

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2020**

The Town of Long View Board of Aldermen met in the Council Chambers of Long View Town Hall on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Marla Thompson, Mayor Pro Tempore/ Alderman Randall Mays, Alderman David Elder, Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, Alderman Dallas Tester, and Alderman Thurman VanHorn.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: The following members of staff were present: Town Administrator David Draughn, Town Clerk Stephanie Watson, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Jr., Finance Director James Cozart, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Police Chief T.J. Bates, and Officer Dylan Smith.

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug Chapman, Kurtis Durrant, and Carrie Cranwill from McGill Associates, Justin Austin, Misty Bowman, Chase Bowman, Stewart Bowman, Kelly Bowman, and Billy Rice were present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Marla Thompson called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Alderman Thurman VanHorn, seconded by Alderman David Elder to approve the December 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. The vote to approve was unanimous.

AYES: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Randall Mays
Alderman David Elder
Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Alderman Dallas Tester
Alderman Thurman VanHorn

NOES: None

REQUEST TO CHANGE THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING TIME – MAYOR MARLA THOMPSON

Mayor Marla Thompson stated that she had been approached by several senior citizens, citizens and some of the Town's Aldermen in reference to moving the time up instead of keeping it at 7:30 p.m. At least four of the department heads and attorney are located out of town and it takes them a long time to get home, especially if the Board has a meeting until 9:00 p.m. She requested that the meeting be moved up to 6:00 p.m. If that will not work, 6:30 p.m. would be good too. She invited Board discussion.

Alderman Randall Mays stated that moving the meeting up would be convenient for a lot of people but he personally felt that having the meeting at 7:30 p.m. was a time standard that had been in play for over three decades. It is traditional time schedule and most of the other towns are on that schedule. To him, it may probably be more convenient for him as well but he felt it was a standard that was put in place and it is a standard that should remain.

Alderman Dallas Tester stated that he did not feel that the Board should be doing things just because it has always been done that way. Moving the time is more convenient for everybody and he would be all for that change.

Mayor Thompson stated that office staff has to stay at Town Hall for two and a half hours to wait for the meeting because they are not able to drive home. It is too long of a drive to leave and come back. She didn't want to put the Town Attorney on the spot but he comes to every meeting and then has to drive home to Blowing Rock. Also, seniors do not like to drive late at night, especially during the winter time.

Alderman Gary Lingerfelt stated that he was all for changing the time to 6:00 p.m.

Alderman Thurman VanHorn stated that moving it to 6:00 p.m. would be tough on him do to his work. He would be able to do 6:30 p.m.

Alderman David Elder stated that he was flexible with his schedule. He asked if the Board could compromise and do 6:30 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m.

Alderman Tester stated that he would be fine with 6:30 p.m.

Alderman Elder suggested having a rider included that if the meeting time is not working, the Board could move it back or to another time.

Alderman Mays stated that it was a time standard and he was just dedicated to the way it has always been. Yes, things should change but that is one thing he thinks shouldn't change. It is just a dedication to what the town has set up.

Alderman Elder stated that he could relate to the issue with senior citizens not wanting to drive at night. It is harder to drive at night than it is during the middle of the day.

Alderman Tester stated that he understood where Alderman Mays is coming from but he felt that there were more pros than cons of changing the time.

Alderman Lingerfelt agreed.

Motion was made by Alderman Dallas Tester, seconded by Alderman Thurman VanHorn to adopt CO-01-2020: An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Long View Code of Ordinances: An Amendment to Change the Regularly Schedule Board of Aldermen Meeting Time. The vote to approve was not unanimous.

AYES: Alderman David Elder
Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Alderman Dallas Tester
Alderman Thurman VanHorn

NOES: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Randall Mays

(E) Sanctions by Town Administrator and Town Board; rights of accused at hearings.

(1) If the Town Administrator, after receipt of the findings of an investigation, has cause to believe a violation has occurred by a Department Head, a hearing shall be scheduled on the matter. The Department Head who is charged with the violation shall have the right to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, including the complainant or complainants, and be represented by counsel at the hearing. If after the hearing and a review of all the evidence the Town Administrator finds that a violation of this section has occurred, he or she shall take whatever lawful disciplinary action he or she deems appropriate, including but not limited to reprimand, suspension, demotion, or termination.

(2) If the Board, after receipt of the findings of an investigation, has cause to believe a violation has occurred by the Mayor or Member of the Town Board, the Board shall schedule a hearing on the matter, the hearing may be held as a Closed Session. The Town Official who is charged with the violation shall have the right to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, including the complainant or complainants, and be represented by counsel at the hearing. If upon the conclusion of the hearing, the majority vote of the Board finds a violation has occurred, the Board may adopt a resolution of censure which shall be placed as a matter of record in the minutes of an official Board meeting.

(F) Advisory opinions.

(1) When a Town Official has a doubt as to the applicability of any provision of this subchapter to a particular situation or to the definition of terms used in this section, he or she may apply to the Town Attorney for an advisory opinion, and the Attorney shall issue an opinion in writing and file same with the Town Board.

(2) The Town Official shall have the opportunity to present his or her interpretation of the facts at issue and of the application of provisions of this section before the advisory opinion is made.

(3) In addition, the Town Official shall publicly disclose to the Town Board or Town Administrator the facts at issue in a particular situation and shall rely upon any resolution adopted by the Town Board or Town Administrator regarding that particular situation.

(Ord. 1-98, passed 1-6-1998) Penalty, see § 10.99

BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS

§ 32.015 ELECTIONS.

(A) Biennially, the Alderpersons from Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 shall be nominated and elected for terms of 4 years each and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(B) Each Alderman shall be elected and qualified by a simple plurality of the voters from the ward in which he or she is nominated and will represent.
(1994 Code, § 32.15)

§ 32.016 REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.

