

The regular meeting of the Great Falls Town Council was held on March 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, Police Officer English, Police Officer Parker, Warren Skinner (WW Supervisor), and several interested citizens.

Mayor Worthy opened the meeting with Prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Worthy made motion to amend agenda adding Jeremy Ward under new business, Darla Winn under public session motion was accepted and minutes were approved.

Council member Knight address the council and community for support following his father's passing Sunday, March 8, citing prayers, messages, visits, food, and a gift from the town "still sitting on my kitchen table. It smells nice." He noted Mayor Worthy prayed with his father stated, "if that woman didn't ring the bells in heaven, nobody would" and thanked Mr. McGrath for praying with the family.

Darla Winn address Council member Dutton with a "no trespass" notice, alleging harassment of her worker (Dante), interference over wood pickup, and removal of a for-sale sign. She stated publicly that he must stay off her property and said, "I will have you arrested" if he returns. Dutton denied being on her property and asked for evidence; she said evidence was with her attorney.

Glinda Coleman gave an update on Hometown Association The Visitor Center construction is progressing steadily with much of the work completed despite ongoing brickwork; the next leg of the Rail Bed Trail was finished earlier this year with a ribbon cutting planned for May in coordination with the Carolina Thread Trail; a candidate forum will be held on March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Building with structured questions and follow-ups; a pop-up market is scheduled for April 23 featuring 18 confirmed vendors with more being recruited; the Chester County Chamber is partnering on a same-day event including beginner pickleball, networking, and community activities; Great Falls will host an August 1 event for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution featuring a screening of The Patriot with a panel and historian discussion; and the Ag + Art Tour has been moved to May 2-3, including a living history event on May 3 at the Nitro League Access Area with historians, artisans, vendors, and food.

Upcoming events and deadlines include the Candidate Forum on March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Building; the Pop-up Market on April 23 from 5:00-7:30 p.m.; the David Minors Park engineering RFP due by 1:00 p.m. on April 19; the Rail Bed Trail ribbon cutting scheduled for May (date to be determined); the Ag + Art Tour on May 2-3 with a Living

History event on May 3 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at the Nitro League Access Area; and The Patriot screening and panel on August 1 (time to be determined).

Warren Skinner gave an update on Wastewater advised operations “running pretty smoothly” and work proceeding (Washington Street noted). No issues reported, weekly monitoring ongoing.

Chief Parker Great Falls PD is currently strengthening staffing with Officer English already certified and working, while two newly graduated officers are completing a four-week FTO program with scheduled ride-along before transitioning to solo duty; the department has handled 83 calls for service with the county covering about half of the estimated 150–160 total calls, issued 28 tickets, and signed 5 warrants; code enforcement remains unassigned as a dedicated role but is being supported administratively by Keisha, with future needs to be addressed during budget discussions; and 18 abandoned or junk vehicles have been tagged under ordinance, with towing pending after the required 72-hour notice period as tagging efforts continue.

Chief Parker raised concerns about officials using social media to “badmouth” employees/departments, noting negative impact on morale and consistency with the employee handbook. Requested a unified standard and a resolution/policy addressing social media use by officials and employees.

Mayor Worthy gave an update on recreational department Opening game day was a huge success at David Minor Park and were well attended; Angela and team commended. Gate policy: keep gate closed; officers will lock it if found open.

Council member addresses EPA (Environmental Protection Agency standards. Wastewater staff will try to compile relevant reports for council review at the next meeting.

Council member Dutton moved to accept resolution for the storefront clean-up as promised to fix up the fronts of the buildings downtown.” Question raised on whether “they can’t touch the town’s property.” Motion carried

Mayor Worthy brought it before the board the request to paint a town-owned golf course storage building was discussed in light of a 20-year \$1 lease that places maintenance responsibility on the lessee, with concerns raised about setting a precedent if the town funds the work and suggestions to consider a maintenance fee, while others supported it as a goodwill gesture for upcoming events; however, no decision was made due to the attorney’s absence and considerations involving insurance and 501(c) implications.

Jeremy Ward of Chester County Planning & Development presented that due to the absence of a functioning Planning Commission in Great Falls for the past 2–3 years, which

has delayed required approvals such as rezonings and subdivisions, the proposed solution under SC Code § 6-29-330 is for the Chester County Planning Commission to serve in that capacity, leveraging the county's existing role in administering zoning and planning services; this would allow hearings to be conducted at the county level with recommendations made to Town Council, while final decisions remain with the town, and would help address a backlog of pending applications, including a proposed 16-home development, and Council acknowledged errors in a prior draft resolution and approved a revised version developed in collaboration with Jeremy Ward, authorizing the request for county approval and the future drafting of an intergovernmental agreement.

Mayor Worthy reported that the Town of Great Falls has issued an Engineering RFP for David Minors Park improvements, with proposals due by 1:00 p.m. on April 19, while also announcing the return of Jessica Eubanks as mayor's assistant to support operations; she thanked Keisha for assisting with bank reconciliations, noted that financial statements are expected within two weeks, and shared that budget workshop planning is underway with Brian McGrath.

Council member Jody made the motion to draft social media policy will be developed, shared with Council for review, and prepared for consideration at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Erica Dooley