



Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday August 18, 2026

Town Hall, Great Falls, SC

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

Councilmembers Absent: NONE

Staff Present: Municipal Attorney April Porter, Jessica Eubanks (Mayor Assistant), Erica Dooley (Clerk Treasurer), Buddy Bigham (PW Sup)

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. Mayor Worthy made a motion to remove Great Falls Varsity Cheer and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Knight. The motion carried.

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Document: Regular Council Meeting 07-21-26, Public Hearing 07-23-26, Called Meeting 07-24-26, Workshop 08-11-26

A motion was made by Councilmember Dutton and second Councilmember Mack to approve the previous meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC SESSION

a. Hometown Association-Glinda Coleman

Glinda Coleman reported that work was progressing on the parking area and bridge placement for the future state park. Duke Energy project manager Christy Churchill recommended waiting until the bridge is installed before scheduling a Council tour because of active construction. The bridge was expected to be installed during September, after which a tour would be coordinated.

Ms. Coleman thanked Public Works for installing new signs identifying the rail trail as walking-only and prohibiting vehicular traffic. One sign near Second Baptist Church was

stolen shortly after installation. To protect approximately \$700,000 in trail improvements, Mayor Worthy authorized the purchase of a gate at a cost of approximately \$200, and Public Works installed it. Councilmember Sims asked whether golf carts would be permitted on the trail. Glinda Coleman advised that golf carts were not allowed because they could cause the same damage as regular motor vehicles.

A public meeting with South Carolina State Parks concerning the future state park master plan was announced for Thursday, September 10, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Memorial Building. The outdoor showing of The Patriot, canceled on August 1 because of storms, was tentatively rescheduled for September 26. Ms. Coleman also announced that the South Carolina Nature-Based Tourism Association fall conference would be held in Great Falls on October 5-6, 2026.

Elizabeth Howe presented information about the fourth annual Great Falls Hometown Association Scarecrow Contest. Registration would open September 1 and remain open through September 30, or until all 25 Dearborn Street lamp posts were assigned. Installation would begin September 15; scarecrows were to be displayed October 1-31 and removed by November 1. Out-of-town judges would select first- and second-place winners, and online People's Choice voting would run October 1-24. Council permitted the Association to relabel the lamp posts using zip ties and laminated labels that would not damage the fixtures.

b. Heart & Soul Update- Elizabeth Bowen

Elizabeth Bowen reported that Great Falls Heart & Soul had completed Phase Four training while continuing Phase Three work to develop a draft action plan for community review. The group had requested Council's formal adoption of the eight resident-based Heart & Soul statements. The related proclamation was addressed under New Business.

c. Town Parks-Brian McGrath

Brian McGrath asked Council to establish a more active and deliberate maintenance program for Town-owned parks. He stated that maintenance of David Minors, Republic, and Sunset parks had become inconsistent after the prior Town-County memorandum of understanding ended. He emphasized that responsibility for inspection, safety, repairs, and warnings remained with the Town regardless of whether work was performed by Town staff, the County, contractors, volunteers, or a combination of those groups.

Brian McGrath noted that the Town was implementing a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant for David Minors Park and could receive approximately \$715,000 in Capital Project Sales Tax funds for park improvements if the November referendum passed. He urged Council to establish a maintenance program, including parks-and-recreation practitioners, assign clear responsibilities and resources, track performance, and include park maintenance in fiscal-year

budget discussions.

ITEM 3 REPORTS ON DEPARTMENT

a. Recreation Department- Angela Cooper

No update. Angela was not present.

b. Public Works Department - Buddy Bigham

Buddy Bigham thanked Council for the new trash truck and reported that employees were completing training before placing it into service. Public Works installed the gate at the rail trail and would obtain keys for authorized access. Both Town mowers were temporarily out of service, one for scheduled maintenance and the other because its blades would not engage. Staff continued mowing with other available equipment, including the tractor. Mayor Worthy asked about the age of the mowers, and Councilmember Dutton stated that they were approximately 12 years old. Council and staff discussed obtaining prices for commercial-grade replacement mowers and using the state contract purchasing process.

Buddy Bigham reported that the part-time Public Works vacancy had been advertised. Staff had completed grounds work near the former coffee shop and planned additional tree and vegetation trimming. Councilmember Sims expressed concern about who was responsible for cutting the grass at David Minors Park. Council was advised that the Town would remain responsible until a new memorandum of understanding with Chester County became effective. Mr. Bigham stated that Public Works could perform the work if directed, but clear responsibility and scheduling were needed. Councilmember Owens also asked Mr. Bigham about the department's regular equipment-maintenance schedule. Mr. Bigham explained that routine maintenance had generally been performed in-house, but some mower maintenance was now being completed by a service provider in Winnsboro, while Town trucks were serviced by a provider in Lancaster.

c. Wastewater- Warren Skinner

Warren Skinner reported continuing problems with the pumps at the lift station serving the Carolina Adventure World/truck-stop area. He recommended replacing the existing pump arrangement with submersible pumps, explaining that the current system had required repeated repairs and had not performed reliably. A temporary bypass pump was reportedly costing approximately \$5,000 per week. Staff were waiting for Fairfield County's pump to be connected so the Town could discontinue the rented bypass pump. Council requested follow-up regarding the applicable cost-sharing agreement with Fairfield County and the feasibility and cost of upgrading the station.

d. Police Department- Chief Parker

Chief Parker reported that calls for service were up approximately 28 percent, largely because of activity near the truck stops. The Police Department was developing geographic assignments for code-enforcement concerns so residents and officials would have a designated officer to contact for each area. Traffic enforcement would also be increased. Chief Parker reported that Officer Derrick English was expected to return from deployment on September 7.