(A) The Board of Alderpersons shall hold its regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the town's Council Chambers or at other times as the Board, from time to time, may designate.
(Am. Ord. 01-04, passed 6-29-2004)

(B) (1) The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, or any 2 members of the Board of Alderpersons may call a special meeting at any time by signing a written notice stating the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be considered.

(2) The notice shall be delivered to the Mayor and each Alderman at his or her usual dwelling place at least 6 hours before the meeting.

(3) Only those items of business specified in the notice may be transacted at a special meeting, unless all members are present or have signed a written waiver of notice.

§ 143-31§.12. Public notice of official meetings.

(a) If a public body has established, by ordinance, resolution, or otherwise, a schedule of regular meetings, it shall cause a current copy of that schedule, showing the time and place of regular meetings, to be kept on file as follows:

- (1) For public bodies that are part of State government, with the Secretary of State;
- (2) For the governing board and each other public body that is part of a county government, with the clerk to the board of county commissioners;
- (3) For the governing board and each other public body that is part of a city government, with the city clerk;
- (4) For each other public body, with its clerk or secretary, or, if the public body does not have a clerk or secretary, with the clerk to the board of county commissioners in the county in which the public body normally holds its meetings.

If a public body changes its schedule of regular meetings, it shall cause the revised schedule to be filed as provided in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection at least seven calendar days before the day of the first meeting held pursuant to the revised schedule.

(b) If a public body holds an official meeting at any time or place other than a time or place shown on the schedule filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, it shall give public notice of the time and place of that meeting as provided in this subsection.

- (1) If a public body recesses a regular, special, or emergency meeting held pursuant to public notice given in compliance with this subsection, and the time and place at which the meeting is to be continued is announced in open session, no further notice shall be required.
- (2) For any other meeting, except an emergency meeting, the public body shall cause written notice of the meeting stating its purpose (i) to be posted on the principal bulletin board of the public body or, if the public body has no such bulletin board, at the door of its usual meeting room, and (ii) to be mailed, e-mailed, or delivered to each newspaper, wire service, radio station, and television station that has filed a written request for notice with the clerk or secretary of the public body or with some other person designated by the public body. The public body shall also cause notice to be mailed, e-mailed, or delivered to any person, in addition to the representatives of the media listed above, who has filed a written request with the clerk, secretary, or other person designated by the public body. This notice shall be posted and mailed, e-mailed, or delivered at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting. The notice required to be posted on the principal bulletin board or at the door of its usual meeting room shall be posted on the door of the building or on the building in an area accessible to the public if the building containing the principal bulletin board or usual meeting room is closed to the public continuously for 48 hours before the time of the meeting. The public body may require each newspaper, wire service, radio station, and television station submitting a written request for notice to renew the request annually. The public body shall charge a fee to persons other than the media, who request notice, of ten dollars (\$10.00) per calendar year, and may require them to renew their requests quarterly. No fee shall be charged for notices sent by e-mail.
- (3) For an emergency meeting, the public body shall cause notice of the meeting to be given to each local newspaper, local wire service, local radio station, and local television station that has filed a written request, which includes the newspaper's, wire service's, or station's telephone number, for emergency notice with the clerk or secretary of the public body or with some other person designated by the public body. This notice shall be given either by e-mail, by telephone, or by the same method used to notify the members of the public body and shall be given immediately after notice has been given to those members. This notice shall be given at the expense of the party notified. Only business connected with the emergency may be considered at a meeting to which notice is given pursuant to this paragraph.

(c) Repealed by Session Laws 1991, c. 694, s. 6.

(d) If a public body has a Web site and has established a schedule of regular meetings, the public body shall post the schedule of regular meetings to the Web site.

(e) If a public body has a Web site that one or more of its employees maintains, the public body shall post notice of any meeting held under subdivisions (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section prior to the scheduled time of that meeting.

(f) For purposes of this section, an "emergency meeting" is one called because of generally unexpected circumstances that require immediate consideration by the public body. (1979, c. 655, s. 1; 1991, c. 694, ss. 5, 6; 2009-350, s. 1.)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TOWN OF LONG VIEW CODE OF ORDINANCES
An Amendment to Change the Regularly Scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting Time

WHEREAS, members of the Town of Long View Board of Aldermen have expressed an interest in changing the meeting time of the regularly scheduled Board of Aldermen Meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month; and

WHEREAS, section § 32.016 *Regular and Special Meetings* of the Town of Long View Code of Ordinances currently states:

§ 32.016 Regular and Special Meetings.

The Board of Alderpersons shall hold its regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the Town's Council Chambers or at other times as the Board from time to time, may designate.

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.12. *Public notice of official meetings*, states:

§ 143-318.12. Public notice of official meetings.

(a) If a public body has established, by ordinance, resolution, or otherwise, a schedule of regular meetings, it shall cause a current copy of that schedule, showing the time and place of regular meetings, to be kept on file as follows:

- (1) For public bodies that are part of State government, with the Secretary of State;
- (2) For the governing board and each other public body that is part of a county government, with the clerk to the board of county commissioners;
- (3) For the governing board and each other public body that is part of a city government, with the city clerk;
- (4) For each other public body, with its clerk or secretary, or, if the public body does not have a clerk or secretary, with the clerk to the board of county commissioners in the county in which the public body normally holds its meetings.

If a public body changes its schedule of regular meetings, it shall cause the revised schedule to be filed as provided in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection at least seven calendar days before the day of the first meeting held pursuant to the revised schedule.

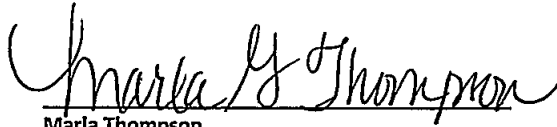
(d) If a public body has a Web site and has established a schedule of regular meetings, the public body shall post the schedule of regular meetings to the Web site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that section § 32.016 *Regular and Special Meeting* of the Town of Long View Code of Ordinances be amended to state:

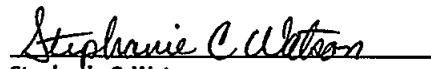
§ 32.016 Regular and Special Meetings.

