occur suddenly with little warning and may be triggered by overtopping caused by floods, structural failure, or acts of sabotage. ¹⁸ Direct physical impacts within Granite Falls would likely be Low Impact, as the city is outside the direct	Possible - same probability as the County. Extreme heat and cold as a result of climate change can affect the structural integrity of dams. Increased heavy rainfall can lead to erosion and scouring near dams, while rising temperatures can lead to faster evaporation, which may weaken structures over time. ¹⁹

¹² Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Accessed August 2025. “Washington Large Fires 1973-2023.”

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2015. “[Update Hazard Mitigation Plan Volume 2: Planning Partner Annexes](#). Chapter 8: City of Granite Falls Annex”

¹⁵ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. “[Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1](#).”

¹⁶ First Street. “https://firststreet.org/city/granite-falls-wa/5327995_fsid/fire”

¹⁷ Snohomish County Public Utility District. Accessed August 2025. “<https://www.snopud.com>”

¹⁸ Federal Emergency Management Agency. Accessed August 2025. [National Dam Safety Program](#). ”

¹⁹ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. “[Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1](#).” p. 96.

Hazard	Hazard Risk, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary	Probability of Future Occurrence
	inundation zone and severe structural damage is unlikely. However, indirect disruptions to transportation and critical services could result in Medium Impact due to potential shutdowns of access routes and emergency services for up to two weeks. The major consequence of dam failure in Granite Falls is likely temporary isolation and service disruption rather than widespread inundation.	
Volcano	Volcanic eruptions are expected within the region but could cause minimal to low impact on Granite Falls. The City is not located within near-volcanic hazard or lahar zones from the county's volcano, Glacier Peak. ²⁰ However, the entire area of Granite Falls could be uniformly impacted by settling ash. It can negatively impact air quality, which can cause health problems, especially to older residents (about 13% of Granite Falls residents are over 65). ²¹ In the event of a Glacier Peak eruption, if the SR 530 is entirely cut off, Darrington residents may need to be evacuated through the Mountain Loop Highway and through Granite Falls. Extreme ashfall could also impact the Stillaguamish River Basin through sedimentation, impacting natural resources. Volcanic eruptions could lead to minor health and natural resource impacts.	Possible - same probability as the County. Climate change may slightly increase the probability of volcanic activity through melting glaciers.
Mass Earth Movement	Mass Earth Movements pose a significant risk to Granite Falls due to the medium potential impact, exacerbated by its vulnerability to isolation and climate change. Mass earth movements are often triggered by other natural hazards, namely earthquakes. The soil type puts certain areas at increased risk of landslides, as more liquefiable soils have the potential to become landslides. ²² Granite Falls boundaries lie within the low to moderate range of liquefaction susceptibility. The southern and northwest portions of the city have moderate to high liquefaction susceptibility. There is a risk of landslides within and around Granite Falls along steep slopes and developed areas. Granite Falls is particularly vulnerable to landslides in January, as they are more likely to occur than from the water table that has risen from previous months. ²³ Additionally, Granite Falls would be at increased risk of mass earth movement in the aftermath of a wildfire from the loss of vegetation and soil stability. ²⁴ Landslides risk lives, homes, essential utilities, and critical ecosystems in Granite Falls and could further isolate the community from blocked or destroyed roads, notably the Mountain Loop Highway.	Likely - The County lists probability as "possible." However, considering Granite Falls' geographic location and that it has experienced four occurrences in the past six years, it is at a higher risk than the County level. The presence of a wildfire, heavy rains, or an earthquake increases the likelihood of mass earth movement in Granite Falls. Climate change may increase the probability of mass

²⁰ Snohomish County (2025, September). *Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft Volume 1*.

²¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0101 (Age and Sex).

²² Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. ["Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1."](#)

²³ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. ["Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1."](#)

²⁴ Ibid

Hazard	Hazard Risk, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary	Probability of Future Occurrence
		earth movement– like rock fall, slumping, and land and mud slides– due to an increase in temperature, an increase in heavy rain events, the soil's water content, and melting snowpack.
Disease Outbreak	Disease outbreaks may result in a medium impact in Granite Falls due to limited local healthcare capacity, reliance on nearby cities for advanced medical services, and frequent regional commuting patterns that may increase opportunities for disease introduction and spread. According to the American Community Survey, approximately 82% of Granite Falls workers commute by car or carpool, increasing daily exposure to regional transmission pathways and person-to-person contact. ²⁵ Granite Falls' small community structure and regular local events may further increase close-contact interactions and facilitate disease transmission. Disease outbreaks may place increased strain on local healthcare resources and emergency services and disrupt schools, childcare, local businesses, and access to essential services, particularly for vulnerable populations. The major consequence of disease outbreaks in Granite Falls is likely disruption to public health systems and community services rather than physical damage to infrastructure. ²⁶	Possible – same probability as the County. Climate change can increase the likelihood of pandemics and worsen their impact. Climate change can affect the speed of transmission and promote establishments. ²⁷ Furthermore, longer summers, milder winters, and more extreme weather events and other environmental changes are making it easier for mosquitos, ticks, animals and infectious germs to persist for longer and spread more easily. ²⁸
Hazardous Materials	Hazardous material spills have a low probability in Granite Falls but a medium potential impact. The city has several roads with shipping routes, is located near a petroleum product pipeline, and has several Tier II facilities. A spill along the Mountain Loop	Possible. The County plan lists the likelihood as “likely”, but Granite Falls has the least

²⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed April 2026. [“ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables: S0802 Means of Transportation to Work by Disability Status.”](#)

²⁶ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. [“Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1.”](#)

²⁷ Ernst, K.C., A.R. Crimmins, S. Anenberg, M.H. Hayden, B.O. Hoppe, L.J. Mickley, D.E. Peck, H.J. Tanana, and J.J. West. “Focus on COVID-19 and Climate Change.” In *Fifth National Climate Assessment*, edited by A.R. Crimmins, C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, B.C. Stewart, and T.K. Maycock. Washington, DC: U.S. Global Change Research Program. (2023).

²⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Climate and Infectious Diseases*. National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases. (March 21. 2024). <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/topics-programs/climate-infectious-disease.html>.

Hazard	Hazard Risk, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary	Probability of Future Occurrence
	Highway could be particularly disastrous, as it could impact the Stillaguamish River and other natural resources. The Pilchuck River and both the Mountain Way Elementary School and Granite Falls High School are located near SR 92, representing additional vulnerabilities. Despite low probability, the proximity of vulnerable populations and natural resources to potential spills creates elevated risk.	concentration of Tier II facilities in the County and is not located along one of the major transportation routes or rail. No incidents have been reported in Granite Falls.²⁹ Climate change increases the probability of hazardous materials leaks through events like flooding, wildfire, landslides, and extreme weather events.
Flood	Floods pose a high risk to Granite Falls due to the medium potential impact, intensified by its vulnerability to isolation and climate change. Increased precipitation may increase the likelihood of flooding as it has the potential to develop rapidly or over a long period of time.³⁰ Northern Granite Falls lies within the South Fork of the Stillaguamish watershed and the southern portion of the Snohomish watershed.³¹ A small portion in the southern end of the city is within the 100-year (1% annual chance) flood hazard.³² Most commercial zones are in low-risk areas, but residential structures in the northeast and south parts of the city are at a higher risk. A primary concern for flooding within Granite Falls lies outside city boundaries, which may risk evacuation efforts by damaging or obstructing essential utilities, roads, and highways, notably the Mountain Loop Highway. This may also cause Granite Falls to experience isolation, cutting the city off from emergency and essential services, as well as family members and jobs, particularly on Paradise Lane due to proximity to the Pilchuck and South Fork Stillaguamish Rivers. NFIB is not applicable in Granite Falls.	Likely - Same as county. Climate change has increased the probability of precipitation in the northwest of the United States, which leads to an increased risk of flooding in Granite Falls.³³ River flooding is expected to increase in Granite Falls as a result of climate change due to the combined effects of wetter winters, more intense heavy rain events, and more winter precipitation falling as rain rather

²⁹ US Department of Transportation. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Accessed April 2026. "Hazmat Incident Database."

³⁰ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. "[Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1.](#)"

³¹ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. "[Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1.](#)"

³² FEMA (n.d.). Flood Data Viewers and Geospatial Data. <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer>

³³ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. "[Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1.](#)"

Hazard	Hazard Risk, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary	Probability of Future Occurrence
		than snow. Flooding in the South Fork Stillaguamish River can impact roadways around the Granite Falls area and close Mountain Loop Highway. ³⁴ Currently, a 1-in-100-year flood event has a 26% chance of occurring at least once over a 30-year period; this likelihood will only increase due to climate-related effects. Under high greenhouse gas scenarios, the South Fork Stillaguamish River stream value is projected to change 11-12% increase over the next 30 years, while the Pilchuck River is projected to increase 5%. ³⁵
Cybersecurity Threats	Cybersecurity threats may result in a medium impact in Granite Falls due to disruptions to communication systems, emergency coordination, and utility services that residents rely on for daily activities and commuting. Cybersecurity incidents may occur with little warning and can disrupt digital networks, communication platforms, and interconnected infrastructure systems at the local or regional level. Because Granite Falls is primarily a residential community with many residents depending on regional systems and external service providers, disruptions occurring outside the city may affect access to services, transportation coordination, and emergency response. ³⁶ Cybersecurity incidents may reduce situational awareness, delay emergency communications and operations, and create cascading impacts across interconnected systems. The major consequence of cybersecurity threats in Granite Falls is likely disruption of essential services and	Possible – same probability as the County. While direct cybersecurity incidents within Granite Falls may be less frequent, the city’s reliance on regional communication, emergency coordination, and utility systems increases the likelihood of impacts

³⁴ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. “[Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1.](#)” p.138.

³⁵ Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington. *Climate Mapping for a Resilient Washington*. (2024). <https://data.cig.uw.edu/climatemapping/>.

³⁶ Ibid.

