

April 14, 2025 Regularly Schedule Meeting

Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Marla Thompson called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Mayor Marla Thompson conducted the roll call. Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Alderman Tim Hartzel, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Lingerfelt, Alderman Genita Hill, and Mayor Marla Thompson were present.

Invocation

Alderman Tim Hartzel led the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes- Open & Closed Session

Mayor Thompson asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and if there were any questions or concerns. There were none.

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to approve the March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes for both Open and Closed Sessions. Alderman Tim Hartzel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

March 31, 2025 Budget Retreat Minutes

Mayor Thompson asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes and if there were any questions or concerns. There were none.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to approve the March 31, 2025 Budget Retreat Minutes. Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion

Department of Commerce Presentation

Mr. Phil Boggan from the North Carolina Department of Commerce presented on the services offered by the Rural Economic Development Planning division. He explained that the state is divided into 8 prosperity zones, each with an economic development planner. Mr. Boggan serves as the ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) and economic development planner for the Northwest region.

He outlined the following points:

- Their work involves helping local governments, county governments, and nonprofit organizations prepare for and respond to economic growth.
- They aim to improve the quality of life in rural communities and build community capacity.
- The ARC is a federal economic development entity partnering with 13 states in the Appalachian region.
- The Main Street program works with designated communities to revitalize downtown commercial corridors.

Mr. Boggan discussed the services they provide, including:

- Strategic planning
- Implementation services
- Technical support
- Training and education

He emphasized the importance of having a strategic plan, which creates a roadmap for communities to follow. The process involves:

- Assessing community assets
- Conducting SWOT analysis
- Creating a 5-year vision
- Developing economic development strategies, goals, objectives, and actions

Mr. Boggan outlined the types of economic development plans they offer:

- County-wide economic development planning
- City-wide economic development planning
- Downtown-focused planning
- Community outdoor recreation planning

He explained the next steps if the town is interested in their services:

- Adopt a resolution (which was on the agenda for this meeting)
- Develop an MOU outlining specific services
- Form a working group of 8-12 people from the community
- Work with the group to develop the plan
- Present the plan to the board for final adoption

Mayor Thompson asked about the timeline for adopting the MOU after passing the resolution. Mr. Boggan explained that they could work quickly on developing the MOU, which could be ready for the next meeting.

Mayor Thompson called for a motion to adopt the resolution requesting the services of the North Carolina Main Street and Rural Planning Center, rural planning program to assist with the development of an economic development strategic plan for the town of Long View. Alderman Tim Hertzell made the motion, and Alderman Phyllis Pennington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Ms. Victoria Moralas from Centro Latino, representing the Prevention Council in partnership with the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center, presented on the importance of mandated reporting of child abuse or neglect. She highlighted the following points:

- Everyone in North Carolina over 18 years old is a mandated reporter.
- Reporting is about protection, not accusation.
- One call can make a difference in a child's life.
- Reporting protects children and connects families to resources.
- Reports can be made anonymously.

Victoria encouraged sharing information about mandated reporting and educating others about their legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse.

Mayor Thompson then read the Child Abuse Prevention Month 2025 Proclamation and presented the proclamation to Ms. Moralas on behalf of the Town of Long View.

Presentation of Ordinance CO 09 24 25

Mr. Cozart presented a memo suggesting an amendment to the town of Long View Code of Ordinances, chapter 98.02 nuisances, regarding public streets maintenance. The proposed ordinance would address grass clippings, gravel, and sedimentation declared as public nuisances.

The proposed ordinance text read: "No person or property owner shall allow any grass clippings, gravel, or sedimentation to be washed or blown onto a public street or sidewalk nor shall any such debris be allowed to remain on any public street or sidewalk."

Mr. Cozart explained that the purpose of this amendment is to help keep storm drains open during times of heavy rainfall. He noted that the ordinance would need to be placed on next month's agenda for approval if the board decides to move forward.

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt asked if this ordinance would allow for enforcement, to which Mr. Cozart confirmed that Mr. Chad Powell with code enforcement are willing to enforce the ordinance once adopted.

Alderman Genita Hill inquired about situations where gravel streets without storm drains experience runoff during heavy rain. Town Manager Cozart acknowledged that this is something they would need to look into further.