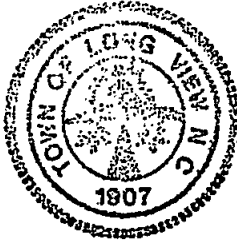
The Board of Alderpersons shall hold its regular meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the Town's Council Chambers or at other times as the Board from time to time, may designate.

ADOPTED, this the 13th day of January, 2020.


Marla Thompson
Mayor

ATTEST:


Stephanie C. Watson
Town Clerk, CMC, NCCMC



REVIEW OF 2020 BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING / INVOCATION SCHEDULE

Motion was made by Alderman Thurman VanHorn, seconded by Alderman David Elder to approve the 2020 Board of Aldermen Meeting / Invocation Schedule. The vote to approve was unanimous.

AYES: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Randall Mays
Alderman David Elder
Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Alderman Dallas Tester
Alderman Thurman VanHorn

NOES: None

Town of Long View
Board of Aldermen
2020 Regular Meeting
/ Invocation Schedule

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Invocation</u>
Monday, January 13, 2020	Mayor Marla Thompson
Monday, February 10, 2020	Alderman Thurman VanHorn
Monday, March 9, 2020	Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Monday, April 13, 2020	Alderman Randall Mays
Monday, May 11, 2020	Alderman Dallas Tester
Monday, June 8, 2020	Alderman David Elder
Monday, June 22, 2020***	Mayor Marla Thompson
Monday, August 10, 2020	Alderman Thurman VanHorn
Monday, September 14, 2020	Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Monday, October 12, 2020	Alderman Randall Mays
Monday, November 9, 2020	Alderman Dallas Tester
Monday, December 14, 2020	Alderman David Elder

***With Board approval, the regularly scheduled July Meeting will be moved to June 22, 2020.

1st AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT PRESENTATION – MCGILL ASSOCIATES

Town Engineer Doug Chapman introduced Landscape Architect Kurtis Durrant and Landscape Architect Carrie Cranwill.

Mr. Durrant thanked the Board for the chance to work on this project and then outlined the total proposed project.

The total proposed project will take place along 1st Ave SW from 33rd Street to the Long View / Hickory Town Limits. It is over a mile-long corridor and there are areas where sidewalk is there and areas where the sidewalk has become hazardous or in need of repair. As they began working on the project they looked at two options: with a grass strip and without a grass strip.

Pros and cons of installing the sidewalk with a grass strip versus not having a grass strip:

With Grass Strip

PROS

Distinct separation from vehicular lanes
Increase Visual Appeal
Separation between pedestrians and utilities

CONS

Regular maintenance to grass strip required

Without Grass Strip-Full Width Pavement

PROS

Minimal maintenance

CONS

Not as visually appealing
No sense of separation from vehicular lanes
Increase in concrete paving for utility strip

Alderman Dallas Tester stated he was leaning toward not having a grass strip however with the grass strip there is a clear distinction of entrances and exits. How clear would these be without the grass strip present?

Mr. Durrant stated that it would be more challenging visually because although the high difference would be there, the color differentiation would not be. In low light areas, you would not be able to see that height as easily. Seeing that differentiation with the grass strip would be a PRO.

When Mayor Thompson asked who would be responsible for maintaining the grass strip, Alderman Mays stated that the Town would as it is on the Town's right of way. He added that with the grass, you do have good low impact development because you do not have as much impervious surface. Water absorption can happen with the grass strip and it will help water tables. The more impervious surfaces, the more water run off you have. He stated that the grass strip is also more eye appealing.

Mr. Draughn stated that the Town would be ultimately responsible for the grass strip if the businesses did not take the initiative to cut it. Typically, the Town ends up having to maintain the grass strip most of the time.

Alderman Thurman VanHorn expressed his concern with the area at the Dollar General. That dip to get into the parking lot is steep. Cars tend to bottom out.

Mr. Durrant stated that at this stage with it being more schematic, they have the opportunity to look at that. It would take more engineering to rectify that problem.

Alderman David Elder stated that he would be more for the grass strip as he thinks it looks better cosmetically especially in residential areas.

Alderman Tester stated that he liked that the maintenance is up to the Town because business owners would not always maintain it.

Alderman Mays stated that he liked the grass strip because it helps create controllable runoff to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces. That is an overall advantage everywhere.

Alderman VanHorn stated that the advantage of a full width sidewalk is that it looks more cleaner looking and it gives more space for pedestrians to walk.

Mr. Durrant stated it could give more width to the sidewalk but it would put pedestrians closer to the street and those pedestrians will still have to walk around the utilities placed within the sidewalk.

Alderman Lingerfelt stated that there is one problem with the grass strip. He worked in the Public Works Department for 14 years and he knows that the Town is not really set up with the equipment to mow all that. The residents most of the time are not going to keep it up. You need the equipment and the manpower to do it. It would be time consuming to do it. If you are going to have the grass strip, it is not going to look good unless it is all kept up.

Mr. Draughn stated that anything the Town does will look better than what the Town currently has. The plan is to start on the eastern end of 1st Ave this spring as the Town already has some money set aside for this project. Each year, depending on the cost, the Town will do a little bit more of the sidewalk. Some areas will cost more than others. He estimated the Town could do a block or two each year.

When Alderman Lingerfelt asked if all of the existing sidewalk will be removed, Mr. Durrant said that they would only remove sidewalk as is needed. They would try to save the existing sidewalk where they could. There may be a slight color variation due to the age of the sidewalk.

Motion was made by Alderman Thurman VanHorn, seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt to install a full width sidewalk with no grass strip. The vote to approve was not unanimous.

