



## Regular City Council Meeting

**Tuesday April 21, 2026**

*Town Hall, Great Falls, SC*

**Councilmembers Present:** Mayor Keevi Worthy, Councilmember Tiffany Craig, Mayor Por Tem Willie Gonzalez, Councilmember Monica Eagle, Councilmember Jody Knight, Councilmember David Dutton. A quorum was present.

**Councilmembers Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Chief Parker, Municipal Attorney April Porter, Erica Dooley (Clerk Treasurer), Warren Skinner (WW Sup), Buddy Bigham (PW Sup), Angela Cooper (Rec Director)

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**The public and media were duly notified of the date, time, and place of the meeting.** Mayor Keevi Worthy called the Regular Council meeting to order at 7:00PM, led the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to remove the Memorandum of Understanding with Parks and Recreation to revise the agreement to include all three parks — David Minor Park, Sunset Park, and Republic Park — instead of only David Minor Park. The motion was discussed and approved by Council.

### **ITEM 1 SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR SPECIAL ELECTED-WYTRICIA MACK**

Town Attorney April Porter performed the official swearing-in ceremony for Wytricia Mack. Ms. Mack took the oath of office as administered by Attorney Porter. Following the oath, congratulations and words of encouragement were extended to Ms. Mack as she officially accepted the responsibilities of her position and committed to serving the Town of Great Falls and its citizens.

### **ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Documents: 04-21-2026 Regular Council meeting and Budget Workshop meeting minutes 04-30-2026 PDF

**APPROVED:**

The minutes from April 21, 2026, meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mayor Keevi Councilmember David Dutton and second by Councilmember Tiffany Craig. The motion carried unanimously.

The minutes from April 30, 2026, Budget Workshop were also presented for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilmember David Dutton and seconded by Councilmember Jodi Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM 3 PUBLIC SESSION**

**A. GLINDA COLEMAN- HOMETOWN ASSOCIATION**

An update was provided regarding the Catawba-Wateree Basin drought conditions and ongoing community development projects. It was reported that a Stage 2 Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) was declared on May 1 by the Catawba Wateree Water Management Group due to extreme drought conditions affecting the region, including Chester County. As a result, all recreational water flows were suspended, and project flow requirements were reduced by 95%. The committee will continue meeting twice monthly to monitor conditions, and it was noted that more than 10 inches of rain within a month would be needed to significantly improve drought conditions.

An update was also given on the Rail Bed Trail project. Most of the next phase of the trail has been completed; however, concerns remain regarding a 1,200-foot section through the mill village area. This portion of the trail previously showed signs of contamination and was completed using an EPA Brownfields Grant. The section currently has a crushed asphalt surface, which has proven more difficult for pedestrians to walk on compared to the granite screenings and sand used on other portions of the trail. Discussions are ongoing with Stantec, the environmental consulting group administering the grant, and the EPA to determine whether an alternative surface material can be approved. Trail designer and builder Scott Brown is scheduled to visit the site to review the area and provide an estimated cost for possible resurfacing improvements.

Additional project updates include the pedestrian bridge and parking area that will provide access to the State Park. Construction is expected to be completed by late summer or early fall, although the bridge installation may occur as early as the end of June. Progress was also reported on the Visitor's Center project, with construction of the adjacent parking lot expected to begin within the next month. The parking lot work is being completed by Duke Energy contractors.

It was further reported that the recent Pop-Up Market was successful, and another event is being planned for the fall with possible adjustments to encourage greater attendance and community participation.

Lastly, in partnership with the Chester County 250 Committee, plans are underway for an outdoor showing of the movie *The Patriot* on August 1 at 6:30 p.m. It was noted that more than 60% of the film was shot in Chester County. The event will also feature a presentation by Dr. Eddie Lee, who will discuss local Revolutionary War history and events that occurred in the area during the American Revolution. Further details will be shared as planning continues.

#### **B. ELIZABETH BOWEN- HEART & SOUL**

Elizabeth, project coordinator for Great Falls Heart & Soul, provided an update to Council and thanked the Town for its continued support of the Heart and Soul initiative. It was reported that an "Idea Summit" was held on the previous Sunday as a community engagement event designed to bring residents together to discuss and prioritize ideas for action gathered from neighbors within the Great Falls School attendance zone. The ideas discussed were connected to the eight Great Falls Heart and Soul statements previously shared with the community and Council.