Hazard	Hazard Risk, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary	Probability of Future Occurrence
	emergency coordination rather than physical damage to infrastructure.	from disruptions occurring outside its jurisdiction.
Severe Weather Events	Severe weather events can have a medium impact on Granite Falls through flooding, destruction to critical facilities, and potential isolation. “High Winds and Rainstorms, etc., increase adverse impacts in the City due to large conifer tree canopies in areas of the City which are prone to damage from limbs, localized flooding in older neighborhoods with no stormwater conveyance systems, and older buildings which are susceptible to storm damage”. ³⁷ Residents living on Paradise Lane may be susceptible to flooding of the Pilchuck River. Residents living in the Northeast portion of the city in unincorporated areas may face an elevated risk of trees falling and road closures. The serious risk to Granite Falls is isolation if severe weather events lead to road closures from fallen trees, landslides, or flooding. Hazardous trees, discussed in the wildfire section, pose a greater risk. Flooding within the city during extreme events can occur in areas when stormwater conveyance systems become overwhelmed.	Likely - same probability as the County. Climate change increases the probability of severe weather events. Snohomish County is expected to experience more intense rainfall through 2050 and beyond, meaning more frequent and intense storms ³⁸ .
Aircraft Accident	Aircraft accidents pose a low risk to Granite Falls with low potential impact. Aircraft accidents most commonly occur close to airports, putting Granite Falls at low risk due to one privately owned airport with relatively low air traffic located outside of city limits. ³⁹ Aircraft accidents are localized events that have a small overall impact. ⁴⁰ There has been one incident of an aircraft accident near Granite Falls in 2014 with one fatality, though the risk remains low. ⁴¹	Possible - same probability as the County.

³⁷ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2015. “[Update Hazard Mitigation Plan Volume 2: Planning Partner Annexes](#). Chapter 8: City of Granite Falls Annex”.

³⁸ Snohomish County. [Community Wide Climate Resilience Plan](#)

³⁹ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. “[Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume and have a 1.](#)”

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. “[Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1.](#)”

Hazard	Hazard Risk, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary	Probability of Future Occurrence
Extreme Heat & Drought	The entire area is at risk. However, areas with a higher concentration of concrete and less vegetation (urban heat islands) experience higher temperatures on hot days. Extreme heat and drought may result in a medium impact in Granite Falls due to increased temperatures, prolonged heat events, and strain on healthcare, water systems, and essential services. During prolonged heat events and drought periods, Granite Falls may face challenges in responding due to its limited local healthcare capacity and reliance on nearby cities such as Everett for medical services.⁴² Increased demand for care may exceed local capacity and delay access to treatment. In addition, drought conditions and higher temperatures may place added stress on local water systems and regional infrastructure, increasing vulnerability during extended heat and drought periods. The major consequence of extreme heat and drought in Granite Falls is likely strain on healthcare systems, water supply, and essential community services.	Likely – same probability as the County. Increasing temperatures and longer heat events are expected to occur more frequently, increasing the likelihood of impacts in Granite Falls. Climate Change increases the probability of extreme heat and drought. For Snohomish County, there are predicted to be 8 to 20 more days of extreme heat events every year⁴³.
Active Assailant	Short, localized attacks are possible in populated areas of the city and could have a low impact. There is an elevated risk in open spaces, schools, and large gathering events. Granite Falls hosts weekly summer farmer’s markets and annual events, such as the Railroad Days, Show n’ Shine Car Show, and a Halloween block party. While several homicides have occurred in the past 10 years, no active assailant incidents have been documented in Granite Falls.⁴⁴ Granite Falls’ overall risk is low due to the city’s low population.	Possible. The county plan lists the probability as “likely”. However, Granite Falls has a considerably smaller population than other cities in the county, such as Everett (over 110k) or Marysville (70k), so an active assailant event is less likely.

⁴² Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2015. “[Update Hazard Mitigation Plan Volume 2: Planning Partner Annexes](#). Chapter 8: City of Granite Falls Annex”.

⁴³ Snohomish County. [Community Wide Climate Resilience Plan](#)

⁴⁴ Snohomish County Archives. Access April 10, 2026. “[Archive Center • Sheriff Press Releases](#)”.

Table 8.3 is an assessment of the exposure of critical infrastructures and facilities within the county, organized by the 16 critical infrastructure sectors designated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).⁴⁵ Data is collected by voluntary submission from partner agencies and may not be accurately tracked or mapped. As such, some data may be incomplete. Risk summaries were based on the locations of the known facilities in the database.

Table 8.3 Granite Falls Assets at Risk

Critical Infrastructure Sector	Number of Structures	Hazard Risks Summary
Chemical	0	Primary – N/A; No facilities present. Secondary – Potential chemical exposure from transportation incidents regarding hazardous materials; Air or water contamination from adjacent jurisdictions
Commercial Facilities	Entertainment: 0 Gaming: 0 Lodging: 0 Outdoor events: 9 Public Assembly: 0 Real Estate: 4 Retail: 1 Sports Leagues: 0	Outdoor events: Primary – Wildfire, Flooding, Earthquake, or Severe Weather damage to event grounds or parks; Structural damage to temporary setups or park equipment Secondary – Event cancellations; Economic loss to local vendors; Emergency response strain during large gatherings Real Estate: Primary – Wildfire, Flooding, Earthquake, or Severe Weather structural damage to buildings or stored goods; Utility system damage Secondary – Displacement of residents; Insurance or financial impact; Housing strain Retail: Primary – Earthquake or Severe Weather structural damage to storefronts; inventory loss Secondary – Business interruption; Job loss; Overall reduced local economic activity
Communication	10; Full coverage fixed, hybrid broadband.	Primary – Wildfire, Flooding, Earthquake, or Severe Weather structural damage to cell towers, antennas, or fiber optic cables; Exposure of underground fiber optic cables Secondary – Loss of cell service/communication outages; Interrupted 911 dispatch; Internet outages; Remote work disruption and reduced access to remote services; isolation.
Critical Manufacturing	4	Primary – Earthquake or Severe Weather damage to equipment and structures/power loss

⁴⁵ Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency. Accessed September 2025. “[Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#).”

Critical Infrastructure Sector	Number of Structures	Hazard Risks Summary
		Secondary – Interruption of specialized repair/manufacturing services; Economic impacts to local industrial workforce
Dams	0	Primary – N/A; No facilities present. Secondary – Downstream flooding impacting transportation, utilities, emergency response, structural health, and local economy.
Defense Industrial Base	0	Primary – N/A; No facilities present. Secondary –
Emergency Services	3	Primary – Earthquake or Severe Weather damage to equipment and structures/power loss Secondary – Delayed emergency response; Reduced operational capacity; Slower recovery overall for local community
Energy	6; Electrical transmission lines; Gas distribution lines	Primary – Landslides, Flooding, Earthquakes, Wildfires, and Severe Weather damage to distribution lines and critical Energy buildings Secondary – Prolonged power outages; Gas service/fuel supply disruption; Ripple effect in other sectors; Increased reliance on backup generators; Blockage preventing repair crews from accessing Energy components; Economic loss; Prolonged recovery
Financial Services	2	Primary – Earthquake or Severe Weather damage to physical structure Secondary – Disruption of banking and payment systems; Delays in insurance and disaster recovery funding; Cybersecurity vulnerabilities during disruptions
Food and Agriculture	15	Primary – Earthquake, Wildfire, Severe Weather damage to structure or food supplies Secondary – Inventory shortages and food distribution disruption; Economic loss; Limited food access; Spoiled food causing disease outbreak
Government Services and Facilities	12	Primary – Earthquake, Wildfire, Severe Weather damage to physical structure; Active Assailant threats to student or staff safety Secondary – Delayed student development; incident-related trauma; closure and disruption of government operations; Loss of personal/governmental records; Delays in emergency response/coordination
Healthcare and Public Health	6	Primary – Earthquake and Severe Weather damage to structure or equipment Secondary – Limited access to care; Increased strain on nearby health facilities; Workforce

Critical Infrastructure Sector	Number of Structures	Hazard Risks Summary
		displacement; Disruption of routine medical services
Information Technology	0	Primary – N/A; No facilities present. Secondary – Multiple sectors affected simultaneously; Disruptions in city administrative services, healthcare, education, supply chain, etc.
Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste	0	Primary – N/A; No facilities present. Secondary – Minimal exposure to impacts from regional nuclear accidents; Precautionary public health measures, such as shelter in place, may be needed
Transportation Systems	28	Primary – Flooding, Earthquake, Severe Weather, and ashfall from volcanic event damage to road infrastructure, bus stops, or post office; Landslide-produced blockages on roads Secondary – Delays in evacuation; Delays in emergency response and recovery; Isolation; Economic disruption; Delivery service disruption; Multiple sectors affected simultaneously
Water and Wastewater Systems	2,631	Primary – Severe Weather and precipitation damage to stormwater infrastructure; Earthquake, Liquefaction, and Flooding damage to the overall water system. Secondary – Public health crises; Water contamination; Ecological damage; Strain on city budget due to costly repairs

8.4 Plan Update Process

This section includes Granite Falls planning team, subject matter experts, the plan update timeline, and public outreach. The Granite Falls update process included engagement of Granite Falls staff, partner agencies, and the public. The process began with attending Snohomish County lead mitigation planning meetings. A Granite Falls planning team was identified and met to review inputs, outreach, and deliverables. Team members worked within their respective programs to develop content and perform outreach throughout the planning process. UW's Livable City Year was hired to develop this Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). UW graduate students in the Master of Urban Planning program were selected to complete this task. This started with creating an Initial Conditions Report from January to March which helped determine the priorities, goals, and needs of the city when it came to hazard mitigation. Once this was completed in late March, students moved to develop the HMP to include two public outreach activities (see table 8.6) and multiple meetings in coordination with Granite

Falls and Snohomish County. The final report was brought before Granite Falls City Council on June 3rd, 2026.

Table 8.4 shows the Granite Falls' internal planning team for developing this Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Table 8.4 Granite Falls Planning Team

Name	Title	Organization	Contribution
Brent Kirk	Deputy City Manager	City of Granite Falls	Coordinated visits, reviewed drafts, and provided information.
Amy Hess	Planning Director	City of Granite Falls	Coordinated visits, reviewed drafts, and provided information.
Charles White	Public Works Director	City of Granite Falls	Conducted Site Visits, reviewed drafts, provided information

Subject Matter Experts

Granite Falls has benefited through the years from partnerships and collaboration in all phases of emergency management (prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery). The following discipline partners provided subject matter expertise throughout this mitigation planning effort:

- Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management
- Snohomish County Fire Chiefs Association
- Snohomish County Emergency Management Coordination Committee & subcommittees
- Snohomish County Departments (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Health Department, Human Services, Planning and Development Services, Public Works, Office of Energy and Sustainability)
- Washington State departments (Emergency Management Division, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Ecology, Washington Geological Survey, Department of Transportation)
- Federal agencies (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS), United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Forest Service)

Table 8.5 details the major milestones and meeting dates in the Granite Falls plan update timeline. The local planning started in 2025.

