

June 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Marla Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Roll Call

Mayor Thompson conducted a roll call. Alderman Genita Hill, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt arrived around 5:37 p.m., Alderman Tim Hertzelt, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, and Mayor Marla Thompson were present.

Invocation

Mayor Marla Thompson led the invocation, thanking God for the day and asking for guidance in making the right decisions for the town.

Approval of Minutes

a. May 12, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Thompson asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the May 12, 2025 regular meeting and if there were any questions or concerns. There were none.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion

a. Alzheimer's Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Marla Thompson read the proclamation recognizing June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. The proclamation highlighted the impact of Alzheimer's disease, its prevalence, and the town's commitment to raising awareness and supporting those affected.

Mr. Brian Garrison, Executive Leadership Team Chair for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, was presented with the proclamation. He thanked the council and shared personal experiences with Alzheimer's in his family. He mentioned the upcoming Alzheimer's walk on October 25th at the Crawdads Stadium and emphasized the importance of hope and support for those affected by the disease.

b. Public Hearing for 2025/2026 FY Budget

Town Manager James Cozart recommended opening a public hearing for the proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 budget, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159-12. He confirmed that the budget had been prepared and submitted in compliance with the law, and proper notice had been given.

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to open the public hearing. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Thompson opened the floor for public comment. Randall Mays, 2251 15th Ave SW, a resident, inquired about the current tax rates and utility rate increases. Town Manager Cozart responded that the proposed tax rate would decrease by 1 cent to 48 cents, and utility increases from the City of Hickory would be 5 percent.

With no further questions or comments, the public hearing was closed.

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to close the public hearing. Alderman Phyllis Pennington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Adoption of 2025/2026 FY Budget Ordinance

Town Manager James Cozart presented the proposed budget, stating it had been prepared following all statutory requirements and reflected the priorities and input received from the town council and town staff. He confirmed that it included a balanced general fund and other enterprise funds as required by law.

Alderman Tim Hertzel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 01-25-26. Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Adoption of Speed Limit Amendment

Town Manager James Cozart presented Ordinance CO-10-24-25, which amends the town's traffic ordinance by reducing the speed limit on Second Avenue Northwest from the Burke County line to the border with the City of Hickory from 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. He explained that the change was proposed by the Department of Transportation to enhance roadway safety and bring consistency with surrounding traffic patterns.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to adopt the speed limit amendment. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Resolution to Surplus Property

Police Captain Dennis Hardin requested the board to consider surplusage two police department vehicles: Unit #64, a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria with approximately 86,000 miles, and Unit #66, a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria with a little over 79,000 miles. He explained that these vehicles had been in reserve for some time, and maintenance costs were increasing. Captain Hardin noted that the vehicles were not currently operational and would require additional costs to meet state certifications for inspection.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to adopt the resolution for the surplus. Alderman Tim Hertzel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Resolution of Intent to Close Undeveloped Right-of-Way

Town Manager James Cozart presented a resolution declaring the town's intent to permanently close a 30-foot wide undeveloped street right-of-way located on US Highway 70, just west of the intersection with Nineteenth Street. He explained that the right-of-way had not been used or maintained for over 15 years and was presumed abandoned according to North Carolina General Statute 136-96. Mr. Cozart noted that this resolution would initiate the closure process in accordance with General Statute 160A-299.

Alderman Tim Hertzel made a motion to adopt the resolution of intent. Alderman Phyllis Pennington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Call for a Public Hearing at July 14, 2025 Meeting

Town Manager James Cozart requested that the Board call for a public hearing at the July 14, 2025 Board of Aldermen meeting for public input regarding the closure of the undeveloped right-of-way.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to call for a public hearing at the July 14, 2025 meeting regarding the closure of the undeveloped right-of-way. Alderman Tim Hertzel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

h. Approval of Subdivision Plat

Town Planner Susan Matheson presented a recommendation from the Town of Long View Planning Board to approve a subdivision plat for parcel 279220649276 located at 61 23rd Street Northwest. She explained that the parcel is owned by Local Investments LLC, zoned R-4, and is 1.31 acres. The proposed subdivision would create 5 conforming parcels, including one existing home and four vacant lots. Ms. Matheson confirmed that the proposed subdivided parcels meet the corresponding minimum lot size and zoning requirements for the proposed use of site-built single-family homes.