Vote to Decide about having a grass strip between the sidewalk and the road:

For Grass Strip

Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Randall Mays
Alderman David Elder

Against the Grass Strip

Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Alderman Dallas Tester
Alderman Thurman VanHorn

1ST AVE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS
LONGVIEW, NORTH CAROLINA





Overall Site Improvements

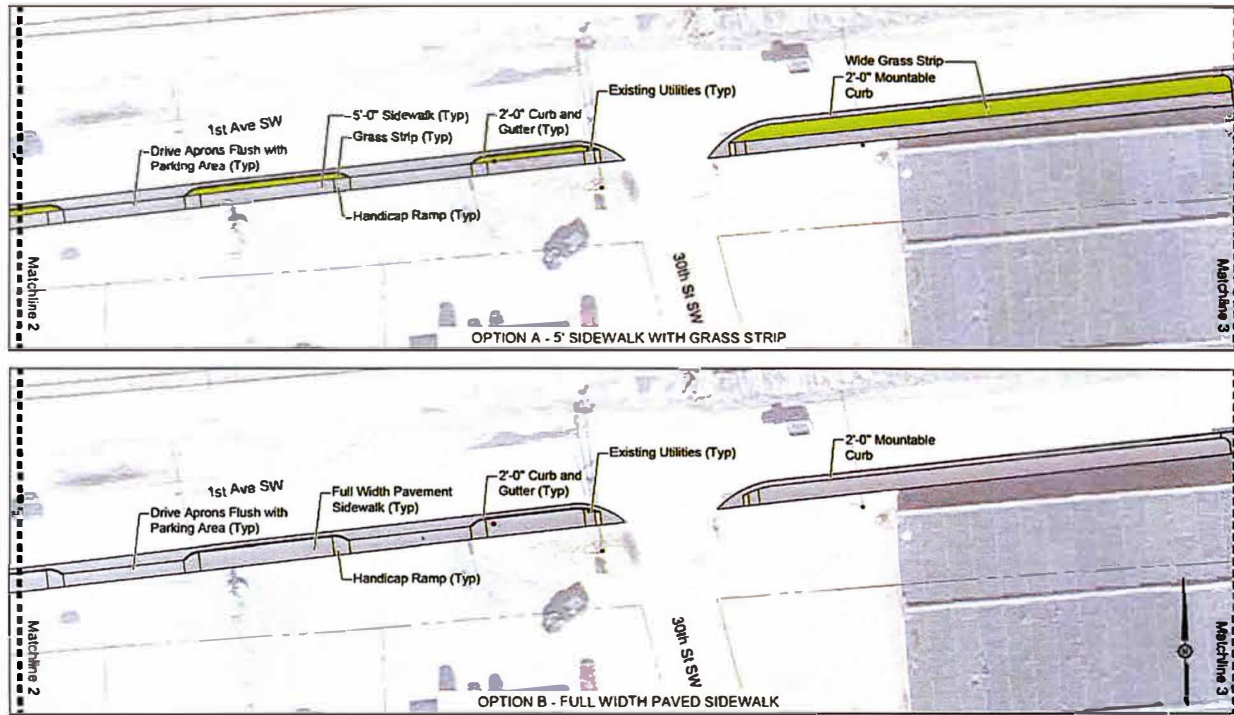
Corridor of study is over 1 mile of 1st Avenue

- From 33rd Street SW to the Town limits between 20th Street SW and 18th Street SW





1st Avenue Improvements





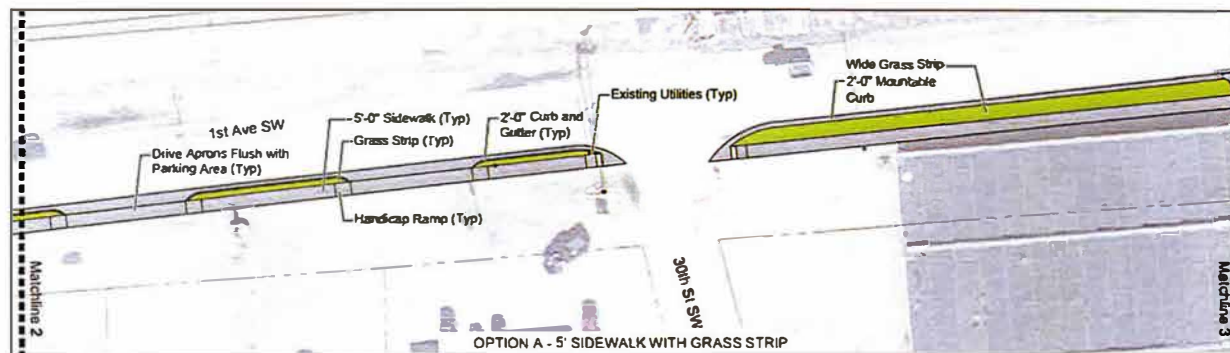
1st Avenue Improvements Grass Strip

Pros

- Distinct sense of separation from vehicular travel lanes
- Increased visual appeal
- Separation between pedestrians and utilities