Table 8.5 Granite Falls Plan Update Timeline

Date	Planning Activity	Summary	Attendees
3/26/2025	HIRA Survey Kick-Off	Email was sent out with the full HIRA survey to all planning members with invites to eight office hour meetings with the Project Team for any questions.	All Public Planning Committee Members
4/10/2025	Annex Partner Planning Team	Kick-off meeting for annex planning partners. Gave planning partners an overview of the HMP planning process and explained the update methodology and update timeline. Reviewed their initial HIRA survey results.	Project Team, Annex Planning Partners
5/8/2025	Annex Partner Planning Team	Discussed all Goals and Objectives and proposed updates.	Project Team, Annex Planning Partners
6/12/2025	Annex Partner Planning Team	Finalized suggested changes for the updated draft Goals and Objectives. Discussed the updated hazards and held a workshop to identify potential impacts and cascading impacts for each hazard.	Project Team, Annex Planning Partners
7/10/2025	Annex Partner Planning Team	Reviewed the methodology used to collect updated Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources data. Discussed how the County would be integrating hazard mitigation planning with the Capital Improvement Plan. Reviewed and approved the questions for the Public Survey.	Project Team, Annex Planning Partners
8/11/2025	Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) Update Tool Kick-Off Email	Email was sent out with instructions on how to update CIKR information. Partners had two options: update the information manually using the tool (for partners without GIS capabilities) or submit the data to the Project Team.	Project Team, Annex Planning Partners
9/11/2025	Annex Partner Planning Team	Discussed countywide mitigation strategies and approved the strategies. Reviewed the timeline for completing the Base Plan.	Project Team, Annex Planning Partners
10/9/2025	Annex Partner Planning Team	Review and discuss any partner comments for the draft plan. Discuss the timeline and process for annex development.	Project Team, Annex Planning Partners
11/13/2025	Annex Partner Planning Team	Reviewed any public comments that were submitted during the public comment period and how	Project Team, Annex Planning Partners

		they were integrated into the plan. Approve the final draft of the base plan.	
Fall 2025	Third-party consultant hired (UW's Livable City Year)	UW's Livable City Year coordinated with Snohomish County and the City of Granite Falls to be a consultant and develop the Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan by July 2026	Snohomish County, City of Granite Falls, UW's Livable City Year
01/07/2026	City of Granite Falls presented the HMP goals and requirements	The city of Granite Falls had a Zoom call with the UW students and instructors tasked with developing the Hazard Mitigation Plan.	City of Granite Falls (Deputy City Manager and Planning Director), UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators
01/16/2026	Site visit throughout the City of Granite Falls	The city of Granite Falls conducted a tour of the city with UW students and instructors. This visit included traveling to the wastewater treatment plant, lift stations, Bridge 102, wells near the library, and city hall.	City of Granite Falls (Deputy City Manager, Planning Director, and Public Works Director), UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators
03/11/2026	Presentation of the Initial Condition Report (ICR) at the city council meeting	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators presented the ICR to Granite Falls' City Council, which conducted a comprehensive review of the City of Granite Falls and the surrounding areas in preparation for developing the HMP.	Granite Falls City Council and City officials, local residents at the meeting, and UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators
05/06/2026	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators presented the Risk Summary	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators presented the Risk Summary portion of the HMP (over Zoom) to the City of Granite Falls and Snohomish County representatives, and they provided feedback.	Snohomish County Resilience and Mitigation Program Analyst, City of Granite Falls (Deputy City Manager, Planning Director), UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators
05/17/2026	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators set up a booth/table for community feedback at the Sky Valley 29 th Annual motorcycle show in Granite Falls	This was a table set up outside during the event, open to anyone. Attendees (city residents) were asked to help identify high-risk areas, which hazards are of greatest concern, and what mitigation strategies should be prioritized. QR	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators and local residents

		codes for the online survey were also distributed.	
06/03/2026	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators presented the final draft of HMP at the city council meeting	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators presented the HMP to Granite Falls' City Council.	Snohomish County Resilience and Mitigation Program Analyst, Granite Falls City Council and City officials, local residents at the meeting, and UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators
06/10/2026	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators delivered the completed HMP to Granite Falls	UW's Master of Urban Planning collaborators delivered the HMP to Granite Falls.	Submitted to Deputy City Manager and Planning Director

Public Outreach

Table 8.6 shows the public outreach efforts for Granite Falls. An online survey with 7 questions was released through the City of Granite Falls website and city alert text feature. The public survey asked respondents which hazards are perceived to pose the greatest risk, gauge concern about isolation and preparedness levels, and identify which mitigation strategies should be prioritized. In-person engagement took place at the Sky Valley 29th Annual Motorcycle Show on May 17, 2026. This event was held in downtown Granite Falls. Attendees were asked to help identify high-risk areas, which hazards are of greatest concern, and what mitigation strategies should be prioritized. QR codes for the online survey were also distributed.

Survey Results

Of 37 responses, the online survey showed the top three concerns among Granite Falls residents to be wildfire (29 votes), severe weather (18 votes), and earthquake (15 votes) (See Figure 1). The survey also identified that community members worry about not being able to evacuate (24 votes) and having access to food and water (22 votes) in the event of a hazard. To inform mitigation strategy development, the survey also asked which categories of strategies the community would prefer. Provide more community education and support" (25 votes) and "fix or improve roads, buildings, or other public spaces" (23 votes) were the most popular (See Figure 2).

In-Person Event Results

At the Sky Valley 29th Annual Motorcycle Show in downtown Granite Falls, members of the HMP drafting team spoke with residents about their concerns about hazards and

what they believe the city can do to mitigate risk. A large map of the city and a poster board with survey questions 2 and 6 (See Figures 1 & 2 and Appendix 1) were provided to facilitate conversation and attract residents to the table. Residents frequently expressed concerns about earthquakes, wildfires, and landslides, often referencing the 2014 Oso landslide. Many identified replacing Bridge 102 as a top priority.

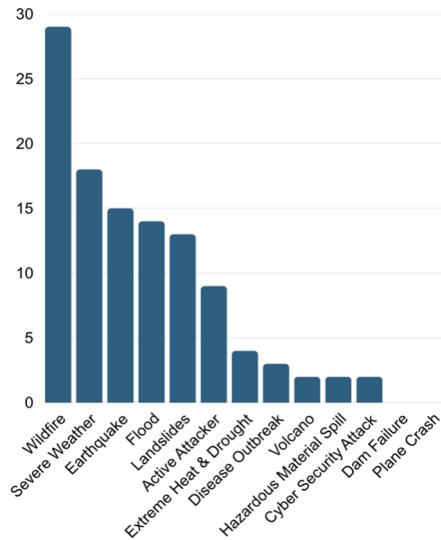


Figure 1. Results of survey question 2: Which three hazard events do you think are the biggest threats to Granite Falls?

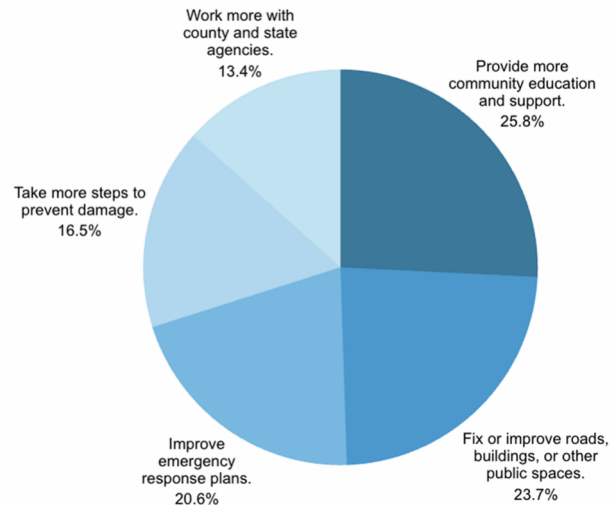


Figure 2. Results of survey question 6: What do you think the City of Granite Falls could do to help with hazards?

Overall, wildfires and earthquakes were identified as major concerns in both the in-person event and the online survey. The community also expressed a desire to fix roads and bridges, and to improve access to community education through both public outreach formats. This input ultimately informed the selection of the plan's mitigation strategies. It is also recommended that Granite Falls continue its engagement with the community on this topic, particularly to fulfill residents' desire to learn more about how hazards might affect them and how they may best prepare (See Hazard Mitigation Strategies GF-05 through GF-08).

Table 8.6 Granite Falls Public Outreach

Date	Event/Activity	Summary	Attendees
May – September 2025	HMP Public Survey	The public survey asked respondents to help identify hazards in the community and what activities and projects should be prioritized	133 responses

October 1-31, 2025	HMP Public Comment Period	Community members were provided with the draft HMP from October 1 st to October 31 st , 2025, on the county's website and informed of the availability of the plan through the DEM newsletter which was sent to over 14,000 subscribers, and announcements on DEM's social media accounts	6 responses
April 14 – May 20, 2026	HMP Public Survey	The public survey asked respondents which hazards are perceived to have the greatest risk, gauge concern about isolation and preparedness levels, and what mitigation strategies should be prioritized. The survey was released through the City of Granite Falls website.	37 responses
May 17, 2026	HMP Public Outreach Event– Sky Valley 29 th Annual Motorcycle Show	This event was held in downtown Granite Falls. Attendees were asked to help identify high-risk areas, which hazards are of greatest concern, and what mitigation strategies should be prioritized. QR codes for the online survey were given out as well.	Approximately 30 participants

8.5 Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Program

Hazard mitigation strategies were developed through a two-step process. Granite Falls developed, with an internal planning team and UW graduate students, a comprehensive range of mitigation strategies. These strategies were then prioritized and documented.