Chief Parker outlined a proposed September 26 fundraiser for Shop with a Cop featuring humorous volunteer 'arrests,' bond fundraising, food, children's activities, and a possible movie showing. The Department was speaking with potential applicants while remaining selective in hiring. Chief Parker also advised that commercial mowers could be purchased through state contract vendors at a discount, avoiding a separate competitive bid process where permitted.

e. Administrative Department – Mayor Assistant Eubanks

Mayor Assistant Eubanks presented the July 2026 financial summary. General Fund revenues exceeded expenditure, producing a positive operating difference for the first month of the fiscal year. The Wastewater Fund spent more than it received because of necessary repairs and operating expenses. Revenues and expenditures would continue to be monitored throughout the year.

Mayor Assistant Eubanks reported that she and Town Clerk Dooley would streamline the organization of bank statements, checks, invoices, credit-card statements, and receipts so records could be provided to Council clearly and in a timely manner. The Town's first payroll through ProLiant was processed August 5. The transition had been easier to manage, no major issues had occurred, and employees were continuing to learn about the new time management system.

ITEM 4 OLD BUSINESS

a. 2nd Reading Ordinance for the Town of Great Falls- Councilmember Dutton

Council considered second reading of an ordinance authorizing the Town of Great Falls to acquire ownership of identified burned or unsafe properties for public-safety and redevelopment purposes. Councilmember David Dutton made the motion to approve second reading. The motion was second by Mayor Pro Tempore Knight and carried unanimously.

ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution Establishing a Second Monthly Public Meeting- Councilmember Owens

Councilmember Eric Owens explained that the resolution would formally establish a second monthly public meeting, primarily for review of Town finances and discussion of other projects and initiatives. The proposed meeting date was the first Tuesday of each month, allowing Council and the public time to review financial information before the regular meeting. Councilmember Owens moved to approve the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Jody Knight seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

b. Proclamation for the Town of Great Falls Town Council- Elizabeth Bowen

Elizabeth Bowen read the proclamation recognizing the community-engagement process conducted since 2022, including more than 2,000 volunteer hours. The proclamation identified eight areas reflecting residents' shared values: youth spaces, sports, education, community culture and tradition, economic development, small-town feeling and community roots, history, and nature. Council accepted and adopted the Great Falls Community Heart & Soul Statements as guidance for future policy, strategic planning, and operational investment decisions.

c. Resolution Impact Grant Intent to apply- Councilmember Owens

Councilmember Owens presented a resolution expressing the Town's intent to apply for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Impact Fund Problem Solver Grant for Council chamber audio, microphone, video, and livestreaming improvements. The proposed request was \$25,000 with a required five-percent local match, estimated at \$1,250. Council discussed whether staff time could count toward the match and noted that clarification would be requested from the Municipal Association. Councilmember Owens made the motion to approve the resolution and commitment to the required local match. Councilmember Dutton seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

d. Washington Street Community Cookout Funding assistance- Councilmember Mack

Councilmember Mack requested funding assistance for the annual Washington Street community cookout at Sunset Park. She described costs associated with temporary power, portable toilets, mosquito control, water, and other event needs, and discussed a possible funding cap of \$2,500. Council and the Town Attorney discussed legal and policy concerns, including the group's nonprofit status and the precedent that Town funding could establish for other neighborhood events. Council agreed to hold the request pending additional legal guidance. No funding was approved at this meeting.

ITEM 6 MAYORS REPORT

Financial Reconciliation and Audits

Mayor Worthy reported that the accounting team had begun the financial reconciliation and audit-preparation project after completing its prior engagement. The team provided an initial document request that included bank statements, reconciliations, checks, payroll records, budgets, financial statements, and related records. A Zoom meeting would be scheduled with Jessica Eubanks and Erica Dooley to review the request before staff begin gathering documents. A completion timeline would be clearer after reconciliation work was underway.

David Minors Playground Grant

Mayor Worthy reported on an August 13 meeting with Bolton & Menk regarding playground improvements, grading, the drainage swale, vegetation, and tree removal. Existing playground equipment would be removed, and the area regraded for a new nature-themed playground with updated equipment, surfacing, and edging. Because drainage-swale work was outside the grant scope, it would require separate Town funding and would be included as a separate bid item.

Great Falls Collection Systems Grant

The collection-system project had been delayed by rock and boulders encountered while boring beneath Camp Welfare Road. Other sewer work was substantially complete, and final connections would follow completion of the road crossing. Pumps and control panels for both lift stations had been installed, fencing was underway, and micro-strainers were expected in mid-September. A project meeting was scheduled for August 19 to review progress and the schedule.

TAP Sidewalk Grant

The Town's July application to SCDOT sought to extend the Chester Avenue sidewalk from Dollar General to Lybrand Street. The application remained under internal review, with award announcements expected in early September.

Labor Day Kickoff Event

Mayor Worthy requested Councilmembers' assistance with the September Labor Day kickoff event. Heart & Soul and the new municipal committee have been contacted, and the mayor planned to meet with Kim Puckett on Friday and provide an additional update.

ITEM 7 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Worthy made a motion and second by Councilmember Dutton to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter concerning the Town Clerk. Mayor Worthy made a motion and second by Councilmember Dutton to exit executive session. No decision was made in executive session

ITEM 8 ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Worthy made a motion and seconded by Councilmember Dutton to Adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erica Dooley