



**Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday April 29, 2025**

810 Dearborn St, Great Falls, SC - Council Chambers

Councilmembers Present : Mayor Pro Tem Keevi Worthy, Councilmember Tiffany Craig, Councilmember Willie Gonzalez, Councilmember Monica Eagle, Councilmember Steve McManus, Councilmember David Dutton. A quorum was present.

Councilmembers Absent: None

Staff Present: Joshua Glenn, City Manager; Chief Benenhaley, Police Department; Brian Grier, Municipal Attorney; Kim Thresher, Treasurer/Municipal Clerk.

The public and media were duly notified of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

Pro Tem Keevi Worthy called the Regula Council meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., led the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

ITEM 1 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Swearing in New Mayor Keevi Worthy by The Honorable Judge Adrian Wilkes.

B. City Administrator's Reports

City Administrator Glenn presented highlights from each department to include numerous of grant closures within the last 40 days exceeding around \$350,000 another \$30,000 is still in limbo. The Grant has been closed on the basketball court at Sunset which is another \$30,000 so about **\$400,000** in grant money which will go back into general funds. Cog Project A had a meeting with Grazier and bidding industrial guys. Bid awarded to Tri-County, bid came in at \$13,000 higher on face bid alone but nearly \$80,000 less on alternatives which gave us a quarter thousand dollars that we can do further upgrades with. Working with the county looking to extend Hwy 99 piping to pick up Chester County excess waste capacity they are currently out of capacity will keep you updating. Dave Myer park, several citizens called asking to put the extra monument back, which was damaged several years ago. Thank you to public works for pouring concrete we will have a monument both north and south set in the upcoming week. Working on Fairfield County Waste Agreement. A huge saving coming to us with Duke Power having an audit coming, looking to change from incandescent lighting to LED and to include timers to all building lights and any streetlights could be an additional savings of \$3K to \$4K a month for the town. Visitor center gave us an additional \$200,000. Working on audits for each department. Starting with Public Works. Town is currently missing revenue just from the trash service alone several properties have two to three cans that are only being billed for one. Currently working on checks and balances for each department doing audits on credit cards, gas cards, equipment maintenance and equipment ownership. Need to clear inventory on the books for equipment that is no longer in use or damaged beyond repair as well as what we don't physically have in the yard. Mold retest was completed. PD came back clear with some simple remediation. PD is clear to operate. This room and that room came back clear, safe from any contamination or from any spores. Remediation has started by the property management which is remodeling the apartments above which was the cause of the mold. Once done we will complete another Mold test with the same company and compare analysis. Mill Site 1 Cog found additional money around \$200,000 for additional cleanup at no cost to the town. Insurance policy there are several properties, buildings that may not have coverage on we are looking into making it right. Bailey's Bill was brought up during a meeting in Chester with Mayor Carlos and Administrator Maleek. Bailey's Bill will give us an opportunity to renovate and revitalize our downtown, asking that the town adopt the Bill, as Chester County did. Bill is used to Revitalize the Historical town in several other historic sites.

I have had several meetings and calls with industry to go to the Industrial Park. Once we get a proposal sent to us it will be proposed to the council with prices, timelines and starting/end dates. One of the largest things we are working on for collecting revenue for the town is on Hospitality tax audits. We are asking for all hospitality tax business owners to submit 2024 taxes to us in order to make sure we are in compliance with receiving the funds that should be allocated to the town.

C. Public Works

Requesting Safety Committees to help in remaining compliant. Discussed with the administrator earlier in the day to add Orange and white flashing lights to the vehicles for additional awareness.

D. Waste Waters

Have a lot of projects going on with wastewater. Have a few pumps down awaiting repairs. Waiting on a truck, need to get bids for a new truck. Stated the department Spending 20K-30K thousand a year on calling third party contractor.

