



Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Town Hall, Great Falls, SC

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Keevi Worthy, Councilmember Monica Eagle, Councilmember Jody Knight, Councilmember Eric Owens, Councilmember Wytricia Mack, Councilmember Hope Sims, Councilmember David Dutton. A quorum was present.

Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember David Dutton

Staff Present: Town Attorney April Porter, Erica Dooley (Clerk Treasurer), Buddy Bigham (PW Sup)

Staff Absent: Chief Parker (Police Department), Supervisor Skinner (Wastewater Department), Angela Cooper (Recreation Director)

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.

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Document: 05-19-2026 Regular Council Meeting held May 19, 2026, minutes.

Approved: Councilmember Mack

Second: Councilmember Owens

The motion carried.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC SESSION

a. Hometown Association – Glinda Coleman

Ms. Glinda Coleman opened her remarks by greeting council and the public, then walked through several active community development efforts.

She shared that she spoke last week with Christy Churchill of Duke Energy regarding the parking lot and pedestrian bridge that will provide access to the new State Park project. Duke Energy confirmed the project remains on schedule, with the pedestrian bridge

expected to be in place in August and the associated parking areas completed by late summer or early fall.

Ms. Coleman noted that within the next two weeks or so, a walkthrough of the newly completed section of the trail will take place with the Stantec team that oversaw the EPA Brownfields portion of the grant and with Catawba Regional Council of Governments, which oversaw the SCDES portion. A trail builder and designer will also be on site during that same window to provide an estimate on improving the surface of the trail through the mill village area.

Turning to the Capital Projects Sales Tax, she reported that the night before the meeting, Chester County Council approved the project list submitted by the Capital Projects Sales Tax Committee. The list includes several Great Falls projects, among them the next section of the Great Falls Rail Trail. The measure will appear on the November 2026 ballot as a referendum. She emphasized that taxpayers should understand this is not a new tax but a continuation of the one-cent sales tax that has been collected in the county for the past 13 years. The estimated amount to be collected over the seven-year period is approximately \$33,530,000.

Ms. Coleman reported that the Visitor's Center continues to move forward. Within the next month or so, construction of the parking lot beside the building will get underway, with Duke Energy contractors handling that work.

In conjunction with the Chester County 250 Committee, an outdoor showing of "The Patriot" will take place on August 1. More than 60 percent of the 2000 film was shot in Chester County. The event will begin at 6:30 PM and will include a short presentation by Dr. Eddie Lee, history professor at Winthrop University, who will speak about what happened in the area during the American Revolution.

Finally, she shared that the South Carolina Nature-Based Tourism Association will hold its fall conference in Great Falls on October 5 and 6. A site visit took place the day before the meeting, and the association expressed excitement about what Great Falls offers today and what is on the horizon. The conference typically draws 20 to 30 attendees, and the town is looking forward to hosting them.

b. Heart & Soul – Elizabeth Bowen

Ms. Elizabeth Bowen provided an update on the Great Falls Heart & Soul initiative. She reported that community feedback gathered through surveys, public events, and the Idea Summit is currently being compiled, and that draft Heart & Soul Statements and action plans are being developed. The plan will be shared with residents for additional feedback before final adoption. The initiative is intended to guide future decision-making and community

investments, and a group of community champions has been identified to help carry the work forward.

c. Great Falls Forward Together Report – Brian McGrath

Mr. Brian McGrath addressed Council and congratulated the newly elected and re-elected members, expressing optimism for the future of the Town of Great Falls. He encouraged Council to remain focused on initiatives that move the town forward, continue learning and growing in their leadership roles, and use past experiences as lessons without allowing them to hinder progress. Mr. McGrath emphasized the importance of prioritizing town business, maintaining accountability, communicating effectively, tracking ongoing projects, making fact-based decisions, building consensus, earning respect through leadership, taking initiative, avoiding personal agendas, and keeping emotions separate from municipal decision-making. He also provided an update on the Great Falls Forward Together (GFFT) project, announcing that funding has been secured for the lumber needed to repair and replace the storefront panels at Lot 15. The repair work is tentatively scheduled for July 1–2, 2026, and volunteers with carpentry skills and tools are being sought to assist with the project. Upon completion of the repairs, painting will begin as the final phase of the storefront improvement effort.

d. Suggestions for Ordinance Officer – Dean Runion

Mr. Dean Runion was not present at the meeting. This agenda item was tabled and will be addressed at a future council meeting.

