



**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday May 27, 2025**  
War Memorial Building, Great Falls, SC

**Councilmembers Present :** Mayor 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

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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 7:00 P.M., led the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

**ITEM 1 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Dave Thresher  
Did not speak at the discretion of his attorney.
2. Jody Knight  
Made a suggestion of naming Sunset Park after Mayor Keevi Worthy. Spoke regarding a submitted FOIA request regarding the Flopeye Fish Festival
3. Ashley Kim  
Commented on the responsibilities of the Community to preserve decorum and not let Facebook create a state of chaos and misinformation.
4. Tassej Leonhardt  
Questioned why the council removed prior Mayor Josh Brantley's powers to give to the Town Administrator, and why the Town Council votes the way they do with a split 4/2. She also commented on Council Members' meeting at a council members' house after the council meeting.

**ITEM 2 OLD BUSINESS**

None

**ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Documents: 3A1 Draft Minutes 4-29-2025 PDF

**ITEM 4 SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**A. Town Administrator's Report-Josh Glenn**

Town Administrator Glenn responded to Jody Knights statement regarding FOIA request explaining he was in the designated time frame to answer. Ten days to respond and thirty days to gather and submit the information.

The Ordinance in question had not been followed, no one has ever applied for a license in the last thirty years. The festival was held on county property not the town property so therefore it will need to be addressed by the correct municipality.

Tri County received its REI approvals. The Bonds are in the works. Updates will be posted as they become available.

Once cent sales tax is coming up. Committee members are needed. In Discussion with Chester County regarding several projects that could put a facelift on the Town. Updates will be provided as they become available. There can be up to five projects to submit for the use of

these funds. One project is David Minor park, creating new soccer and football athletic fields for youth sports. Second project is Sunset Park revitalization.

CDBG has several grants on the table to begin a water and sewer application for the Town. There are additional grants for Parks as well.

Payroll Direct Deposit is being negotiated with Sage, the payroll company. The software is up to date. After a lengthy review with Sage, it was discovered that the Town has been overcharged for the last three years. Sage will credit the town which will offset the cost of adding this service to our software. This service will allow employees to clock in and clock out via cell phones. It is expected to be up and running in the next few weeks.

Open job position for the Town Clerk Treasurer is posted on The Towns main site and on Facebook.

Special Committee, seats are needed for the planning and zoning board for the Town of Great Falls. The purpose is to move forward with projects that are currently on hold because of the need for rezoning. This will be posted on our main site. Citizens can apply to volunteer for those seats.

The Town Administrators Report will be posted on the Town's website every month as well as emailed to all Council Members.

The visitors center project is on hold, lead was found. No expense to the Town, Chester County will be handling the lead issue with the contractor.

Chester County has agreed to reduce the amount the Town pays Chester County to maintain the Fire Department from \$175,000 per year to \$100,000 with the agreement that in two years it will drop to zero.

Property management did an additional walk through regarding the repairs to Town Hall and the sub floors in the basement.

Duke Power Audit is coming up next week. Changing bulbs to LED will save the Town around \$3000 a month in electric costs.

Certified letters have been sent to the Truck stops on the interstate regarding the COG project and the use of paper products that are clogging up the system.

Bonding paperwork for the Town Administrator has been submitted with a two-million-dollar bond request.

The Victims Advocate Fund has been flagged for review with \$87,000 in it that cannot be traced; it should never have over \$25,000 in the account. Investigators and police are involved with this currently.

Audit of the Town finances. A forensic audit of the town was conducted, and the audit was terminated. A handful of pages were given to the council, but none were shared with the Public. With the council's approval, a new Forensic auditor who has worked with the FBI and has thirty years of experience has been contacted. He has agreed to work with the Town to complete a new audit. The financial accounts are off balance; nothing is where it should be. Money has been moved from one account to another with no justification.

The Town has four bids over the posted threshold on the used equipment. The Bids will be sent out to the council, the decision to hold or sell will have to be discussed and approved. There were two low bids in which the council will have to decide to continue to hold them or sell them to the bidder.

There are two lawsuits on the Town of Great Falls. One is a letter of intent from a current associate the other is a EEOC from a prior associate. The town is also facing suit from the attorney general and a private firm for malicious behavior towards Mrs. Thresher, our previous treasurer.

#### **B. Public Works-Andy Marlow**

Working to get the town cleaned up and pressure washed. Completing trash can audits. Picking up the trash cans that are at vacant houses and placing them back in the warehouse. The town is discovering trash cans being used by other residents and has not been paying for the services. In the next couple of months, we will be rearranging the trash pick up routes due to the amount of time it takes to pick up trash and the fact that it extends past time to deliver to the landfill. The trash truck is filling up too fast on Thursdays so we will adjust the Tuesday

routes with some of the streets on the Thursday route. We will work with the water company to notify the residents and post on the Town website and Facebook. CMD will provide a list to pick up trash cans from homes that no longer have water service. The town is losing revenue from trash services that are not currently being billed, we are working to resolve those issues. Due to price increases at the landfill the Town will need to revisit rates for trash services.