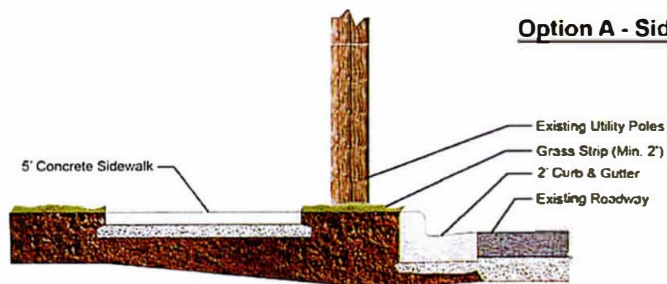
Cons

- Regular maintenance is required

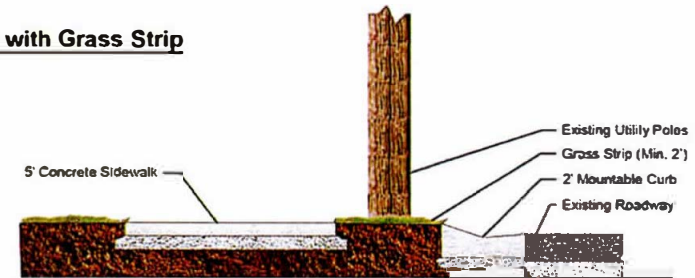




1st Avenue Improvements Grass Strip



Grass Strip and 5' Sidewalk with 2' Curb & Gutter



Grass Strip and 5' Sidewalk with 2' Mountable Curb



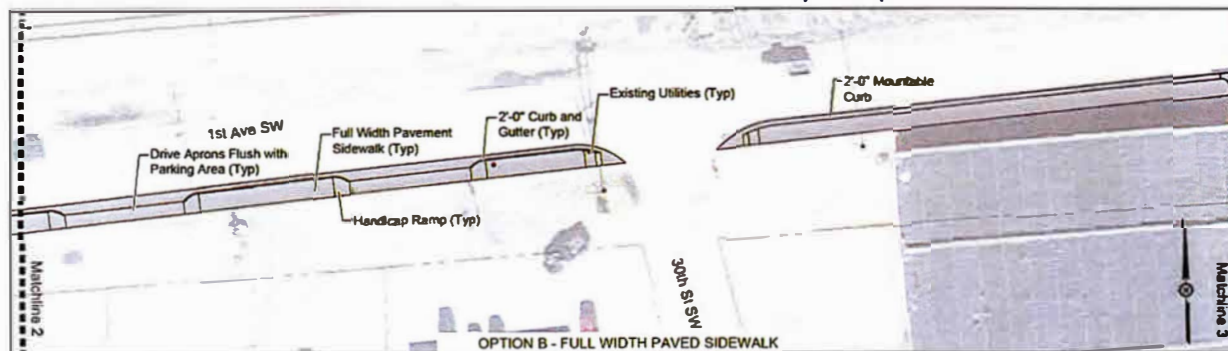
1st Avenue Improvements Full Width Pavement

Pros

- Minimal maintenance

Cons

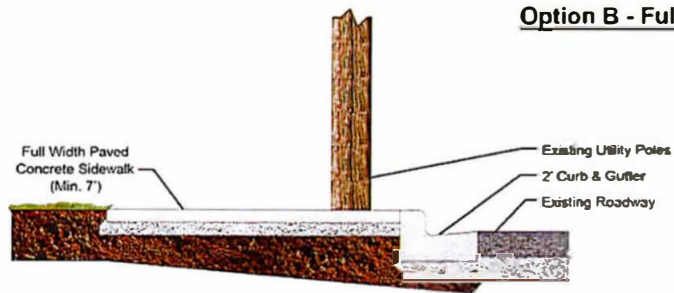
- Not as visually appealing
- No sense of separation from vehicular travel lanes
- Increase in concrete paving for the utility strip



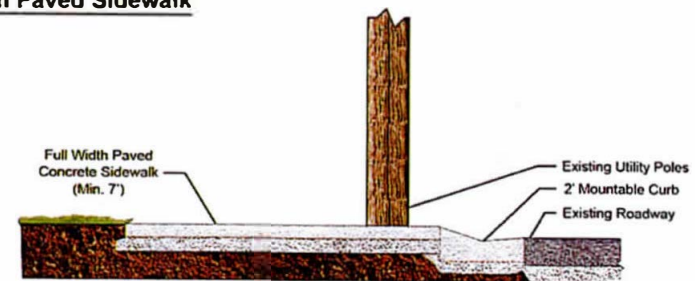


1st Avenue Improvements Full Width Pavement

Option B - Full Width Paved Sidewalk



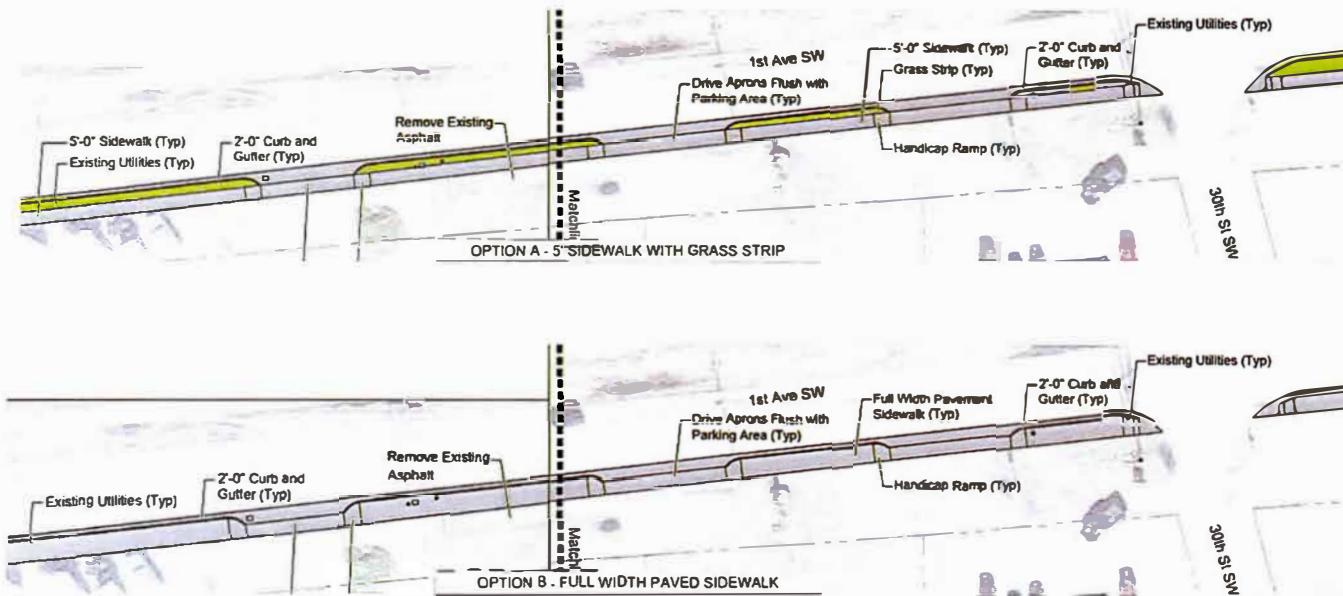
Full Width Sidewalk with 2' Curb & Gutter