Elizabeth explained that, in addition to the Idea Summit, five smaller community conversations were conducted throughout the year to gather additional feedback and input from residents. Approximately 30 residents participated in the Idea Summit, bringing the total community participation and engagement to approximately 80 to 90 residents. It was noted that the initiative continues to build a growing network of "champions," described as community members who consistently participate, care deeply about Great Falls, and are committed to helping turn community ideas and projects into reality.

The next phase of the initiative will focus on developing a resident-driven action plan based on the ideas and priorities identified through the community engagement process. Once completed, the proposed action plan will be

presented back to the community for additional feedback and confirmation to ensure the priorities accurately reflect residents' voices and vision for the Town. Elizabeth also stated that preparations are underway for the continued stewardship and long-term sustainability of the Heart and Soul program. The update concluded with appreciation to Council for the opportunity to provide updates and remain included on the meeting agenda, and Elizabeth offered to answer any questions from Council.

### **C. BRIAN MCGRATH- GREAT FALLS FORWARD TOGETHER REPORT**

Brian McGrath provided an update regarding the ongoing storefront cleanup and revitalization efforts within the Town. He reported that significant progress has been made since the previous meeting, including demolition work on several storefront canopies to help facilitate cleanup efforts. Mr. McGrath stated that all four storefronts were recently cleaned, and the project team believes meaningful progress is being made toward improving the appearance of the area.

Mr. McGrath explained that the next phase of the project will focus on replacing damaged window panels on one of the storefront buildings located furthest uphill. The project team is currently seeking an in-store donation from The Home Depot to assist with the cost of building materials, estimated at just under \$500. He noted that the process has been delayed while waiting on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to issue a governmental information letter needed to support the donation request and provide documentation for tax deduction purposes. Assistance is currently being provided by Erica Dooley in attempting to obtain the required documentation from the IRS. Mr. McGrath stated that if progress is not made soon, alternative funding options may be explored.

Mr. McGrath further reported that following the window repair phase, the project will move into carpentry work and then painting efforts intended to improve the overall appearance and presentation of the storefronts. He emphasized that the cleanup project is being completed in a highly visible area to help demonstrate the Town's commitment to improving its own properties and appearance before increasing enforcement of nuisance ordinances throughout the community. Additional cleanup and beautification projects are being considered; however, the current focus remains on successfully completing this first project before expanding into additional efforts.

Mr. McGrath also provided an update regarding the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) referendum projects. He stated that discussions had taken place with

Brian Hester regarding public education and community engagement efforts related to the proposed referendum. Early discussions are underway about possibly hosting a public presentation around September to provide residents with additional information about the CPST projects and referendum process once the ordinance has completed its required readings. The goal of the presentation would be to help inform the public, encourage voter participation, and build community excitement and support for the proposed projects.

#### **ITEM 4           REPORTS ON DEPARTMENTS**

##### **A. DIRECTOR COOPER – RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Director Angela Cooper provided an update on Parks and Recreation activities and programs. She reported that the baseball and softball regular seasons have concluded. An end-of-season celebration was held on May 31, featuring bounce houses, water slides, food, and trophy presentations for participating athletes.

Director Cooper announced that the 11–12-year-old All-Star baseball team, sponsored by Carolina Wholesale Mortgage, will compete in the upcoming All-Star Tournament in Rock Hill. She expressed confidence in the team's abilities and stated that they have the potential to advance to the State Tournament during the week of July 4. Fundraising efforts are currently underway to support the team, and community members were encouraged to show their support.

Director Cooper also recognized several local girls who were selected for the Lewisville All-Star softball team. She explained that softball was not franchised this year, a decision made prior to her tenure as director but stated that plans are in place to franchise softball next year and provide additional support and opportunities for participants.

Looking ahead, Parks and Recreation are planning for the fall baseball and softball seasons and several summer baseball and softball camps. Camp pricing remains under discussion, including the possibility of offering some programs at no cost to encourage greater participation among local youth.