#### **C. Waste Waters**

Not present

#### **D. Police Department-Chief Benenhaley**

Great Falls Police department had 151 service calls. 32 Traffic Stops. 2 warrants. 9 new cases have opened. 27 reports taken. 42 Disturbances responded to. Documentation reports have improved tremendously. Last year there were only 57, this year there were 321. 3 shootings that officers responded to and assisted with. The evidence room is now officially re-organized, cleaned up and set up. A new system is in place for entering and processing evidence. This is going to ensure that evidence chain of custody is kept in place as well as preserving evidence, so it remains in its original state preventing contamination or damage. This maintains its integrity for use in investigations or legal proceedings. The new file room has also been set up and is currently being organized. This will ensure proper documentation of police activities. Quick and Easy access to critical information and promoting accountability and legal compliance. Officer Clyde finished his class at the Academy on organized crime and narcotics. Officer Wood will be taking his remote pilot certification class next week and will be our new drone operator. Working with electricians regarding the Floc cameras and getting them set up and powered. Hopefully soon that project will be done and the additional camera will be up and running. The list and information continue to grow regarding our vulnerable adults and children. We are pleased with the information and feedback we are getting so that we can ensure these individuals are always properly taken care of. There was a meeting with Chester County Victims Advocate Diane Watson to go over our victims advocate program.

#### **E. Recreation Department-Madison Wright**

Town had 14 new signups at the Flopeye Fish Festival: between Football, Soccer and Cheerleading. Thanked everyone who supported the Recreational Department with their volunteer hours during the Flopeye Festival. Adult softball will start May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, games will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays with makeup games on Monday and Wednesdays. End of the year Baseball and Softball Celebration is May 29<sup>th</sup>. Pictures can be picked up during that time. Working on a timely return policy for the Town athletic equipment process which will hold participants accountable for failure to return equipment. Labeling shoulder pads and helmets. Wanted to let the sponsors and volunteers know how much the Recreation Department appreciates their support whether it is volunteer hours or with sponsorship money.

#### **F. Hometown Association-Glenda Coleman**

Working with FEMA to get trees removed from the Trails. Meeting with them weekly to go through the process. Will have to ask for extension because the work must be done by a certain time and we won't be able to get that done by the designated time. That request will be done through the SC Emergency management association that handles that part of the grants. Visitor Center project has been put on hold. Spoke with Brian Hester and during the demolition they found asbestos and lead paint, the contractor doing the work was not equipped to handle it. It was found underneath a ceiling. There was a company that the Town hired to remove the Asbestos years ago but there is no recourse to go back and have them remediate the issue. They will have a new company come in and do the work and stay with the contingency time frame for the current project. Duke Energy has started work on the parking lot behind the Visitors center as well as the bridge. They will have to close parts of the Railbed trail at certain times for safety reasons. They will post signs accordingly to let the public know

that they can or cannot use the trail. A portion of the trail will be able to be used the whole time. They will also post this information on the website as well.

USDOT grant that was sent back in February was submitted there was a system wide technical error. Still waiting on response regarding approval for that grant. It may have to be resubmitted once the respond. EPA grant for the northern part of the Trail. The town is getting another grant from the South Carolina DES. Per Thomas Casuey, from Stantec, says the funds have been submitted and they have to sign the commitment letter by end of June. Once the letter has been signed the money will come through the Town of Great Falls. Those funds should be available by mid-to-late July. Once the funds are available Stantec will coordinate with UIG to select a contractor to start the construction and schedule the process. The EPA grant must be used first. The grant period will end in September; they will exhaust those funds and then start with the SCDES funds. National Trail State Hike is on June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm. It will be held on the rail bed trail. Entire Trail will be open for that event. We are asking people to register so that we know how many will be in attendance, asking them to send an email. June 29<sup>th</sup> Continue to work with Chester County to host a history event from 1pm to 4pm at the Nitrolee Access area.

## **ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Selection of Mayor Pro Tempore**

Attorney Brian Grier passed out the ballots and explained the process to the council.

#### **MOTION**

Attorney Brian Grier announces Councilman Willie Gonzalez as new Mayor Pro Tem

#### **Vote**

One vote for Councilman David Dutton

Two votes for Councilman Tiffany Craig

Three votes for Councilman Willie Gonzalez

### **B. Adoption of Banking Resolution**

Councilmember Dutton noted to remove Councilman Craig from all bank accounts and to add The Town Administrator Josh Glenn and Mayor Pro Tempore Willie Gonzales to the accounts as signers.

#### **MOTION**

Councilmember David Dutton motioned to approve Adoption of Banking Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Willie Gonzalez.

#### **VOTE**

4/2 Vote. Approved

### **C. Consideration of purchasing a lawnmower for Dave Minor and Republic Park**

Councilmember McManus noted the need for the purchase of a lawnmower for the Town.

#### **MOTION**

Councilmember Steven McManus motioned to approve the purchase of the lawnmower, seconded by councilmember Dutton

#### **VOTE**

4/2 vote. Approved

### **D. Consideration to release the previous auditor and enlist a new forensic financial auditor**

Councilmember Monica Eagle noted to release the previous auditor and enlist a new forensic financial auditor with the council's approval of the auditor. Town Administrator will research and seek a new qualified auditor to present to council for approval.

#### **MOTION**

Councilmember Monica Eagle motioned to approve enlisting a new auditor, seconded by councilmember David Dutton.

**VOTE**

Approved unanimously

**E. Council Matters proceeding to hold a hearing for removal of Councilman Tiffany Craig based South Carolina Code Section 7-1-25.**

Councilmember Stephen McManus noted South Carolina Code Section 7-1-25 Domicile Code of Law.

**MOTION**

No motion made due to Mayor Keevy interrupting proceedings with motion to adjourn the meeting.

**ITEM 6            1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF BUDGET ORDINANCE 2025-2026**

Was not presented to the Council due to Mayor Keevy stopping proceedings with motion to adjourn.

**ITEM 7            CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING UPDATED TOWN EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

Was not presented to the Council due to Mayor Keevy stopping proceedings with motion to adjourn

**ITEM 8            MAYORS REPORT**

No report given

**ITEM 9            EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No motion

**ITEM 10          ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.