

The regular meeting of the Great Falls Town Council was held on February 17, 2026, at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Attending were Mayor Worthy, Mayor Por Se Gonzalez, Council Members Knight, Craig, Dutton, and Eagle. Also attending were Town Clerk Dooley, Reporter Jenkins, Police Chief Parker,

and several interested citizens.

Mayor Worthy opened the meeting with Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Worthy made motion to amend agenda adding Glenda Coleman and Kesha Horton under public session, removed Council member Dutton and added Brian McGarth to new business. Council member Tiffany seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Glinda Coleman gave an update on the Hometown Association that the Visitor Center façade collapsed on January 30 and was stabilized the same day, with the construction company assuming responsibility for repairs and hiring a masonry expert to preserve and reuse original materials, while efforts continue to locate original building plans through the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure accurate restoration, though no updated timeline has been provided; she also noted a community cleanup day has been delayed to March, announced upcoming elections on April 7 and April 21 with a Candidate Forum scheduled for March 31 at 6:30 p.m., and shared details on upcoming events including the April 23 Pop-up Market, a collaborative pickleball event with the Chester County Chamber, an August 1 Patriot screening tied to the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution (pending grant funding), and the Ag + Art Tour Living History event on May 3, while adding that the project remains within its approved budget, including a contingency allocation.

Elizabeth Bowen and Allison Howe gave an update on Heart & Soul. Over 1,000 ideas for action have been collected from Great Falls residents, reviewed, and organized for feasibility consideration, demonstrating strong community engagement and investment in the town's future; she stated the initiative is currently in phase three of a four-phase model, focusing on gathering community feedback to assess realism, impact, beneficiaries, and required resources or partnerships, with the goal of developing a practical, community-driven action plan, and noted that ongoing discussion groups, community gatherings, and outreach to local organizations will continue to ensure broad participation and input.

Kesha Horton shared that her recent participation in the Chester County Citizens Academy provided valuable insight into county operations and highlighted the importance of community involvement and education, noting strong engagement from Great Falls residents and expressing interest in establishing a similar program locally; she emphasized the need for council members and candidates to pursue training, leadership development,

and conflict resolution education, encouraging a focus on service, knowledge, and preparedness rather than popularity in leadership roles.

Buddy Bigham gave an update on Public Works department the ongoing operational challenges, including the chipper truck being out of service again, requiring crews to use alternative methods for debris collection, which is slowing progress and requiring public patience; he noted increasing issues with residents not following trash collection policies, including misuse of bins, placing unauthorized items such as construction debris for pickup, and confrontations with staff, despite ordinances being in place; he also raised concerns about the deteriorating condition of town flags and fiberglass poles, recommending replacement with more durable materials, with estimated costs between \$5,000–\$6,000, and emphasized the need for improved enforcement and compliance to support staff and maintain town operations.

Warren Skinner gave an update on Wastewater Department that operations at the wastewater plant are currently running smoothly with minimal issues, but emphasized the need for additional support staff and a dedicated truck to improve efficiency; he noted ongoing confusion regarding the approval and implementation of a part-time position, expressing a preference for a consistent schedule of approximately 30 hours per week to ensure daily coverage at the plant.

Council Member Gonzalez confirmed that a part-time position had been approved in the budget, and further discussion indicated the need to clarify staffing plans, job descriptions, and coordination to effectively support wastewater operations.

Brian McGrath like to proposed cleanup and revitalization effort will include minor debris removal, optional shrub clearing, and safety measures such as sidewalk barricades, with the town assisting in coordination, potential supply of cleaning materials, and possible water access, while also considering future surveillance to deter vandalism; the scope of work focuses on non-structural improvements such as cleaning and preserving masonry, repainting surfaces, maintaining or removing the fabric awning, repairing and painting plywood infill, improving metal elements, and enhancing specific lots and surrounding areas, with all labor to be volunteer-based and materials sourced through donations, emphasizing small-scale, safe, and skill-appropriate work with an anticipated temporary impact of approximately five years until long-term redevelopment occurs.

Council member Dutton requested to sponsor a resolution for consideration at next month's meeting to allow the project to move forward.

Council Member Gonzalez requested the appointment of a council liaison to coordinate planning and execution, emphasizing that the effort is intended to temporarily improve the

appearance of the area without interfering with ongoing developer discussions, with the long-term goal of encouraging broader participation and pairing efforts with a future nuisance ordinance.

Council Member Knight discussion also included potential positive media coverage, exploration of funding opportunities such as storefront improvement financing and community partnerships, outreach to organizations like Keep America Beautiful, and engagement with corporate volunteer programs such as Home Depot or Lowe's.

Council Member Eagle noted plans to revisit options for installing downtown surveillance cameras, potentially starting with a small rollout on Dearborn to help deter vandalism.

Mayor Worthy reported that the town has completed all requirements for the David Minor grant and is prepared to proceed once funding is released; financial records are being brought current by the new Town Clerk Dooley, including addressing unpaid bills and completing bank reconciliations, with accurate statements forthcoming; Council has scheduled a redevelopment tour in Spartanburg with Council member Robert Long and Tara Sherbert, with a follow-up tour planned after the election; the town is transitioning employee insurance to the PEBA State Insurance program through Blue Cross Blue Shield; a decision on the Recreation Director position is expected soon; and following a visit from SLED, the town will move forward with an audit and related legal review.

Mayor Worthy stated there was no action taken in the executive session.

Mayor Worthy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Knight seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Erica Dooley