



Workshop

Tuesday, September 01, 2026

Town Hall, Great Falls, SC

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

Councilmembers Absent: None

Staff Present: Chief Parker (Police), Jessica Eubanks (Mayor Assistant), Erica Dooley (Clerk Treasurer)

The public and media were duly notified of the date, time, and place of the meeting. Mayor Keevi Worthy called the Public Workshop to order at 7:04 PM and led the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Town of Great Falls

Workshop Meeting Minutes

Agenda Approval: Mayor Keevi Worthy made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Eric J. Owens seconded the motion. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

Review of Financials: Council discussed the prior month's financial information and a discrepancy concerning an amount referenced as approximately \$5,000 versus approximately \$39,000. Some members stated that they had not received the financial documents. Council requested clarification of the amount and distribution of the financial information to all members. A pending deposit-related matter was also discussed and was to be resolved.

Grant Opportunities: Council discussed Municipal Association of South Carolina grant opportunities and the need to identify projects that would provide meaningful community benefits. A potential project involving amplified access and improved public communication was referenced. Council also discussed exploring USDA Rural Development resources that could assist with community buildings and other eligible improvements.

Labor Day Event: Council reviewed final plans for the Town's Labor Day event scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Memorial Building. Tables

and chairs would be available, and the elementary school had agreed to allow the Town to use its stage. Organizers anticipated two to three vendors, a children's area, games, and free popcorn connected with the student activity or contest. Council also discussed whether a street would need to be blocked and agreed that the exact location and related logistics still needed to be finalized. Councilmember Wytricia Mack was assisting with the sound system.

Ordinance Update: Council discussed updates to the Town's property-maintenance and blight ordinance. It was explained that the updated ordinance was not substantially different from the Town's prior authority but contained clearer legal language and procedures. Council emphasized that enforcement standards should apply consistently and that the Town must also address the condition of its own roads, buildings, and property.

Property Conditions and Enforcement: Council and residents discussed overgrown, burned, abandoned, and otherwise neglected properties and the effect those conditions may have on neighboring properties, including pests and termites. The enforcement process would begin with notice to the property owner and a 15-day period to respond. When an owner responds, the Town may work with the owner to develop a cleanup plan. If the owner does not respond or fails to comply, enforcement may continue in accordance with the ordinance. If the Town performs the required work, the cost may result in a tax lien. Ongoing maintenance would remain the property owner's responsibility.

Due Process and Property Acquisition: Council clarified that the Town cannot take possession of private property simply because a property is in poor condition. Any acquisition or possession must follow the procedures authorized by law and comply with federal protections and due-process requirements. A 12-month period following possession was referenced in connection with completing required actions.

Resident Assistance and Community Cleanup: Councilmember Sims acknowledged that some residents may be financially or physically unable to maintain their property. Possible assistance through the Town, nonprofit organizations, and community volunteers was discussed. A monthly volunteer cleanup effort involving Councilmembers and residents was suggested to help individuals with legitimate needs while improving the community.

Town Infrastructure and Roads: Council discussed cleanup of Town-owned property and ongoing road concerns. A group had been assigned to address the Dearborn area. The Town had also contacted the appropriate state agency regarding road repair and replacement requests. Dukes Street was reported as being redone. Council recognized that it may request and advocate for state-maintained road improvements but cannot compel the State to complete the work.

Town Marketing and Economic Development: Council and residents discussed the importance of making Great Falls more attractive to residents, visitors, homebuyers, and investors. Participants noted that homes are currently more affordable and that people are showing interest in purchasing and renovating property. Growth in nearby communities, including Ridgeway and Blythewood, was referenced as an opportunity for Great Falls. Downtown revitalization, improved appearance, and consistent enforcement were identified as important parts of encouraging investment.

Outstanding Items: Council discussed the need to continue following through on unresolved Town matters, including financial-document distribution, the pending deposit, event logistics, property cleanup, road requests, ordinance implementation, and assistance options for residents. A public comment also referenced a community big-bag sale and the importance of sharing local activities more broadly.

Keeping the People in the Know - Community Information and Notification System: Kesha Horton discussed the need for a Town-wide communication system capable of reaching Great Falls' approximately 2,000 residents through multiple channels. Many residents do not receive Town information through Facebook, Instagram, or the internet. A proposed system could distribute event notices, meeting information, special alerts, emails, text messages, and voice calls through one platform. Clerk Dooley could also target a specific area, when necessary, such as for a downed tree or localized emergency. The service would be free to residents but would require funding by the Town.

Newsletter and Community Participation: Council discussed developing a newsletter and beginning to collect residents' email addresses and telephone numbers. A participant offered to assist based on prior experience establishing a school communication system. Council noted that any new system would depend on resident participation and enrollment. A prior effort to register private security cameras received only one response from approximately 2,000 residents. Council therefore emphasized the need for outreach before committing Town funds. Enrollment clinics at community events or other well-attended locations were suggested to register residents and connect them with additional resources.

Emergency Notifications and Reverse 911: Chief James Parker discussed the Town's existing Reverse 911 capability for major emergencies, including severe weather, missing persons, or a major fire. The system can reach home and office telephones. When residents cannot be reached by telephone, emergency personnel may conduct door-to-door notification. Council agreed that Reverse 911 should remain reserved for true emergencies, while a separate communication platform could be used for routine events, meetings, and community announcements.

Follow-Up Items: Staff and Council would clarify and distribute the prior month's financial information, resolve the pending deposit matter, finalize Labor Day event logistics, continue ordinance enforcement planning, coordinate Town-property cleanup and state road requests, explore assistance for residents who cannot maintain their property, and evaluate the proposed community-notification platform at a future Council meeting. The Town would also begin considering methods to collect resident contact information, develop a newsletter, increase enrollment through in-person outreach, and promote downtown investment and revitalization.

Adjournment: With no further matters presented, Mayor Keevi Worthy made a motion to adjourn the workshop. Councilmember Owens seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Dooley