To help offset increasing program expenses, including uniform costs, Director Cooper discussed the possibility of reducing registration fees to approximately \$40–\$50 per participant while requiring all participants to participate in fundraising activities.

Director Cooper also reported on recent equipment improvements. A representative from a sporting equipment company in Hickory, North Carolina, conducted a complimentary audit of the football equipment inventory. The company agreed to repair

football helmet bladders at no cost and offered a pad storage cart at cost, which was purchased to improve equipment storage, organization, and sanitation.

Additional equipment needs were discussed, including the need to purchase new football and basketball uniforms for the upcoming seasons.

Director Cooper advised that a football 7-on-7 program is being planned for June and July and will include participation from local coaches and volunteers.

In addition to athletic programming, Parks and Recreation is partnering with Great Falls Heart and Soul to expand recreational opportunities for senior citizens. As part of this effort, an artist from Lancaster will be leading painting classes and other creative activities for community members.

#### **B. SUPERVISOR BIGHAM – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Public Works reported ongoing issues with the chipper truck, which has been towed twice and may require additional towing. Supervisor Bigham advised that the problem appears to be related to either an electrical issue or the fuel delivery system. Repairs and diagnostic evaluations are continuing, while staff also assesses the condition and viability of another truck.

The department is preparing for the upcoming Fish Festival and has scheduled a town-wide clean-up effort. Flags will be placed throughout town on Friday and will be collected the following Wednesday following the event.

A discussion was also held regarding truck replacement costs. Preliminary figures referenced during the discussion indicated estimated costs ranging from approximately \$90,000 to \$114,000, depending on the vehicle and specifications being considered. No action was taken at this time.

#### **C. SUPERVISOR SKINNER – WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT**

The Wastewater Department presented its fleet and equipment needs to Council. Supervisor Skinner explained the need for a small pickup truck to conduct daily lift station inspections and rounds, which average approximately 100 miles per day. The proposed vehicle is expected to achieve approximately 20 miles per gallon, compared to the current truck's estimated 10 miles per gallon, resulting in significant fuel savings that could offset the purchase cost within a few years.

The department also identified the need for a service truck, specifically a 2027 Ford F-450 cab-and-chassis equipped with a utility body and crane to assist with pulling pumps. Pricing information is still being obtained. Staff noted their intention to retain the

existing truck for operations and use it on rough terrain to preserve the life of any newly acquired equipment.

Following discussion, Council approved the purchase of a vehicle for the department, noting that sufficient funds are available within the department's dedicated account to cover the expense.

Project updates were provided regarding ongoing sewer line improvements. Work is progressing from Adventure World toward Highway 200, with pressure testing scheduled for Monday. The remaining work includes a bore under the creek located between Adventure World and Highway 200. Supervisor Skinner also reported that some rework is needed on a couple of bores that were previously completed.

Regarding the Grand Central project, staff estimated that the necessary repairs and improvements will cost approximately \$27,000. It was noted that the project is expected to be funded using available funds from the Winnsboro-Fairfield Fire allocation.

The department also addressed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reporting requirements and advised that copies of the previous month's Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) would be provided to Council. Supervisor Skinner apologized for the delay in distributing the reports and emphasized the importance of keeping both Council and the public informed regarding wastewater system performance and regulatory compliance.

#### **D. CHIEF PARKER – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Parker presented the Police Department report and advised that officers conducted a total of 90 traffic stops during the reporting period, resulting in 50 traffic citations and 48 warnings. The department also aided other law enforcement agencies on five occasions and served seven outstanding warrants.

Chief Parker stated that requests for additional equipment and personnel would be deferred until further budget discussions are completed and funding priorities are established.

The Chief also provided updates on upcoming community engagement initiatives. The department will begin hosting a monthly movie night starting in June, utilizing the local theater, projector, and chairs to provide a family-friendly community event. Additionally, fundraising efforts for the annual "Shop with a Cop" program will begin in June.

Looking ahead to next year, Chief Parker advised that the department is planning a week-long summer camp for local youth. He also noted that the department has

acquired a larger and improved dunk tank, which will be used to support community events and fundraising activities.

**E. CLERK DOOLEY – ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT**

Clerk Dooley reported that work on the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget is ongoing. Efforts are focused on separating salaries, payroll taxes, retirement contributions, and insurance expenses by department to improve financial tracking and accountability. The Clerk's office is also conducting an extensive review of invoices, payroll records, and financial reports to ensure expenditures are properly allocated and recorded.

