

May 12, 2025

Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Marla Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m.

Roll Call

Mayor Thompson conducted a roll call. Alderman Genita Hill, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Alderman Tim Hertz, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, and Mayor Marla Thompson were all present.

Invocation

Alderman Phyllis Pennington delivered the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

April 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the April 14, 2025 regular meeting minutes. No questions, concerns, or changes were raised.

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to approve the April 14, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

Alderman Tim Hertz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

May 9, 2025 Budget Work Session Minutes

The board reviewed the May 9, 2025 budget work session minutes. No questions, concerns, or changes were raised.

Alderman Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt made a motion to accept the May 9, 2025 budget work session minutes. Alderman Genita Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion

Long View Lions Club Proclamation

Mayor Marla Thompson read a proclamation celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Long View Lions Club and the dedication of the Lions Legacy Trail. The proclamation highlighted the club's 75 years of service, its impact on the town, and its commitment to vision and hearing programs, as well as community support. The mayor declared that the walking track at the Long View Recreation Center would be named the Lions Legacy Trail and that May 17th would be recognized as Long View Lions Club Day.

The proclamation was presented to Jim Pugh, the president of the Long View Lions Club. Photographs were taken to commemorate the occasion.

Adoption of Ordinance CO 09 24 25

Town Manager James Cozart presented Ordinance CO 09 24 25 for adoption. He explained that the ordinance pertains to the public streets maintenance section of the code of ordinances, prohibiting grass clippings, gravel, and sedimentation from being blown into the street. Mr. Cozart noted that a public hearing on this matter was held at the previous month's board meeting.

Alderman Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to adopt Ordinance CO 09 24 25. Alderman Alderman Tim Hertz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Call for Public Hearing

Town Manager James Cozart requested that the board call for a public hearing for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year Budget to be held at the June 9, 2025 meeting.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to call for a public hearing for the fiscal year 2025/2026 budget to be held at the June 9, 2025 meeting. Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding

Town Manager James Cozart presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Long View and the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He explained that this agreement is for planning and grant writing services for the proposed downtown area. Manager Cozart outlined the town's responsibilities, including providing a guided tour for commerce staff, attending required meetings, and establishing a local work group. He noted that there would be no cost to the town for these services and that he would serve as the primary contact for the project, keeping the board updated on progress.

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding. Alderman Phyllis Pennington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented the finance report for the end of April, which marks 83% of the fiscal year. She reported the following:

General Fund:

- Revenues: \$5,632,139 (95.6% of budgeted revenues)
- Expenditures: \$4,795,386 (82% of budgeted expenditures)
- Revenues exceed expenditures by \$839,752
- Ad valorem tax collection at 100.47%
- Investment earnings at 208% of budget

Utility Fund:

- Revenues: \$3,096,891 (102.9% of budgeted revenues)
- Expenditures: \$2,764,491 (91% of budgeted expenditures)
- Revenues exceed expenditures by \$332,400

Utility Billing for April:

- 2,698 bills totaling \$231,000
- 48 accounts disconnected for non-payment
- 32 new service applications processed

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde requested a budget amendment to allocate the recently received \$43,000 from the water sewer mapping grant.

Alderman Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Number 12. Alderman Genita Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager's Report

Town Manager James Cozart reported on the following items:

- The town has started advertising for enrollment in its first-ever Leadership Academy, organized by Clerk Minor. The 5-week program will provide a behind-the-scenes look at town operations. Out of 15 available spots, 6 have already been filled.
- Mr. Cozart thanked the police department for a successful National Night Out event, noting the extensive planning involved and the good turnout.

Public Comment

Charlie Perry of 2000 6th Avenue Northwest addressed the board regarding concerns about the OneH2 hydrogen plant:

- He noted that the plant operates 7 days a week, with truck headlights shining into nearby houses.
- He questioned the safety of living near the plant and the purpose of the blast wall.
- Mr. Perry expressed concerns about property values and requested that OneH2 purchase his house.
- He inquired about the decision to build a hydrogen plant in a residential neighborhood.
- Mr. Perry reported observing oil-contaminated water runoff from the plant's parking lot during rainstorms.

Closing Remarks

Mayor Marla Thompson made the following announcements:

- She congratulated Town Clerk Minor on becoming the newest IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk, acknowledging her completion of additional education.
- The mayor wished a belated Happy Mother's Day to all mothers present and reminded everyone of the upcoming Father's Day and Memorial Day.
- She urged citizens to be cautious as children will be out more frequently with the approach of summer.

Adjournment

Alderman Tim Hertzell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Staff in attendance:

Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Information Technology Alan Bumgarner, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Police Administrative Specialist Sidney Shirley, Police Chief TJ Bates, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Fire Chief James Brinkley, Firefighter Grant Newton, Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Town Manager James Cozart, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Town Clerk Heather Minor