E. Police Department

Great Falls Police department has had 177 service calls. 64 Traffic Stops. 18 Arrests. We have continued back and forth with Taser which is secondary non-lethal weapons that we are supposed to have. Quotes given are extremely high looking at other options. We have spoken to Duke to update our MOU to make sure we can continue to do property checks like we need to. We are continuing to work on our printer, laptops etickets are giving a hard time. Had meeting with Sheriff, agreed to send someone next week to go over the vehicles to help set up correctly. Make sure the wifi modems are correct and working properly. Set up account with Take 5. Officers are responsible for maintaining their vehicles. Monthly inspections will be completed. Officers had current training in fields of patrol practices, narcotics, field training along with in house training. Working with Chester county and SLED on major crime scenes who agreed to include officers with hands on experience. In house maintenance, going through old files, evidence, and cases. Have recently had training with SLED and the Academy in these areas and continue to go through it to better organize. There is a new system and procedure being put in place along with proper storage to better maintain. Need to stay in compliance with SLED and The Academy. All officers have read and signed policies and procedures that are required by the Criminal Justice Academy. Working on Profiles for vulnerable children and adults these profiles will be kept to know where individuals are and that these individuals are approached with appropriate care. Great Falls officers, at times, may have to assist outside of the jurisdiction at the time that Chester County arrives the Great Falls PD will return to patrol in own jurisdiction. Officer personnel information will not be discussed in a public forum. Chief visited and experienced a community involvement forum at another township in which the citizens were actively involved. The forum was informative to the community and allowed the police department to answer questions.

F. Recreation Department

Baseball and Softball is progressing well. Will only do one All Star team. Looking in the future to host an All Stars here in Great Falls. Adult Softball is set to begin last week of May all proceeds donated to Recreational Department. Soccer registration for fall season will take place in conjunction with football and cheer. Soccer may run a shorter season will depend on scheduling with Chester and Fairfield. Additional expenses trophies for baseball and All Star uniforms. Parents will have a fundraiser to cover costs.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Jody Knight commented regarding town clerk being bonded. Public Works working unsafely due to lack of signage and visibility. Expressed concern of town minutes not being posted on town website. Expressed concerns with the Chief in current position with delay in response time. Mentioned and requesting for Chief to step down to

Deputy position. Mr.Knight felt that police department schedules should be available to Council members as requested by Council member.

ITEM 3 NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Random Drug Testing and Updating Employee Handbook

Council Woman, Monica Eagle, noted that item is for Council to adopt random drug testing and updating the employee handbook.

MOTION

Councilmember Eagle motioned to approve an updated version of the Employee Handbook which will include Random Drug Testing, seconded by Councilmember McManus.

Vote

4/2 Vote. Approved

B. Adopt FOIA Updates and Charges for Information

Councilmember Gonzalez advised that in order to stay aligned with the municipalities of SC, Great Falls will need to update FOIA application and charges for the service.

MOTION

Councilmember Gonzalez motioned to amend the FOIA procedure and charges, seconded by Councilmember McManus.

VOTE

4/2 Vote. Approved

C. Adoption of COG/Town Administrator Resolution

Councilmember McManus noted for Town Administrator to negotiate and approve all COG contracts on behalf of and for the best interest of The Town of Great Falls. Any contract approved the Administrator will send the councilmembers notification of contract.

MOTION

Councilmember McManus motioned to approve Adoption of COG Town Administrator Resolution, seconded by councilmember Tiffany Craig

VOTE

Approved unanimously.

D. Adoption of Banking Resolution

Councilmember McManus noted to put Kim Thresher Treasurer/Clerk will be responsible for all monies coming in and out as well as monies being moved into investment accounts and to include deposits.

MOTION

Councilmember McManus motioned to approve Adoption of Banking Resolution, seconded by councilmember Tiffany Craig

VOTE

Approved unanimously.

E. Adoption of Town Administrative Business Items

Councilmember McManus noted that Mr. Josh Glenn, Town Administrator, will oversee the Department Heads and Town Employees. The Town Administrator will oversee the day-to-day operations as normal with the added responsibility of recognizing and holding the department heads accountable.

MOTION

Councilmember McManus motioned the adoption of Town Administrator overseeing the department heads and town employees as well as the day to day operations, seconded by councilmember David Dutton

VOTE

5/1 Vote. Approved

F. Adoption of Bailey's Bill and Sale of Commercial Properties

Councilmember Craig noted to adopt The Bailey's Bill. A tax freeze on the assessed value of Commercial property for 10 years.

MOTION

Councilmember Craig motioned to adopt Bailey's Bill and Sale of Commercial Properties, seconded by councilmember McManus

VOTE

Approved unanimously.

ITEM 4 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

Mayor Worthy motioned to go into executive session, seconded by councilmember Craig.

VOTE

2/4 Vote. Motion did not carry.

ITEM 5 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

There will be no further business, Mayor Keevy Worthy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Craig. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M.