Hazard Mitigation Authorities, Responsibilities, and Capabilities

Planning and regulatory capabilities include the plans, policies, codes, and ordinances that mitigate the impacts of hazards. Table 8.7 outlines Granite Falls' planning and regulatory capabilities.

Table 8.7 Granite Falls Plans, Programs, Policies, and Processes

Name	Responsible Agency	Relationship to Hazard Mitigation Plan
City of Granite Falls Comprehensive Plan 2044 (2024)	Planning and Development Services	Provides the framework for the long-range vision of the City, used to verify mitigation projects fit into the holistic approach to growth, development, sustainment, and the community.

Comprehensive Water System Plan (2023)	Public Works	Provides a planning strategy for the City's utilities over 10-year and 20-year planning periods.
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)	City Manager	Provides the framework for the actions of the county and the city in the event of an emergency in Granite Falls. Establishes an all-hazards approach to enhance the City of Granite Falls' ability to manage emergencies and disasters.
Comprehensive Wastewater Facility Plan (2016)	Public Works	This Plan focuses on three primary areas, including: (1) The Westside (Burn Road); (2) Mountain Loop Highway; and (3) the Southeast portion of the City's Urban Growth Area (UGA).
Stormwater Management Action Plan (2025 draft)	Public Works	This plan describes how the stormwater system is managed throughout the city.
Six-year Transportation Improvement Plan (2026)	Public Works	This document tracks the transportation projects planned for the next 6 years, which may affect egress and ingress during a hazard event.
Municipal Codes	Planning and Development Services	Manages the city's codes that affect daily activities, which can inform actions to mitigate risks.
Land Use Planning and Zoning	Planning and Development Services	Manages and approves the city's overall land use and zoning.
Annual Budget	Finance Director	Plans and manages the funding that supports the mitigation strategy funding.

Administrative and technical capabilities include staff and their skills and resources that may be leveraged for mitigation planning and implementation. Table 8.8 shows the Administrative and technical capabilities for Granite Falls.

Table 8.8 Administrative and Technical Capabilities for Hazard Mitigation

Name/Title	Point of Contact	Responsibility
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Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)	Emergency Management Coordinator (City Manager)	Prepare, maintain, and update the Granite Falls Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
GIS	Granite Falls Public Works Director	Manage online map/GIS data portal
Grant Writing/Management	Planning Director, City Manager	Prepare and submit grant applications Manage grant funds in accordance with applicable requirements

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Table 8.9 discusses the status of the National Flood Insurance Program for Granite Falls.

Table 8.9: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Compliance

NFIP Criteria	Description
What department is responsible for floodplain management in your community?	Community Development
Who is your community's floodplain administrator? (title/position)	Community Development Director
What is the date of adoption of your flood damage prevention ordinance?	April 21, 2010
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit or Community Assistance Contact?	
Does your community have any outstanding NFIP compliance violations that need to be addressed? If so, please state what they are?	No
Do your flood hazard maps adequately address the flood risk within your community? If so, please state why.	Yes, flood maps encompass areas at risk of flooding.
Does your floodplain management staff need any assistance or training to support its floodplain management program? If so, what type of training/assistance is needed?	Possibly, regular trainings or updates on the program could prove useful.
Does your community participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)? If so, what is your CRS Classification and are you seeing to improve your rating? If not, is your community interested in joining CRS?	No
How many Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Repetitive Loss (RL) properties are located in your jurisdiction?	SRL: 0 RL: 0
Has your community ever conducted an elevation or buy out of a flood-prone	No, the City is not interested in buying out flood prone properties.

NFIP Criteria	Description
property? If so, what fund source did you use? If not, are you interested in pursuing buyouts of flood prone properties?	

Plan Monitoring, Implementation, and Future Updates

Snohomish County leads the mitigation plan monitoring and update process and schedules the annual plan check-ins. Updates on mitigation projects are solicited by the county for inclusion in the countywide Annual Progress Report. As part of participating in the 2025 update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, every jurisdiction agrees to attend an annual meeting of the Public Planning Committee to review their progress on hazard mitigation strategies and to update the plan based on new data or recent disasters.

As part of leading a countywide planning effort, the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) will distribute to planning partners any federal notices of funding opportunity for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program. Proposals from partners will be assessed according to the prioritization process identified in this plan, and the county will, where possible, support those partners submitting grant proposals. This will be a key strategy to implement the plan.

The next plan update is expected in 2030. All jurisdictions will submit letters of intent by 2028, at least two years prior to plan expiration. The county will lead the next countywide planning effort, beginning at least 18 months before the expiration of the 2025 plan.

Continued Public Participation

Snohomish County and its partner cities already maintain substantial public outreach capabilities, focusing on personal preparedness and education. Information on ongoing progress in implementing the hazard mitigation plan will be integrated into public outreach efforts. This will provide Snohomish County residents, already engaged in personal preparedness efforts, with context and the opportunity to provide feedback on the county's progress and priorities in large-scale mitigation. In the vertical integration of risk-reduction activities from personal to local to state and federal, it is important that the public understand how its activities support, and are supported by, larger-scale efforts.

8.6 Hazard Mitigation Strategies

Due to Granite Falls' isolated geographic location and reliance on essential services from cities such as Everett, it is defined as a 'population island', "where mobility outside

of the immediate area may be significantly limited, or impossible”⁴⁶. This isolation places Granite Falls at heightened risk of being cut off from emergency services and water supply during a hazard event, with direct consequences for residents' essential needs and access to medical care. The 12 strategies outlined in this section were developed using FEMA's *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* and aim to address vulnerabilities stemming from this isolation and mitigate the impacts of the 13 identified hazards.

Table 8.10 Summarizes the status of the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Strategies for Granite Falls. The most recent Hazard Mitigation Strategy for Granite Falls was in 2015 as an Annex to the Snohomish County HMP. Below are strategies listed in the 2015 plan, updated with their current status as of the development of this updated HMP.

Table 8.10: 2015 Hazard Mitigation Strategies Status

ID	Description	Priority	Status
GF-1	Determine structural vulnerability of older structures on NEHRP D and E soils and seismic retrofit.	Medium	Removed
GF-2	Replace or retrofit vulnerable critical utility infrastructure.	Medium	Ongoing
GF-3	Educate the public on vegetation management practices to reduce risk to homes.	High	Ongoing
GF-4	Maintain and clear storm drains and culverts.	High	Ongoing
GF-5	Promote open space uses in identified high-hazard areas by use of setbacks, greenways, and environmentally sensitive areas.	High	Ongoing
GF-6	Promote non-structural seismic retrofitting for residential structures on NEHRP D and E soils.	Medium	Removed
GF-7	Educate the public on fire prevention and policy by: a) restricting hazardous activities during high-risk times, b) encouraging residents to store water on-site and clear defensible space along structures, and c) manage fuel loads through controlled burns or harvesting.	High	Ongoing
GF-8	Support all countywide initiatives related to Hazard Mitigation.	High	Ongoing
GF-9	Continue to maintain compliance and good standing under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	High	Removed
GF-10	Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase, or relocation of structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as a priority when applicable.	Medium	Removed
GF-11	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in the SCHMP.	High	Ongoing
GF-12	Integrate, where appropriate, risk assessment information	High	Ongoing

⁴⁶ Snohomish County Emergency Management. 2026. “Draft 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Volume 1.”

	from the Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan into other planning mechanisms available to the City, such as the Capital Improvements program, the Comprehensive planning process, and Shorelines Master planning.		
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Table 8.11 This table summarizes the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Strategies. FEMA's *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* provides the framework for the four mitigation action types: Local Plans & Regulations, Structure & Infrastructure Projects, Natural Systems Protection & Nature-Based Solutions, and Education & Awareness Programs. The table is organized by priority, which is calculated using the Mitigation Action Prioritization Matrix in Appendix D of the Snohomish County HMP.

Table 8.11: 2026 Hazard Mitigation Strategies

ID	Description	Lead Agency	Priority
GF-01	Develop a list of buildings/ areas to prioritize in the case of a disastrous event.	Public Works	High Benefit
GF-02	Avoid the damage to roads and transportation routes during hazardous events by continuing to support the 2044 Comprehensive Plan, Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.	Public Works	High Benefit
GF-03	Consider alternative energy sources for future municipal development to decrease dependence on outside sources in the event of energy disruption or city isolation.	Planning and Community Development	High Benefit
GF-04	Incorporate emergency-response functions into the planned Granite Falls Community Center. The facility could serve as a community gathering space during normal conditions while also functioning as an emergency shelter, a clean-air and cooling center, a supply distribution site, and a preparedness education center during disasters.	Planning and Community Development	High Benefit
GF-05	Build on existing mutual aid networks to increase hazard awareness among	Public Works	High Benefit

	residents and protect those living in vulnerable areas.		
GF-06	Expand and formalize hazard alert systems to reach all residents	Granite Falls City Admin w/ Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management	High Benefit
GF-07	Initiate planning towards potable water supply development	Public Works	Medium Benefit
GF-08	Develop and hold community workshops about emergency preparedness	Planning and Community Development	Medium benefit
GF-09	Develop sustainability and resilience standards that codify hazard mitigation into planning documents.	Planning and Community Development	Medium Benefit
GF-10	Remove/trim unhealthy and hazardous trees to reduce wildfire risk and damage from severe weather.	Public Works	Medium Benefit
GF-11	Reduce damage during flooding and severe weather by increasing urban greening infrastructure, including bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable surfaces.	Public Works	Low Benefit
GF-12	Reduce the effect of mass earth movement and flooding by providing greater protection for natural features in the Stormwater Management Program	Public Works	Low Benefit

GF-01 Priority Facilities List

Understand resource prioritization during the response and recovery phases after hazard events by developing a list of public (and private) buildings that support key infrastructure systems, day-to-day operations, and important breakpoints most at risk of earthquake (shaking), wildfire (air filtration and susceptibility), severe weather, mass earth movement, and flooding. Considerations of frequency, severity, and impact should

be included in the prioritization process. By anticipating potential needs and providing an agreed-upon list of areas/buildings that need implementation of mitigation strategies and strengthened redundancy, Granite Falls can better determine where and how to prioritize resources after future hazard impacts.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept): Public Works Department	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency) <i>Who else outside your jurisdiction benefits from the strategy or will help implement the strategy?</i> Emergency Response, Snohomish County PUD	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported: Earthquakes, wildfires, severe weather, mass earth movement, and flooding	Funding Sources: Grants and General Fund Revenue and Estimated Costs: \$40,000
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i> Prioritize resources during the response and recovery phases after hazard events by developing a list of public (and private) buildings that support key infrastructure systems, day-to-day operations, and important breakpoints most at risk of earthquake (shaking), wildfire (air filtration and susceptibility), severe weather, mass earth movement, and flooding.			
Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i> Administratively, Granite Falls will utilize institutional knowledge, emergency response personnel, utilities staff, and other technical experts to inform resource allocation prioritization for rebuilding and strengthening systems . Considerations for frequency, severity, and impact of hazard events should be included in the development of the prioritization. By anticipating potential resource needs based on an agreed-upon list of areas/buildings that provide essential services and would benefit from protection and rebuilding, Granite Falls can better determine where and how to prioritize resources after future hazard impacts.			

