

**CITY OF GRANITE FALLS**  
**Granite Falls, Washington**  
**ORDINANCE 1011-2021**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO SPEED LIMITS AND AMENDING THE GRANITE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 10 VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 10.28 ENTITLED “SPEED LIMITS”; ESTABLISHING SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Granite Falls has received several complaints of cars travelling at excessive speeds in new residential neighborhoods with narrow roadways and dense single family housing; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of health, safety and welfare, citizens residing within Suncrest Farms have requested the City lower the posted speed limit within their housing development from 25 Miles Per Hour (mph) to 20 mph; and

**WHEREAS**, the Revised Code of Washington Chapter 46.61.415 allows cities to establish a speed limit without an engineering and traffic investigation if the city has developed procedures regarding establishing a maximum speed limit; and

**WHEREAS**, the request was brought to City Council on February 3, 2021 for review and consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to establish a legally compliant process to lower speed limits in certain areas to 20 MPH;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS DO HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** A new GFMC Chapter 10.28 entitled “Speed Limits” is hereby added to Title 10 to read as follows:

**Chapter 10.28**  
**SPEED LIMITS**

Sections:

10.28.010 State laws applicable – Limitations.

10.28.020 Speed limit decreases and increases – Authorized.

**10.28.010 State laws applicable.**

The state traffic laws regulating the speed of vehicles shall be applicable upon all streets within this city, except as this Chapter, as authorized by state law, declares and determines upon the basis of engineering and traffic investigation or otherwise that certain speed regulations shall be applicable upon specified streets or in certain areas, in which event it is unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of any speed so declared in this Chapter when signs are in place giving notice thereof.

**10.28.020 Speed limit decreases and increases – Authorized.**

(A) Whenever the Granite Falls public works director or his designee determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the maximum speed limits permitted by law upon the public streets, roads or alleys of the city are greater or less than is reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist upon a public street, road or alley, the public works director or his designated subordinate may determine and declare a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit thereon which may:

- (1) Decrease the limit at intersections; or
- (2) Increase the limit but not to more than 60 miles per hour; or
- (3) Decrease the limit but not to less than 20 miles per hour.

(B) In addition, the Granite Falls public works director or his designee may establish a maximum speed limit of twenty miles per hour on a nonarterial highway, or part of a nonarterial highway, that is within a residence district or business district. In establishing such a speed limit it is not necessary for an engineering and traffic investigation to be conducted. The public works director or his designee shall consult the manual on uniform control devices as adopted by the Washington state department of transportation and shall provide an opportunity for public input from the residence district or business district. Any speed limit established under this subsection (B) may be canceled within one year of its establishment, and the previous speed limit reestablished, without an engineering and traffic investigation. This subsection does not otherwise affect the requirement that cities and towns conduct an engineering and traffic investigation to determine whether to increase speed limits.

(C) Any decreased or increased speed limit as authorized by subsection (A) or (B) of this section shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected. Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be effective at all times or at such times as are indicated upon such sign; and differing limits may be established for different times of the day, different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Ordinance or Plan adopted herein, or their application to any person or circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order or judgement shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remainder of any part of this Ordinance or Plan. To this end, provisions of each clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Ordinance and Plan are declared severable.


**Section 3. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after passage and publication of an approved summary consisting of the title.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council and **APPROVED** by the Mayor this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.


CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

  
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Matthew Hartman, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Darla Reese, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Thom Graafstra, City Attorney  
Emily Guildner, City Attorney

Passed by City Council: August 4, 2021  
Date of Publication: August 7, 2021  
Effective Date: August 10, 2021