Full Width Sidewalk with 2' Mountable Curb



1st Avenue Improvements





1st Avenue Improvements Before and After



Before



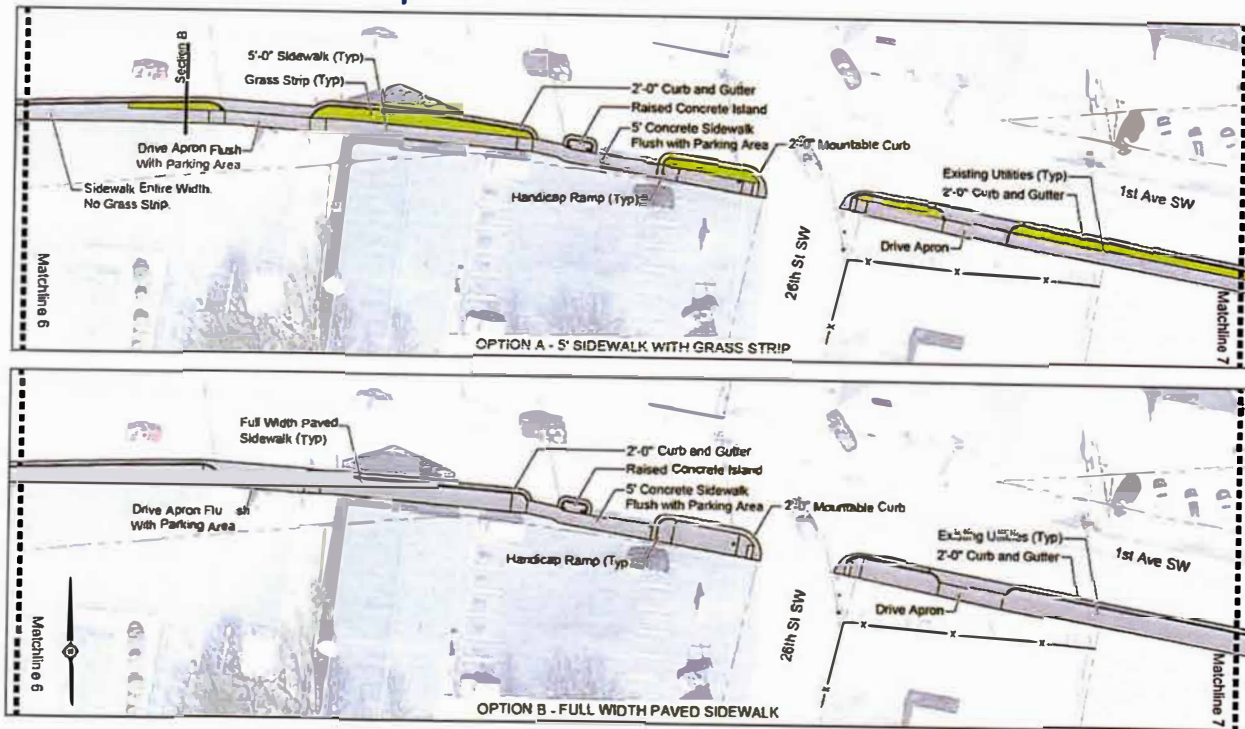
After – Grass Strip



After – Full Width Pavement

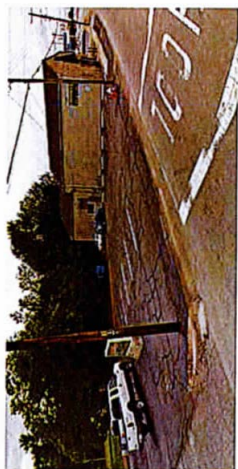


1st Avenue Improvements





1st Avenue Improvements Before and After



Before



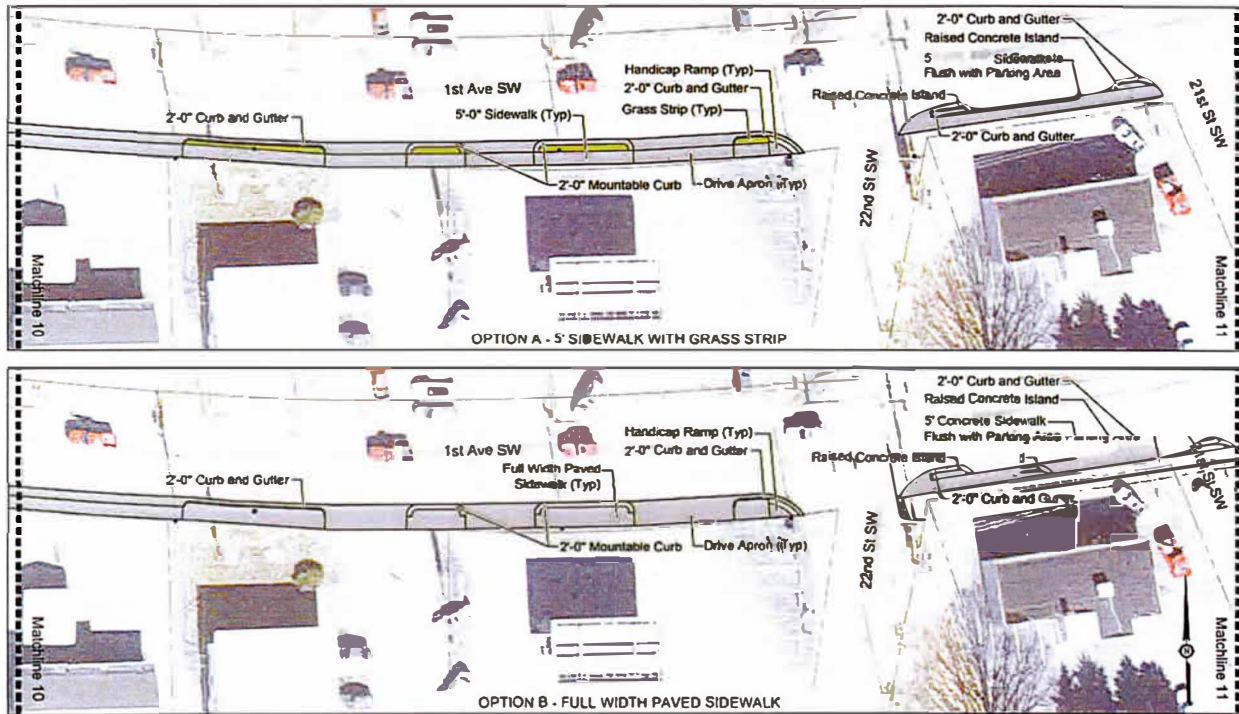
After – Grass Strip



After – Full Width Pavement



1st Avenue Improvements





1st Avenue Improvements Before and After



Before



After – Grass Strip



After – Full Width Pavement



1st Avenue Improvements Before and After



Before



After – Full Width Pavement

1st Avenue Improvements





1st Avenue Improvements Before and After



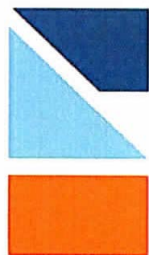
Before



After – Grass Strip



After – Full Width Pavement



Questions?

REQUEST FOR 2020-2021 BUDGET PREPARATION SCHEDULE DATES

Town Administrator David Draughn stated that the proposed Budget Preparation Schedule was put together based on last year's dates.

He asked that the Board review and select the dates for the Budget Retreat and for the Budget Work Session.

After a brief discussion, motion was made by Alderman Thurman VanHorn, seconded by Alderman Dallas Tester to approve the proposed 2020-2021 Town of Long View Budget Preparation Schedule. The vote to approve was unanimous.

AYES: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Randall Mays
Alderman David Elder
Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Alderman Dallas Tester
Alderman Thurman VanHorn

NOES: None

2020-2021 TOWN OF LONG VIEW Budget Preparation Schedule

Mon., Feb. 3, 2020	Budget Work Sheets Sent to Department Heads (Finance Dept.)
Mon., Feb 10, 2020	<u>Regular Scheduled Board Meeting</u>
Mon., Mar. 2, 2020	Budget Requests from Department Heads Presented and Reviewed by Town Administrator G.S. 159-10
Mon. Mar. 9, 2020	<u>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting</u>
Mon., Mar. 23, 2020 9:00 a.m. ?????	Budget Retreat – Long View Recreation Center
Mon. Apr. 13, 2020	<u>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting</u>
Fri., May 8, 2020 4:00 p.m. ???????	Budget Work Session with Elected Officials and Department Heads Presentation of Proposed FY 2020 -2021 Budget Message and Budget Ordinance G.S. 159-11 <u>(Must be presented by June 1)</u> Copy of Proposed Budget Filed in Office of Town Clerk for Public Inspection. G.S 159-12(a)
Mon. May 11, 2020	<u>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting</u>
Mon. June 8, 2020 7:30 p.m.	<u>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting</u> First Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2020 – 2021 Budget Ordinance G.S. 159-12(b)