2-Year Objectives	5-Year Objectives	Long-Term Objectives
Work with agency staff, emergency response personnel, and others as necessary to understand high-impact areas of Granite Falls and their risk of susceptibility to high probability hazards.	Develop response and recovery strategies that reflect the developed list of prioritizations.	Maintain and update the prioritization list as infrastructure is changed or added, and as community needs change.
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> 1. Determine which city, county, and local representatives are best included in the process. Granite Falls Public Utilities Department, emergency response service staff, and Snohomish County Public Utilities Department staff, as well as personnel with a strong understanding of hazardous events and their impacts on Granite Falls, are recommended. 2. Evaluate and determine the prioritization list 3. Receive consensus among stakeholders on the prioritization response list 4. As needed, develop mitigation and implementation strategies in anticipation of future hazard events. 5. Update and maintain the list periodically as infrastructure is changed/increased or community and City needs are altered		
Performance Measures Prioritization list developed and agreed upon among stakeholders.		

Mitigation Action Benefit Cost-Review Matrix

1	Low cost	5
2	Addresses high-risk hazards - Earthquakes, wildfires, severe weather, mass earth movement, flooding	5
3	Supports 4+ goals: GF comp plan LU-1.5, LU-12.2, LU-12.6, CF-5.1, NE-5.2	5
4	Will produce significant and lasting public safety benefits for residents, businesses, and property.	5
5	Action will produce a benefit to underserved communities that are socially vulnerable - the target demographic is not explicitly stated, but will benefit	3
6	Strongly accounts for changes in development - increases infrastructure needs and growth affects priority areas	5
7	Accounts for the effect of climate change - Wildfire, severe weather, mass earth movement, and flooding	5

8	Action addresses hazard risks for the entire affected area of the community	5
	TOTAL:	38

GF-02 Transportation Resilience Improvements

To reduce transportation disruption during hazardous events, Granite Falls should continue prioritizing roadway maintenance and transportation improvement projects that support emergency access throughout the city. Using the 2044 Comprehensive Plan and the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan, the city should identify the transportation routes most vulnerable to flooding, severe weather, wildfire, mass earth movement, and earthquakes. As funding becomes available through Street CIF funds or grants, Granite Falls can complete transportation improvement projects alongside regular roadway maintenance to strengthen long-term transportation resilience and emergency access.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency)	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives	Funding Sources: Grant Funding & City Streets Fund Revenue Estimated Costs: \$25,000 to develop priority plan See TIP for project costs Street CIF High
Public Works Department	Snohomish County Public Works Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Flooding Severe Weather Earthquake Mass earth movement Supports transportation, evacuation, and infrastructure resilience	
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i> Create a plan to maintain roads in order to ensure safe, reliable, and resilient transportation access throughout Granite Falls during hazardous events to support daily community activities, emergency response, evacuation, and overall community connectivity.			

Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i> To reduce transportation disruption during hazardous events, Granite Falls should continue prioritizing roadway maintenance and transportation improvement projects that support emergency access throughout the city. Using the 2044 Comprehensive Plan and Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan, the city should identify transportation routes that are most vulnerable to flooding, severe weather, wildfire, mass earth movement and earthquake. As funding becomes available through Street CIF funds or grants, Granite Falls can complete transportation improvement projects alongside regular roadway maintenance to strengthen long-term transportation resilience and emergency access.		
2-Year Objectives -Continue to support the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program by identifying transportation routes vulnerable to earthquakes, flooding, severe weather, wildfires, and mass earth movement -Prioritize critical routes for emergency access and evacuation - Pursue Street CIF funding and grant opportunities for transportation mitigation projects	5-Year Objectives -Complete priority roadway maintenance and transportation improvement projects -Continue tracking transportation infrastructure projects and funding opportunities related to emergency access and hazard mitigation	Long-Term Objectives Maintain a resilient and reliable transportation network that supports daily activities, emergency response, and evacuation during hazardous events.
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> Granite Falls Public Works should review transportation routes vulnerable to flooding, severe weather, erosion, and wildfire impacts. Priority roadway segments important for evacuation and emergency response should be identified and compared with projects currently included in the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Where gaps are identified, additional roadway maintenance or transportation improvement projects may be considered as funding becomes available through Street CIF funds or grants. Transportation improvement projects can be completed alongside regular roadway maintenance and infrastructure upgrades over time.		

Performance Measures	
•	Number of roadway segments prioritized for evacuation and emergency response
•	Amount of funding secured for roadway maintenance and transportation mitigation projects
•	Number of completed roadway maintenance and transportation improvement projects
•	Reduced transportation disruption during hazardous events

Mitigation Action Benefit Cost-Review Matrix

1	High cost	1
2	Addresses high-risk hazards	5
3	Supports transportation maintenance, roadway safety, emergency access, and hazard mitigation goals in the 2044 Comprehensive Plan (T-1, T-1.2, T-14.5, T-15.8)	5
4	significant and lasting public safety benefits for residents, businesses, and property	5
5	Action will benefit all residents	3
6	Strongly accounts for changes in development by incorporating hazard mitigation needs into future transportation planning and infrastructure improvement priorities	5
7	Accounts for effects of climate change – severe weather, flooding, erosion, and wildfire may disrupt transportation access and emergency response routes more frequently.	5
8	Action addresses hazard risks for the entire affected area of the community	5
	TOTAL:	34

GF-03 Alternative Energy Development

For the future development of new or repurposed municipal buildings, integrating alternative energy sources such as solar panels or battery storage would increase the city's resilience during hazard events. Since the city receives its energy from Snohomish County PUD, having alternative energy sources would ensure access during emergencies. Granite Falls is at risk of isolation due to several hazard events. Diversifying energy sources would provide electricity for the future municipal buildings, which could be repurposed during emergencies.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency) <i>Who else outside your jurisdiction benefits from the strategy or will help implement the strategy?</i>	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources: Grant Funding and General Fund Revenue Estimated Costs:
Granite Falls Community Development	Granite Falls Public Works Snohomish County PUD	Reduces energy dependence on outside sources	

		in the event of islanding during a climate hazard like flooding, landslide, earthquake, extreme weather events, dam failure, extreme heat, and wildfire.	\$400,000 Capital Cost Washington State Department of Commerce has a Clean Energy Grant Program that can be applied for.
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i> Consider alternative energy sources to be added to municipal buildings to decrease dependence on outside sources in the event of energy disruption or city isolation.			
Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i> Granite Falls is at risk of isolation during several hazards, with the most prominent being flooding, landslides, earthquakes, and extreme weather events. Isolation events might involve a major utility failure, such as a city-wide power outage. To prepare for this possibility, the Community Development and Public Works Departments will partner to consider integrating alternative energy sources into municipal buildings. Small-scale alternative energy sources like solar panels and battery storage would be feasible changes to add to city-owned buildings. The initial price of these energy improvements would be high, but there are grant programs that the city could apply for. Specifically, the Washington State Department of Commerce has a Clean Energy Grant Program that the city could apply for to assist in the completion of these upgrades. Transitioning city-owned buildings to include renewable energy sources would save the city money in the long run, support the city's environmental goals, and create energy-independent assets that can be utilized by the community during emergency events.			

2-Year Objectives Identify a municipal building to upgrade with an alternative energy source. Create an integration plan for the municipal building and use that plan to apply for a clean energy grant.	5-Year Objectives Have completed upgrading a municipal building to include an alternative energy source. Begin creating a plan to upgrade another municipal building.	Long-Term Objectives Build energy independence by diversifying energy sources.
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> • The Granite Falls Community Development and Public Works Departments will team up to consider integrating alternative energy sources into municipal buildings around the city. • Identify a city-owned building that could be most resourceful during a city-wide power outage. • Create an integration plan for installing alternative energy sources into the building. • Apply for a WA Department of Commerce clean energy grant. • Use money to implement the building improvement. • Include this building in the city's emergency management plan as a possible resource during emergencies.		
Performance Measures • The number of alternative energy sources integrated throughout the city. • Measure the amount of energy independently generated by the city. • Emergency management plan updated to include alternative energy sources during emergencies.		

Mitigation Action Benefit Cost-Review Matrix

1	Low cost	1
2	Addresses high-risk hazards - Earthquakes, wildfires, severe weather, mass earth movement, flooding	5
3	Supports 9 goals from Granite Falls Comprehensive Plan: LU-12.1, LU-12.3, LU-12.4, LU-12.6, T-11, CF-5.1, U-1.2, NE-1.3, NE-5.1	5
4	Will produce significant and lasting public safety benefits for residents, businesses, and property.	5
5	Action will produce a benefit to underserved communities that are socially vulnerable - the target demographic is not explicitly stated, but will benefit	5
6	Strongly accounts for changes in development - increases infrastructure	3

	needs and growth affects priority areas	
7	Accounts for the effect of climate change - Wildfire, severe weather, mass earth movement, flooding	5
8	Action addresses hazard risks for the entire affected area of the community	5
	TOTAL:	34

GF-04 Community Center Programs

Granite Falls will develop resilience programs and emergency functions within the planned Community Center to strengthen the city's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazard events such as wildfire, extreme heat, earthquakes, severe winter storms, and periods of isolation. The Community Center will serve as a resilience hub by providing emergency shelter, clean-air and cooling spaces, backup power, emergency supplies, and access to information and services during disasters. The Community Center will also provide preparedness workshops, emergency training, and outreach programs focused on local hazards, evacuation planning, and emergency response. Hazard preparedness information can be shared through community events, schools, libraries, and local organizations to improve awareness and participation. By integrating resilience programs into the community center's operations, Granite Falls will improve coordination during disasters and reduce long-term community vulnerability and isolation.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency) <i>Who else outside your jurisdiction benefits from the strategy or will help implement the strategy?</i>	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources and Estimated Costs
GF Planning Dept. & City Manager's Office, Emergency Management	Snohomish County Emergency Management, local healthcare providers, community organizations, WA Emergency Management Division	Wildfire, smoke events, extreme heat, severe winter storms, earthquakes, and isolation during emergencies	\$500,000 FEMA grants, state resilience grants, general fund, public-private partnerships, community development grants
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i> Develop a community resilience hub within the planned community center that supports emergency preparedness, strengthens social cohesion, and improves access to essential resources before, during, and after hazard events.			

Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i> Incorporate emergency-response functions into the planned Granite Falls Community Center. The facility could serve as a community gathering space during normal conditions while also functioning as an emergency shelter, clean-air and cooling center, supply distribution site, and preparedness education center during disasters.		
2-Year Objectives Identify resilience functions and facility needs for the community center. Coordinate with emergency management and community partners. Explore grant and funding opportunities.	5-Year Objectives Incorporate backup power, clean-air rooms, cooling infrastructure, emergency supplies, and seismic safety measures into the facility design and operations.	Long-Term Objectives Establish the community center as a hub that strengthens preparedness and disaster response capacity.
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> Granite Falls should coordinate with emergency management agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations during the planning and development of the future community center. Resilience features such as backup power, air filtration systems, cooling spaces, emergency supplies, stormwater management infrastructure, and accessible communication systems should be incorporated into the building design early in the planning process. The city can also develop preparedness workshops, emergency outreach programs, and community events through the center to strengthen awareness and social connectedness over time.		
Performance Measures Performance measures for this strategy include incorporating resilience features into the final community center design, such as backup power, clean-air and cooling spaces, emergency supplies, and seismic safety measures. Success can also be measured through the number of preparedness workshops and outreach events hosted at the center, community participation in programs, and the center's ability to function as an emergency shelter and resource hub during hazard events. Over time, the strategy should help improve community preparedness, coordination, and social cohesion.		

GF-05 Hazard Awareness

Granite Falls will identify high-risk areas using the Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025, the Granite Falls Initial Conditions Report, and the Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 to determine where to conduct targeted outreach efforts. As residents living in high-risk areas may have limited awareness of the hazards that threaten their neighborhoods, Granite Falls may conduct outreach through canvassing in hazard-prone areas to raise awareness of hazards, emergency procedures, and

available resources. Hazard awareness and emergency preparedness information will also be shared through existing community meetings, such as churches, schools, libraries, and social clubs, as well as at community events and on social media. Leveraging established community relationships will allow residents who may not otherwise be involved in local government to participate and stay informed about hazard preparedness and emergency planning discussions. Through coordinated efforts with residents, Snohomish Co. Fire District 17, community leaders, and local government officials, Granite Falls will establish trusted communication channels with residents living in vulnerable areas. This will allow hazard risks, evacuation procedures, and emergency resources to be more easily distributed to the target populations through trusted community channels.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency) <i>Who else outside your jurisdiction benefits from the strategy or will help implement the strategy?</i>	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources and Estimated Costs
Public Works Department	Snohomish Co. Fire District 17 Community leaders Granite Falls residents	Earthquakes, flooding, severe weather, or wildfire	<\$100k
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i> Build on existing mutual aid networks to increase hazard awareness among residents and protect those living in vulnerable areas.			
Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i> Granite Falls will identify populations living in areas with the highest risk of hazards, utilizing the Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025, the Granite Falls Initial Conditions Report, and the Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017, to determine where to conduct targeted outreach efforts. As residents in high-risk areas may have limited capacity or access to resources that allow them to respond to hazards, Granite Falls will conduct outreach through canvassing efforts in the highest hazard-prone areas to discuss hazard awareness, emergency procedures, and resources available to them. Hazard awareness and emergency preparedness information will also be shared through existing community meetings such as churches, schools, libraries, social clubs, community events, and on social media. Leveraging established community relationships will allow residents who may not otherwise be involved in local government the opportunity to participate and stay informed on hazard preparedness and emergency planning discussions. Through coordinated efforts with residents, Snohomish			

Co. Fire District 17, community leaders, and local government officials, Granite Falls will establish trusted communication channels with residents living in vulnerable areas.		
2-Year Objectives Create a list of targeted populations living in areas with the highest risk of hazards. Reach and inform 10-20% of the residents living in high-risk areas about the hazards that threaten their neighborhood through canvassing efforts. Some community meetings have begun discussion of hazard risks, evacuation procedures, and emergency resources.	5-Year Objectives Reach and inform all residents living in high-risk areas about the hazards that threaten their neighborhood through canvassing efforts. Hold discussions at most community meetings about hazard risks, evacuation procedures, and emergency resources.	Long-Term Objectives Inform and engage residents living in high-risk areas about hazard awareness and emergency procedures to best protect those populations.
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> Granite Falls will identify the targeted populations living in areas with the highest risk of hazards, utilizing the Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025, the Granite Falls Initial Conditions Report, and the Granite Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017, then partner with Snohomish Co. Fire District 17 to begin canvassing efforts in those neighborhoods. Next, Granite Falls will partner with community leaders from churches, schools, libraries, social clubs, and community events to further conversations about hazard awareness and emergency procedures via community discussions and on social media.		
Performance Measures The number of people living in high-hazard risk areas reached through canvassing efforts, and the number of community meetings that discuss and inform residents on emergency procedures and hazard awareness.		

GF-06 Hazard Alert System Expansion

Granite Falls will first meet with the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to discuss changes to the interlocal agreement that explicitly outline permissions regarding Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) communication. Granite Falls will then develop steps for emergency response teams to follow when contacting Snohomish County DEM to broadcast hazard messaging via IPAWS in the event of an emergency. Important partners include Granite Falls Police Department and Fire District 17, which are the primary responders to hazards within the city. Next, Granite Falls will research popular social media channels to host hazard messaging, including examining current official account followings and existing online community groups like Nextdoor. Granite Falls will rework templates from the text alert system for hazard messaging on social media to streamline posting. Granite Falls may develop a social media promotion plan to promote official accounts or share information with residents on how to enroll in the existing text alert system. Community resources, such as the library or school newsletter, may serve as key channels for increasing social media following. Granite Falls will also use CivicPlus auto-translation features to automatically translate hazard messaging for social media posts in the event of an emergency.

This strategy will aid emergency response efforts by better communicating where high-risk areas are, how to evacuate, and how residents of the Granite Falls community should respond. All hazard risks are addressed by this strategy, and it overall promotes social cohesion between residents and the Granite Falls government.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency)	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources and Estimated Costs
Granite Falls City Admin	Granite Falls Police & Fire Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (SCDEM)	All	<\$100k Low
Strategy Vision/Objective			
Protect residents from the impacts of hazards by expanding and formalizing hazard alert systems to reach all residents.			
Mitigation Strategy			
In the event of a hazard, it's important that residents are informed of the present risk and how to respond. Granite Falls' existing hazard alert system requires residents to subscribe to a text service for direct updates from the city. However, residents who are not enrolled or tourists unaware of the program may not receive important directions from the city if a hazard			

were to occur. Furthermore, the community survey revealed that most residents encourage greater community education and support regarding hazards from the City of Granite Falls, which motivates a strategy targeting stronger social cohesion and awareness. Comprehensive and early alerts sent to residents regarding hazards can strengthen response efforts, facilitate evacuation, and mitigate the overall impact of hazards on the community.

This strategy has three parts:

- (1) Formalize an agreement with Snohomish County for explicit agreement to use the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) in order to reach all residents and visitors.
- (2) Leverage social media to alert residents about hazards.
- (3) Use automatic translations that are available through the city's CivicPlus subscription within social media posts to expand reach and accessibility to the city's non-English speaking residents.

Granite Falls will build on their existing interlocal agreement with SCDEM to formalize IPAWS processing between Granite Falls officials and Snohomish County in order to better reach residents and visitors who are not enrolled in Granite Falls' text alerts. IPAWS is an alert system that may contact phones within a hazard area, regardless of whether people are enrolled in alerts or not. This system requires authorization from FEMA to use, and Granite Falls can capitalize on SCDEM's access by requesting that hazard information be shared through Snohomish's IPAWS channels. The revised interlocal agreement will clarify how Granite Falls can transmit information to SCDEM for IPAWS use, as well as what staff and processes are required. Clear plans for how Granite Falls can access IPAWS ensure efficient cooperation between Snohomish County and Granite Falls' emergency response teams in the event of an emergency.

Granite Falls will also formalize hazard messaging for social media channels and identify popular online communities for Granite Falls' residents to expand reach. Diversifying communication channels can supplement the existing text alert system and raise awareness among residents on where to find important hazard updates from the city.

Finally, Granite Falls' subscription to CivicPlus, the emergency alert system hosting the city's current communication channels, allows for auto-translation of hazard messages. The rate of foreign-born residents has almost doubled since 2023⁴⁷, and there is the potential for residents or visitors to have limited English proficiency, highlighting the need for alternative translations for hazard messaging. Identifying which languages are the second most spoken in the city and copying the CivicPlus translations for official city posts can target gaps in communication for vulnerable populations.

⁴⁷ <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/granite-falls-wa>

2-Year Objectives Identify active online communities for Granite Falls and build a social media presence for hazard alerts. Outline protocol for accessing IPAWS through Snohomish County and identify staff responsible.	5-Year Objectives Integrate non-English translations into all emergency communication channels. Maintain the SCDem interlocal agreement and IPAWS protocol and update them to reflect any changes in staffing, technology, or county procedures.	Long-Term Objectives Achieve broad community awareness of how to receive emergency alerts across all available channels, and maintain an up-to-date, tested multi-channel emergency communication system
Implementation Plan/Actions 1. Meet with SCDem to discuss changes to the interlocal agreement that explicitly outline permissions regarding IPAWS communication. 2. Develop steps for emergency response teams to follow when contacting SCDem with hazard messaging to be broadcast with IPAWS in the event of an emergency. Important partners include Granite Falls Police Department and Fire District 17, as these agencies are the primary responders to hazards within the city. 3. Research popular social media channels to host hazard messaging, such as examining current official count followings and existing online community groups like Nextdoor. Granite Falls will rework templates from the text alert system for hazard messaging on social media to streamline posting. 4. Develop a social media promotion plan to promote official accounts or share information with residents on how to enroll with the existing text alert system. Community resources, such as the library or school newsletter, may serve as key channels for increasing social media following. Granite Falls will also utilize CivicPlus auto-translation features for hazard messaging to copy onto social media posts in the event of an emergency.		
Performance Measures Existing text alert system enrollment numbers, social media engagement indicators, phones pinged in the event of an emergency, and alert times between hazard identification and SCDem contacted.		