Clerk Dooley stated that the goal is to complete the budget and account restructuring process by the end of June, allowing the Town to begin the new fiscal year on July 1 with clean, organized, and accurately categorized financial records. This work is intended to improve transparency, streamline reporting, and provide more accurate department-level budgeting moving forward.

**ITEM 5           NEW BUSINESS**

**A. ATTORNEY APRIL PORTER - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH PARKS AND RECREATION**

Council was advised that the draft Memorandum of Understanding received from Chester County Parks and Recreation only included David Minor Park. The Town requested that the agreement be revised to include all Town parks, specifically David Minor Park, Sunset Park, and Republic Park. The Town is currently awaiting receipt of the updated draft for review and consideration.

**B. MAYOR KEEVI – ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATION FOR THE TOWN**

Mayor Keevi Worthy reported that proposals for engineering services related to the David Minor Improvement Grant were evaluated in coordination with Christine Schwartz. Following the review process, Bolton & Menk received the highest overall score and was selected as the preferred engineering firm for the project. Council approved the selection of Bolton & Menk as the project engineer, contingent upon grant approval. It was also noted that the engineering budget for the project is approximately \$41,465, which is lower than the previously anticipated estimate of \$50,000.

**C. CMD BOARD APPOINTMENT – ATTORNEY APRIL PORTER**

Council considered the appointment of James Edward Norsworhy to serve on the Catawba Regional Council of Governments (C&D) Board. Following discussion, Council

approved the appointment. During the discussion, clarification was requested regarding board references and representation, including a question concerning service related to Chester Metropolitan District (CMD) and water system representation. Further clarification will be obtained as needed.

## **ITEM 6            MAYOR’S REPORT**

During the Mayor’s Report under New Business, Mayor Keevi Worthy reported that the Town has been working with Richard Turner and Jeremy Ward to submit a Letter of Intent application for the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) 2026 Round 1 funding cycle. The proposed project focuses on sidewalk improvements within the Town of Great Falls. The TAP program provides grant funding assistance for pedestrian and transportation infrastructure projects, including sidewalks, walking paths, and connectivity improvements. The completed application package included project details, location maps, and engineer cost estimates and was submitted prior to the May 8, 2026. Mayor Worthy expressed appreciation to Jeremy Ward for his guidance and assistance throughout the application process.

Mayor Worthy also reported that the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST), commonly referred to as the “Penny Tax” Ordinance, received the first of three required readings and was approved by Council. Proposed projects included in the ordinance consist of the Great Falls Rail Trail extension to Fishing Creek in the amount of \$1,330,000, Great Falls Sewer System Belt Press and Chlorine Contact Improvements totaling \$2,475,000, and Great Falls Park Improvements totaling \$715,000. The park improvement projects include Sunset Park, David Minor Park, Republic Park, and Dearborn Park in partnership with GFPI.

Mayor Worthy further reported that the Town received a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for David Minor Park. After review, the draft was returned with a request to revise the agreement to include all Town parks rather than limiting the agreement solely to David Minor Park. At the time of the meeting, no updated draft or response was received.

Additionally, Mayor Worthy reported that the Engineer Selection Committee completed its review of proposals for engineering services related to the David Minor Park Improvements Project funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Two firms submitted proposals, and both firms were determined to be responsive and responsible. Following the evaluation process, Bolton & Menk received

the highest overall score. Although the initial proposal exceeded the project budget, negotiations were conducted successfully to reduce the cost and align the proposal within the approved budget amount.

A motion was then made to approve Bolton & Menk as the engineering firm for the David Minor Park Improvements Project, contingent upon state approval.

**ITEM 7 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Keevi Worthy made a motion to enter Executive Session, which was seconded by Councilmember Tiffany Craig. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon completion of Executive Session, Mayor Keevi Worthy made a motion to return to open session, which was seconded by Councilmember David Dutton. The motion carried unanimously.

No decisions or votes were made during Executive Session.

**ITEM 8 ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Keevi Worthy and seconded by Councilmember David Dutton. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Erica Dooley