Mon. June 22, 2020 7:30 p.m.	<u>Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting</u> Second Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2020 – 2021 Budget Ordinance Adoption of FY 2020 – 2021 Budget G.S. 159-13

NOTE: The June 22, 2020 Board Meeting will take the place of the Regular July Meeting.

FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF FUND APPOINTMENTS – FIRE CHIEF JAMES BRINKLEY

Fire Chief James Brinkley updated the Board on the Firefighter's Relief Fund. He stated that there were no changes to the Board of Aldermen's current appointments of Senior Firefighter Michael Ford and Senior Firefighter Jerry Cates. He asked that the Board re-appoint them to their positions.

One of the members, Todd Shoebridge, has left the Relief Fund Board. Justin Austin has shown interest in becoming part of the Relief Fund. That would be the first in the history of the Relief Fund Board as it would be the first time a non-firefighter would be on the Board. This may be a good thing as the position will not be affected due to job turnover. It was recommended and voted on by the Relief Fund Board to bring Justin Austin on to the Relief Fund Board.

Currently in the fund:

- \$32,760.93 in CDs
- \$20,543.18 in the Savings Account

Alderman Tester stated that it was a great thing for transparency purposes.

Motion was made by Alderman Randall Mays, seconded by Alderman David Elder to reappoint Michael Ford and Jerry Cates to the Fire Fighter Relief Fund Board. The vote to approve was unanimous.

AYES: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Randall Mays
Alderman David Elder
Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Alderman Dallas Tester
Alderman Thurman VanHorn

NOES: None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DAVID DRAUGHN

Police Department's Report – Police Chief TJ Bates

Police Departments Monthly Report

Chief TJ Bates stated that there were 20 motor vehicle accidents with 4 injuries during this period. The department is looking at those intersections and roadways to find ways to step up traffic enforcement there. This will either slow traffic down or enforce other motor vehicle laws that may be leading to these accidents.

The department has responded to 23 alarms. The department plans to meet with the owner of those locations to see what is setting off the alarms and what can be done to fix what is causing the alarms.

Community Involvement and Outreach Section

Chief Bates stated that going forward, with the monthly report, will be a Community Involvement and Outreach Section. He wants the Board to be aware of what the department is doing besides enforcing the law. These items include Long View Police Officers participating in the Resident Christmas Gathering at Hilltop Apartments. Long View Officers Marlowe, Massagee, Pitts, and Bates enjoyed the community outreach with Mayor Thompson and Fire Chief Brinkley.