GF-07 Potable Water Supply Planning

In the event of a major earthquake and tsunami, Granite Falls could be isolated from the city's main water source, the Snohomish PUD, which is distributed from Everett. Everett and the Snohomish PUD have indicated that there is adequate supply and storage until 2035. A redundant or independent water supply within Granite Falls could reduce vulnerability by avoiding complete outages and over-reliance on external supplies.

According to the community engagement survey, residents expressed concern over having limited access to water if the community becomes isolated. Preliminary planning on building potable supply wells should start to be compiled to achieve water independence in the next decade.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept): Public Works Department	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency): - Snohomish County Public Utility District - WA Dept. of Health Office of Drinking Water - WA Dept. of Ecology	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported: Reduces potential impacts from drought and islanding during earthquakes, tsunami, landslides, or flooding	Funding Sources and Estimated Costs: Water CIF, medium-high cost
Strategy Vision/Objective: Initiate planning towards potable water independence.			
Mitigation Strategy In the event of a major earthquake and tsunami, Granite Falls could be potentially isolated from the city's main water source. A redundant or independent water supply within Granite Falls could reduce vulnerability by avoiding complete outages and over-reliance on external supplies. According to the community engagement survey, residents expressed concern over having limited access to water if the community becomes isolated. Preliminary planning on building potable supply wells should start to be compiled to achieve water independence in the next decade. Currently, Granite Falls "has an agreement with Snohomish County Public Utility District #1 (PUD) for the provision of water supply and storage" (2044 Comprehensive Plan). Water is transported from Everett and injected into Granite Falls' distribution system. Everett and the Snohomish PUD have indicated that there is adequate supply and storage until 2034. The city is currently budgeting for \$1.5 million to replace several water mains containing asbestos and improve metering infrastructure by 2030. Presently, the city is focusing on the "replacement of the aging distribution system". Therefore, any development of potable water supply wells will be in the more distant future. Costs could potentially be funded through grants or bonds. If user charges could be decreased through reduced costs from transportation of water from Everett and administration fees for the PUD, this could make the project more economically feasible and generate more community support. The project would need an extensive environmental impact review as required by SEPA to understand how it would impact the water table, critical habitat areas, aquifer recharge areas, and the Pilchuck and Stillaguamish rivers. This is typically a technically extensive and costly process, adding to the upfront costs of any water supply development.			

Although the potential costs are high, access to drinking water is a human right and critical for public health and wellbeing. Having an independent potable water supply will substantially increase the resilience of Granite Falls to future impacts from islanding and regional water supply shortages.		
2-Year Objectives	5-Year Objectives	Long-Term Objectives
Initiate planning processes, identify project manager/ point of contact	Develop a plan with reliability evaluation, designs, budget, population and need projections, water treatment plan, SEPA requirements, etc.	Build a potable water supply system within Granite Falls
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> Initial planning: - Granite Falls will develop understanding of WA Dept. of Ecology and WA Dept. of Public Health guidelines on adequate water supply as well as SEPA requirements. - Granite Falls will contact the WA Office of Drinking Water regional planner and set up a preplan meeting - Identify community needs and ways to potentially provide potable water to residents outside of Granite Falls - Determine the capacity for the city and the water supply aquifer to provide either a portion or all of the potable water to Granite Falls and the surrounding area in the next decade Prior to 2034: - The agreement with Snohomish PUD will need to be re-evaluated as the current potable supply is projected to last until 2034.		
Performance Measures Number of wells installed. Number of households served by locally supplied potable water. Quality of the water supplied (measured for arsenic, as well as nitrate, turbidity, iron/manganese, chloride, and total dissolved solids).		

Mitigation Action Benefit Cost-Review Matrix

1	High cost	1
2	Addresses high-risk hazards (earthquake)	3
3	Supports X goals: (CF-2.2, LU-10.3 IN 2044 comp plan)	3
4	significant and lasting public safety benefits for residents	5
5	Action does not benefit socially vulnerable or Underserved communities	0
6	Accounts for population growth because it is creating a new supply	3

7	Accounts for the effect of climate change - SLR in Everett could cause problems, flooding can lead to islanding, and drought could lead to less water in Spada Reservoir	3
8	Action addresses hazard risks for the entire affected area of the community	5
	TOTAL:	23

GF-08 Community Preparedness Workshops

To provide tangible emergency-preparedness support to Granite Falls residents, local agencies can host public workshops and training events that prepare residents for natural disasters. These workshops may address wildfires, earthquakes, flooding, severe weather, extended power outages, and other hazards, increasing public awareness of how to respond during an emergency. Community training events can also strengthen social cohesion and resilience by building connections among residents. Workshops may be funded through Preparedness State grants or other applicable federal or state programs.

Many partnerships offer low-cost or no-cost resources to support emergency-preparedness training. Potential partners include Snohomish County, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, FEMA, the American Red Cross, the Snohomish Chamber of Commerce, the Granite Falls Community Coalition, and the Granite Falls School District. Through these trainings and workshops, residents will be better equipped to understand local hazards, their effects, and how they may impact Granite Falls and the surrounding areas.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency)	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources: Grant Funding and General Fund Revenue Estimated Costs: \$50,000
Public Works Department	Snohomish County Fire Dept The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory FEMA American Red Cross Granite Falls Community Coalition Granite Falls School District	Primarily earthquakes, flooding, severe weather, or wildfire Hazard preparedness and recovery	

Strategy Vision/Objective Engage Granite Falls residents in hazard preparedness through public outreach activities.		
Mitigation Strategy To provide tangible emergency-preparedness support to Granite Falls residents, local agencies can host public workshops and training events that prepare residents for natural disasters. These workshops may address wildfires, earthquakes, flooding, severe weather, extended power outages, and other hazards, increasing public awareness of how to respond during an emergency. Community training events can also strengthen social cohesion and resilience by building connections among residents. Workshops may be funded through Preparedness State grants or other applicable federal or state programs. Many partnerships offer low-cost or no-cost resources to support emergency-preparedness training. Potential partners include Snohomish County, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, FEMA, the American Red Cross, the Snohomish Chamber of Commerce, the Granite Falls Community Coalition, and the Granite Falls School District. Through these trainings and workshops, residents will be better equipped to understand local hazards, their effects, and how they may impact Granite Falls and the surrounding areas.		
2-Year Objectives Initiate contact with agencies and community groups that will host hazard preparedness workshops and trainings. Hold preliminary workshops and trainings	5-Year Objectives Have a consistent schedule of the trainings and workshops year-round	Long-Term Objectives Maintain community awareness of hazard preparedness workshops and trainings Build lasting social cohesion and hazard preparedness skills
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> First, Granite Falls will assess costs for hazard preparedness programs that offer community workshops and apply for any relevant grants to mitigate costs. After that, Granite Falls will partner with local agencies and community groups to host hazard preparedness workshops. These workshops will be done locally to ensure accessibility and convenience. Workshops will be promoted through text, social media platforms, and word of mouth through trusted community groups and events.		

Performance Measures

This will be measured by the number of emergency preparedness workshops each year, and by attendance numbers.

GF-09 Sustainability and Planning Standards

Granite Falls has the legal authority, through its comprehensive plan and zoning codes, to set policies aimed at sustainable development, environmental protection, and hazard mitigation, including wildfires, to protect public health and safety. With sustainability ordinances in place that emphasize green and blue infrastructure and practices, future development projects can draw on expertise to address the specific sustainability needs required to meet city standards. Examples of sustainability frameworks for individual building standards include LEED-certified buildings and the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI) standard. Additionally, wildfire protection frameworks would ensure collaborative efforts among emergency response teams, developers, and residents to build adaptive capacity to mitigate wildfire impacts. Implementing measures such as defensible zones, larger setbacks from vegetation, secondary road access, and fuel-reduction standards can help prevent fires from spreading through the community. Integrating sustainability practices reduces overall environmental degradation and addresses the impacts of climate change through accelerated low-carbon and circular-economy strategies, which can help Granite Falls reduce resource dependency and vulnerabilities by building self-sufficient pathways that increase adaptive capacity.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept):	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency) <i>Who else outside your jurisdiction benefits from the strategy or will help implement the strategy?</i>	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources and Estimated Costs
GF Planning Dept & City Manager's Office	Snohomish County Planning and Development	Wildfire & earthquake	City General Fund < \$100,000
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i>			
Develop sustainability and resilience standards that codify hazard mitigation into planning documents.			

Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i>		
Implement development and planning frameworks that strengthen community resilience by integrating sustainability practices, hazard-resistant design, and redevelopment plans.		
2-Year Objectives - Identify plans and areas to incorporate sustainable planning standards.	5-Year Objectives - Implement development and planning frameworks into existing guiding documents.	Long-Term Objectives - Promote long-term self-sufficiency. - Hazards are reflected in long-term development plans.
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> Adoption of ordinances to include blue and green practices is anticipated to occur within 3-5 years. The City may need to utilize consultants to ensure the most current/effective strategies are incorporated into code revisions. The City can continue to monitor evolving technologies and update/amend the code as appropriate. The City typically completes 2-5 unified development code amendments annually.		
Performance Measures <i>Building code and comprehensive plan updates address development concerns for high priority hazards.</i> Inclusion of hazard mitigation strategies in the comprehensive plan and building codes.		