29th St SW Subdivision Approval

Mayor Thompson read the recommendation from the town of Long View planning board to approve the submitted subdivision plat for parcel 279213135339 located on 29th Street. The proposed subdivided parcels meet the corresponding minimum lot and zoning requirements for the proposed use of site-built single-family homes. The planning board approved the recommendations for the subdivision at their meeting held on March 20, 2025.

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to approve the 29th Street Southwest subdivision as recommended by the town of Long View planning board. Alderman Tim Hertzell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Quarterly Code Enforcement Report

Mr. Powell presented the quarterly code enforcement report for January through March 2025:

- Total violations: 104
- 20 junk vehicles
- 3 minimum housing
- 1 non-residential minimum standards
- 80 trash, junk debris, general nuisance type violations
- 73 of the 104 violations were resolved, resulting in a 70% resolution rate

Mr. Powell explained that some cases with "order issued" status might have been given additional time for resolution, especially for major issues or when property owners are willing to work with the department.

He also shared some notable cases with before and after pictures showing successful resolutions.

Mr. Powell took a moment to express gratitude towards the police department for their support on a major case he was working on recently.

Finance Report

Ms. Lalonde presented the finance report, highlighting that the town is 75% through the current year. Key points included:

General Fund:

- Revenues: \$4,866,049 (83.6% of projected)
- Expenditures: \$3,789,424 (65% of projected)
- Revenues exceed expenditures by \$1,076,625
- 98% of ad valorem taxes collected

Utility Fund:

- Year-to-date revenue: \$2,673,549 (88% of budgeted)
- Expenditures: \$2,535,280 (84% of budgeted)
- Revenues exceed expenses by \$138,260
- Waiting on \$42,600 in reimbursement from water mapping
- Close to receiving \$250,000 in grant money

Utility Fund Highlights:

- 2,681 bills mailed, totaling \$221,327
- 43 accounts disconnected for non-payment
- 293 late fees applied
- 23 new applications for service processed

Ms. Lalonde then presented several budget amendments for approval:

- Budget Amendment #7: \$250 increase for fire department donations

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #7. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Budget Amendment #8: \$50 increase for police department donation

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #8. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Budget Amendment #9: \$3,594 increase for contracted services line (from insurance claim)

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #9. Alderman Tim Hertzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Budget Amendment #10: \$539 increase for senior day out account (reappropriation of collected funds)

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #10. Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Budget Amendment #11: \$65,973 increase for police department capital outlay (to purchase a police vehicle approved for next year's budget)

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #11. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager's Report

Mr. Cozart provided updates on several items:

- Sidewalk repair: A quote has been received for repairing the sidewalk where a drain failed and caused a collapse. The repair should start within the next week.
- Utility bill incident: There was a delay in water bills due to the billing company (Professional Mail Services) allowing their permit with the post office to expire. This affected multiple clients, not just Long View. As a result, late fees will not be applied this month. The town is seeking a new company to handle utility billing.
- Planning Board meeting time change: The Planning Board has voted to change their meeting time from 6:30 PM to 6:00 PM, still on the same day of the month.
- Fire Department commendation: The fire department received a letter of commendation and thanks from the Triple Community Fire Department for their assistance on March 22nd.

Public Comment

Patrick Kisby, residing at 315 39th Street Southwest, addressed the board regarding issues with 39th Street. He explained that part of the road is private and in Burke County, while another part is in Long View but in Catawba County. Mr. Kisby expressed concerns about:

- A neighbor's attempt to have the DOT take over the road, which could impact his property.
- Damage to the road caused by Long View's trash, recycling, and other service trucks.
- The presence of Long View's sewer and water lines under the road.
- The need for road maintenance and possible annexation of nearby properties.

Mayor Thompson assured Mr. Kisby that they would look into the situation, acknowledging the complications arising from the road's partial private status.

Closing Remarks

Mayor Thompson thanked the police department and fire department for their service to the community.

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Tim Hertzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Staff in Attendance

Town Manager James Cozart, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Police Chief TJ Bates, Police Major Justin Reid, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Police Administrative Assistant Sidney Shirley, Fire Chief James Brinkley, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Finance Director Melissa Lalond, Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins, Public Works Josh White, WPCOG Code Enforcement Chad Powell, WPCOG Planning Susan Matheson, Town Clerk Heather Minor

Public in Attendance

Patrick Kisby, Phil Boggan, Eddie Marlowe, Genny Romero, Victoria Morales