Letter of Commendation for Officer Seth Bowman

Chief Bates briefly explained the events that led up to the Letter of Commendation being awarded to Officer Seth Bowman. On December 9, 2019, Officer Bowman was patrolling the Town limits of Long View when he heard a radio broadcast for an attempt to locate a stolen Honda Accord. As he watched Hwy 70, he realized that this was not a typical stolen vehicle call but inside the stolen vehicle was an innocent three-year-old child in the back seat that had been taken. As a parent, that is your worst nightmare. Officers in multiple jurisdictions began an extensive search in the area. Hickory Police conducted interviews and gathered information as the incident actually happened in their jurisdiction. Officer Bowman methodically hit the side streets after searching Hwy 70. Officer Bowman observed a gray Accord as he was traveling north on 33rd Street in the driveway of a resident. He first identified the car by the registration plate. He approached the Honda and the child was still in the back seat in the child restraint. He took the child out of the car and placed her in the passenger seat of his patrol car to get warm. Officer Liedkie arrived on the scene and stayed with the child. Officer Bowman then begin his search for the suspect in the immediate area. Hickory Police Department was notified. Once Hickory Police Department arrived, they took custody of the child and a reunification was made with its mother.

Chief Bates stated that he personally spoke with the lead investigator in the Hickory Police Department in regards to this case. Chief Bates determined that the actions of Long View's own Officer Bowman on December 9, 2019 most likely saved the life of that three-year-old child. As the Chief of Police for the Town of Long View he wished to let everyone know how grateful he is that Officer Bowman brought this case to a successful resolution and that the child was safely reunified with the parents.

Chief Bates presented Officer Bowman with a Letter of Commendation.

Chief Bates thanked Officer Bowman's family for being present. He stated that sometimes officers don't feel that they get the recognition that they deserve. It is not often that an officer gets to do something as beneficial as this. It is mostly enforcement, enforcement, enforcement so any time an officer gets a chance to help the community, it really means a lot to us.

Chief Bates stated that he spoke with Officer Bowman and although his career has been short, this event has been the highlight of his career and will probably be for a long time.

The Board thanked Officer Bowman for what he had done.

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Through the authority vested in the Chief of Police, you are awarded this commendation on this date:

January 13, 2020

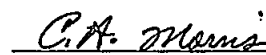
In recognition of actions set forth herein:

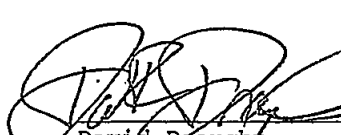
On December 9, 2019, at approximately 9:00 p.m., a Honda Accord was stolen from the Walmart Neighborhood Market on Highway 70 in Hickory. Inside the Honda Accord, was a three year old child in the backseat. Catawba County Communications immediately radioed a "BOLO" or, be on the lookout, for the stolen Honda Accord.

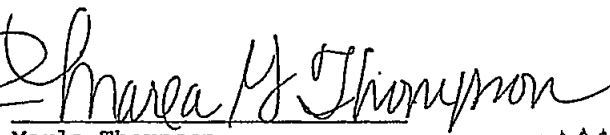
At approximately 10:15 p.m., and within the town limits of Long View, you located the stolen Honda Accord with the three year old child in the backseat. Due to your keen observation skills, the child was quickly found unharmed. Your actions on the night of December 9, 2019, very likely saved the life of a three year old child.

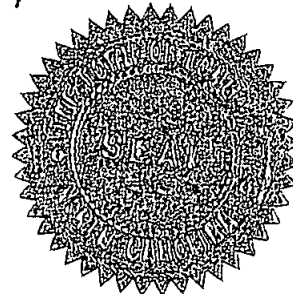
Please know that you are appreciated. We are extremely proud of your actions and even more proud that you are a member of the Long View Police Department.


T. J. Bates
Chief of Police


C.A. Morris
Major


David Draughn
Town Administrator


Marla Thompson
Mayor



OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Comments by Alderman Thurman VanHorn

Alderman VanHorn wished to commend Officer Bowman again. Growing up in a police officer family, the appreciation is not what it should be. Officers go out and risk their lives day in and day out. It is good to see the good that they do. He commended Officer Bowman and stated that he was glad he was with the Town. He looked forward to many years with Officer Bowman serving on the force.

Comments by Alderman David Elder

Alderman Elder stated that he agreed with Alderman VanHorn. We all know and respect the firemen and police officers. He wished to commend Officer Bowman for his deed. Saving a life is what we are all about. He is probably responsible for saving that child's life. If that child would have stayed there and been exposed to the weather overnight, we don't know what may have happened. He congratulated Officer Bowman and stated that the entire Board is proud of him.

Comments by Alderman Randall Mays

Alderman Mays stated that the Town is very fortunate to have a gentleman such as Officer Bowman be a part of our group.

Comments by Alderman Dallas Tester

Aldermen Tester stated that he had rode with Officer Bowman a lot when Alderman Tester first started and it might have startled Officer Bowman. He is sorry for that but what he gathered from that was that it was hard to tell that Officer Bowman was a rookie. When he heard that Officer Bowman was the one that found the baby, he was not surprised. He congratulated Officer Bowman and told him that the Town was glad to have him.

Comments by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt

Alderman Lingerfelt stated that everybody thinks that police officers are riding around and doing nothing. What Officer Bowman did proves that that thought is not true. The Board appreciates Officer Bowman's actions.

Comments by Mayor Marla Thompson

Mayor Thompson stated that all of Long View's officers are great. Officer Bowman went above and beyond and she thanked him for that. She felt that he saved that child's life. She has children of her own and that is her heart.

Motion was made by Alderman Thurman VanHorn, seconded by Alderman David Elder to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The vote to approve was unanimous.

AYES: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Randall Mays
Alderman David Elder
Alderman Gary Lingerfelt
Alderman Dallas Tester
Alderman Thurman VanHorn

NOES: None



Stephanie C. Watson
Town Clerk, CMC, NCCMC



Marla Thompson
Mayor