Mitigation Action Benefit Cost-Review Matrix

1	High cost	5
2	Addresses high risk hazard (Wildfire)	5
3	Supports X goals:	3
4	significant and lasting public safety benefits for residents	1
5	Action does not benefit socially vulnerable or Underserved communities	0
6	Accounts for population growth because it is creating a new supply	1
7	Accounts for effect of climate change	5
8	Action addresses hazard risks for the entire affected area of the community	3
	TOTAL:	23

GF-10 Hazardous Tree Removal Program

To address risks posed by hazardous trees on public land, Granite Falls Public Works will remove hazardous trees and branches, particularly in high wildfire-risk areas and

near transportation routes. Local firefighters can assess the safety of trees if needed, and this work can be done alongside regular improvements to spread the cost and labor demands over time.

To address risks posed by hazardous trees on private land, the city will create a yard waste drop-off program that allows people to drop off yard waste free of charge, incentivizing the cleanup of dead and hazardous tree debris. Frequency of yard waste drop-off to be determined.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency) <i>Who else outside your jurisdiction benefits from the strategy or will help implement the strategy?</i>	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources and Estimated Costs
Public Works Department	Snohomish Co. Fire District 17	Wildfire and Severe Weather	Low. Less than \$100k. \$100-\$800 per acre of tree management ⁴⁸ State Department of Natural Resources financial assistance program for wildfire resilience and forest health funds may be available
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i> Remove and trim unhealthy and hazardous trees to reduce wildfire risk and severe-weather damage.			

⁴⁸ OSU Extension Forest. (2024). Reducing hazardous fuels on woodland property: thinning. *Oregon State University*. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/ec-1573-reducing-hazardous-fuels-woodland-property-thinning>.

Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i> Removing and thinning hazardous trees to reduce dead or diseased trees, over-crowding, and ladder fuels can reduce fire risk by removing fuels and reducing the risk of fallen limbs and trees during extreme weather. To address risks from hazardous trees on public land, Granite Falls Public Works will remove hazardous trees and branches, particularly in high wildfire risk areas and near transportation routes. Local firefighters can assess the safety of trees if needed, and this work can be done alongside regular improvements to spread the cost and labor demands over time. To address risks from hazardous trees on private land, the city will create a yard waste drop-off program in which people can drop off yard waste free of charge to incentivize cleaning up dead and hazardous tree debris.		
2-Year Objectives Identify publicly owned hazardous trees Pilot a tree debris drop-off program	5-Year Objectives Remove and trim publicly owned hazardous trees Implement a tree debris drop-off program	Long-Term Objectives Reduce risk from wildfire and damage from severe weather along transportation routes and in densely populated areas by maintaining healthy trees on public and private land
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> Local firefighters will help Public Works identify publicly owned hazardous trees to prioritize removal and trimming. Trees will be removed, especially alongside any existing maintenance to roads or public buildings. The city will schedule a day for tree debris drop-off and organize removal. The city will expand the program over time if there is demand.		
Performance Measures The number of pounds of hazardous tree material removed from public and private land can be used to measure performance.		

GF-11 Urban Greening

Although most of Granite Falls is outside the 100-year floodplain, more frequent and severe storms driven by climate change may strain the city's stormwater systems and increase localized flood risk. Expanding the use of bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable surfaces will reduce pressure on stormwater infrastructure by slowing runoff, increasing infiltration, and improving overall water quality. These green-infrastructure solutions also function as drought-mitigation strategies by retaining water and supporting healthier local vegetation.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency) <i>Who else outside your jurisdiction benefits from the strategy or will help implement the strategy?</i>	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources and Estimated Costs
Public Works Department	N/A	Reduces flooding and severe weather	Low, less than \$100k: Rain gardens: \$5-\$16 per square foot Bioswales: \$5.50-\$24 per square foot Permeable surfaces: \$1.70-\$12 per square foot ⁴⁹ Funding may be available from the Washington State Department of Ecology and EPA
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i> Reduce damage during flooding and severe weather by increasing urban greening infrastructure, including bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable surfaces.			

⁴⁹ NOAA Office for Coastal Management. (2020). "Nature Based Solutions Installation and Maintenance Costs. <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/nature-based-solutions-installation-maintenance.pdf>.

Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i> Although most of Granite Falls is not within a 100-year flood plain, increased severe storms due to climate change could potentially strain stormwater systems within the city, causing local flood risk. Introducing bioswales, investing in rain gardens, and increasing permeable surfaces across the city will reduce strain on stormwater infrastructure and improve overall water quality by absorbing water into the ground and filtering out pollutants. These solutions also double as drought mitigation strategies, as they both retain water and improve local vegetation. The benefit can be maximized by using native plants that improve the natural ecosystem and require less maintenance. Granite Falls can incorporate these projects into the 2025 Stormwater Management Action Plan with funds identified in the plan, including city funds and the Washington State Department of Ecology Stormwater Capacity Grants Program.⁵⁰ The city may also seek grants from the EPA's Green Infrastructure Funding.⁵¹		
2-Year Objectives Initiate planning, prioritization, and securing grants.	5-Year Objectives Complete several rain gardens, bioswale, or permeable surface projects.	Long-Term Objectives Reduce damage from flooding and severe weather by redirecting water more naturally.
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> The city will identify priority areas that are susceptible to flooding or damage during severe weather as candidates for green infrastructure. Then, the infrastructure will be designed and used to apply for grants before being constructed. Granite Falls Public Works, which is responsible for stormwater, is the agency in charge. This work could be completed in 5-10 years.		
Performance Measures The number of projects completed, the number of square feet converted to green infrastructure, and the gallons of water absorbed by new green infrastructure can be used to measure performance.		

⁵⁰ Washington State Department of Ecology. (n.d.). "Stormwater capacity grants program." <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-funding-and-technical-assistance-opportunities#federal>.

⁵¹ Environmental Protection Agency. (2026). "Green Infrastructure Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities." <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-funding-and-technical-assistance-opportunities#federal>.

GF-12 Reduce the Effect of Mass Earth Movement

The current stormwater management program could include greater protections for natural habitat features that reduce the risk of mass earth movement and flooding. Large woody debris (LWD) is defined as fallen trees and logs located in stream channels; retaining these features helps reduce water velocity during storms and erosion. The current stormwater management program does not mention wetlands or LWD as stormwater management tools; including specific guidance and protections for both is a low-effort, low-cost, natural way to support flood and severe storm resilience while simultaneously supporting biodiversity and habitat conditions.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

Lead Points of Contact (Dept)	Partner Points of Contact (Dept or Agency)	Hazards Mitigated / Goals and Objectives Supported	Funding Sources: Grant Funding and City Stormwater Fund Estimated Costs: \$50,000
Public Works Department	Washington State Department of Ecology	Mass Earth Movement and Flooding	
Strategy Vision/Objective <i>Long-term objective and vision for the strategy</i> Protecting the area's natural ecology enables long-term, sustainable, and low- to no-cost solutions to mass earth movement, flooding, and channel migration. Although the city experiences minimal flood risk, establishing protections for these natural features within the city's stormwater management program ensures these features can continue to provide ecosystem services to the area.			
Mitigation Strategy <i>Describe the program/proposed program</i> The current stormwater management program could include greater protections for natural habitat features that reduce the risk of mass earth movement and flooding. Large woody debris (LWD) is defined as fallen trees and logs located in stream channels – retention of these features helps reduce water velocity during storms and reduce erosion. The current stormwater management program does not mention wetlands or LWD as stormwater management tools; including specific guidance and protections for both are low-effort, low-cost, natural way to support flood and severe storm resilience while simultaneously supporting biodiversity and habitat conditions.			

2-Year Objectives Update the stormwater management program to include protections for wetlands and large woody debris	5-Year Objectives Revise the program if new guidelines are suggested by the Department of Ecology	Long-Term Objectives Evaluate impact
Implementation Plan/Actions <i>This can provide a timeline, indicate partners, discuss implementation stages, etc. Use this to discuss how the strategy/program will be implemented over the long term.</i> When the city updates its stormwater management program, it should include the assessment and protection of wetlands and large woody debris as planned activities within relevant sections.		
Performance Measures Successful update of the stormwater management program		

Appendix

Appendices

Appendix 1: Full HMP Online Survey

Your opinion will help improve hazard preparedness in Granite Falls! Please complete this survey to help us identify the city's greatest hazards and develop protection strategies.

Natural and human-made hazards can harm people, damage buildings, and disrupt the important systems we rely on every day. Examples of these hazards include earthquakes, wildfires, and severe weather.

Snohomish County and Granite Falls are updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan. The section for Granite Falls is being written with help from graduate students at the University of Washington. (More information about the full process can be found [HERE](#).)

- 1) Where do you live in Granite Falls?
 - a) North of City Hall
 - b) South of City Hall
 - c) Near City Hall
 - d) West of City Hall
 - e) East of City Hall

- 2) Which three hazard events do you think are the biggest threats to Granite Falls?
 - a) Flood
 - b) Wildfire
 - c) Earthquake
 - d) Landslides
 - e) Disease Outbreak
 - f) Severe Weather
 - g) Dam Failure
 - h) Volcano
 - i) Hazardous Material Spill
 - j) Extreme Heat & Drought
 - k) Active Attacker
 - l) Plane Crash

m) Cybersecurity Attack

- 3) What are the top 3 things that worry you the most in the event of a hazard?
- a) Access to food/water
 - b) Access to medicine/healthcare
 - c) Not being able to evacuate
 - d) Not being able to get back to Granite Falls
 - e) Being separated from your family
 - f) Losing your Granite Falls home/business
 - g) Other:
- 4) Following a hazard event, do you have enough supplies (e.g., food, medicine, water) at home in case you become isolated and local resources are unavailable?
- a) Yes, I have supplies for a few days.
 - b) Yes, I have supplies for a week or more.
 - c) No, I do not have supplies.
- 5) If you are away from Granite Falls and can't get back, do you have a safe place to stay?
- a) Yes.
 - b) No.
- If yes, please explain. What type of safe place? A public shelter or staying with a nearby friend/relative?
- 6) What do you think the City of Granite Falls could do to help with hazards?
(Choose up to 3)
- a) Provide more community education and support
 - b) Take more steps to prevent damage
 - c) Improve emergency response plans
 - d) Fix or improve roads, buildings, or other public spaces
 - e) Work more with county and state agencies
- 7) Optional: Please share any other ideas or concerns related to hazards in Granite Falls.