ITEM 3 REPORTS ON DEPARTMENT

a. Recreation Department – Director Cooper

In the absence of Director Cooper, Mayor Worthy provided the Recreation Department update on her behalf. She reported that registration remains open for all sports programs, and the department continues to plan for the upcoming athletic seasons. Community participation is encouraged.

b. Public Works Department – Supervisor Bigham

Public Works Supervisor Buddy Bigham reported that the chipper truck is back in service after repairs to the transmission linkage and has been running well for about two weeks since the repair, with contingency plans ready in case any further mechanical issues come up. He also shared that Public Works has rolled out a new notification approach to improve compliance with sanitation ordinances: employees are now placing notices on trash cans that violate town ordinances, most often for being overfilled or having lids that are not

properly secured. The notices are intended to educate residents and improve overall compliance. He closed by noting that one Public Works employee remains out at this time.

c. Wastewater Department – Supervisor Skinner

No report was presented due to the absence of Supervisor Skinner.

d. Police Department – Chief Parker

No report was presented due to the absence of Chief Parker.

ITEM 4 OLD BUSINESS

a. Selection and Hiring of an Accountant for the Town – Attorney April Porter

Council discussed the need to bring on professional accounting services. The scope of work would include reconciling all bank accounts, bringing financial records current, completing outstanding state audits, and preparing the town for a future forensic audit. Two firms remain under consideration: Level Financial Group, represented by Richard Livingston, and CRI Advisors, represented by Ben Kincaid. Attorney Porter advised council that accounting services qualify as professional services and may be exempt from the procurement policy under Section 32-22. Councilmember Jody Knight requested that quotes be obtained from both firms, and Attorney Porter will send an email to each firm to request their pricing proposals. A special called meeting may be scheduled if council wishes to move the hiring process forward more quickly.

b. Memorandum of Understanding – Fire Service Agreement – Attorney April Porter

Attorney Porter reviewed the proposed Fire Services Memorandum of Understanding between Chester County and the Town of Great Falls. Discussion centered on the extension of fire protection services through June 30, 2027, the length of the commitment, the annual payments the town would make to Chester County, staffing expectations, and the insurance and liability responsibilities outlined under Section H of the agreement.

Councilmember Jody Knight made a motion to table the agreement, citing a lack of understanding of the agreement's terms. The motion was approved. Attorney Porter requested that a meeting be arranged with Chester County Administrator Brian Hester to obtain clarification on contract term length, financial obligations, staffing provisions, and insurance requirements. The item will return to council for future consideration once that meeting takes place.

c. Ordinance Resolution for Mayor-Council Form of Government – Attorney April Porter

Attorney Porter adopted an ordinance formally reflecting the town's transition to the Mayor-Council form of government. Councilmember Jody Knight made the motion to approve the ordinance, with Mayor Worthy seconding. The motion carried with 5 of 6 votes in favor.

d. Request for Joint Meeting with County, JM Cope, Alliance, and Sherbert Group for Visitor's Center – Attorney April Porter

Attorney Porter requested a joint meeting with Chester County, JM Cope, Alliance, and the Sherbert Group to coordinate planning efforts for the Visitor's Center and discuss county support for the project. The meeting is tentatively planned to take place prior to the next budget workshop.

e. Credit Card Policy – Councilmember Monica Eagle & Attorney April Porter

Councilmember Monica Eagle presented a proposed credit card policy for council's discussion. The conversation covered spending limits, emergency purchasing authority, documentation requirements, budget compliance, and transparency and accountability measures. Attorney Porter indicated there were no legal concerns with the draft policy.

Councilmember Knight requests that employees using town credit cards submit receipts, that council members may request account statements, and that monthly credit card statements from all departments will be included in council packets going forward. The Mayor and Town Attorney will develop a comprehensive financial and purchasing policy for council's consideration.

ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS

a. Mayor Pro Tempore – Keevi Worthy

Council conducted the annual election of Mayor Pro Tempore. Eric Owens received one vote and Jody Knight received five votes. Councilmember Jody Knight was elected Mayor Pro Tempore.

ITEM 6 MAYORS REPORT

Sidewalk Grant Update

Mayor Worthy reported that SCDOT has approved the town's sidewalk project to advance to the full application phase. The full application is due by July 15, 2026, and AMT Engineering has begun preparing the necessary materials.

Budget Update

Staff continues to prepare the FY 2026–2027 Budget. An additional budget workshop was scheduled for June 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM. Following the workshop, council is expected to proceed with first and second readings of the budget ordinance.

SHPO Coordination

The Mayor reported ongoing coordination on the Part 1 and Part 2 SHPO submissions. Tara Sherbert continues to coordinate project efforts, and Dean Runion will serve as the primary point of contact moving forward. Additional updates will be shared once those discussions take place.

David Minors Park Improvement Grant

Christine with Catawba Regional Council reported that CDBG has approved the engineering procurement documentation for the David Minors Park Improvements Project. With that approval in hand, the town may now move forward with executing a contract with Bolton & Menk, and the project can advance into the engineering phase.

ITEM 7 EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held at this meeting.

ITEM 8 ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Keevi, seconded Councilmember Knight, and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Dooley