Alderman Tim Hertzel made a motion to approve the subdivision plat as recommended. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. Adoption of Recreation Fee Schedule

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented a resolution for the adoption of a recreation fee schedule and post-rental inspections for the community center. She explained that the proposed fee would cover the cost of staff time, travel, and administrative processing associated with the inspection process, ensuring accountability among renters and supporting the long-term upkeep of the facility. The fees would be included in the overall rental agreement and collected at the time of reservation.

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to adopt the recreation fee schedule. Alderman Tim Hertzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Adoption of Senior Day Budget/Spending Guidelines

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented guidelines for the Senior Day budget and spending. She explained that all purchases would be made using the Long View credit card, to be used exclusively by Alderman Phyllis Pennington as the cardholder. All receipts would be submitted to the town clerk, and any orders must be placed through the town of Long View, not by individuals. These measures were intended to streamline the process, prevent misuse, and ensure accurate reporting for budgetary and audit purposes.

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to adopt the senior day budget spending guidelines. Alderman Genita Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

k. Adoption of Senior Day Eligibility and Regulations

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented the eligibility and regulations for the Senior Day Out program. She explained that the program is hosted weekly at the Long View Rec Center, providing eligible residents with recreational activities, socialization, and lunch. The eligibility criteria include being 55 years and older and a citizen of Long View.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to adopt the senior's day eligibility and regulation rules. Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

l. Adoption of Resolution Approving Financing Terms

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented the financing terms for the purchase of a new fire truck, not to exceed \$1,500,000. She explained that the town had received a favorable proposal from Truist Bank with an interest rate of 4.69% over a term of 10 years. The first payment would be due in July 2026.

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the finance terms. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

m. Adoption of Interlocal Risk Financing Fund of NC Resolution

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented a resolution to authorize the town to become a member of the Interlocal Risk Financing Fund of North Carolina for property and liability insurance. She explained that this fund is a group self-insurance pool established under North Carolina General Statute 160A-460, enabling municipalities to share and manage risks associated with property losses and liabilities.

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to adopt the resolution to join the Interlocal Risk Financing Fund of North Carolina. Alderman Tim Hertzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

n. Adoption of NC Interlocal Risk Management Agency Resolution

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented a resolution similar to the previous one, but covering workers' compensation insurance through the North Carolina Interlocal Risk Management Agency.

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to adopt the resolution for the North Carolina Interlocal Risk Management Agency. Alderman Genita Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

o. Adoption of Budget Amendments and Transfer

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented several budget amendments and transfers:

- Budget Amendment 13: \$3,690 for the police department to reallocate funds received from a barbecue fundraiser to their community outreach budget.

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 13. Alderman Genita Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Budget Amendment 14: \$75,000 for the fire department to cover salaries due to expenses related to Hurricane Helene and mutual aid that will be reimbursed in the next fiscal year.

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 14. Alderman Phyllis Pennington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Budget Amendment 15: \$250,000 in grant money received for the Sweet Bay Lane project, to be transferred from the fund balance to the contingency fund in the utility fund.

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 15. Alderman Genita Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Budget Amendment 16: \$8,200 increase in Powell Bill funds to cover additional paving and patching expenses.

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 16. Alderman Tim Hertzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Budget Transfer 2: Various transfers between departments to cover expenses in areas that needed additional funds.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to approve Budget Transfer 2. Alderman Tim Hertzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

p. Manager's Report

Town Manager James Cozart provided updates on several items:

- A new utility billing vendor, Express Presort, has been contracted in Hickory.
- Police Chief Bates will retire effective July 31st, with Major Justin Reid becoming the new police chief on August 1st. Major Reid was asked to introduce his Deputy Chief, (currently) Captain Dennis Hardin, as well as, his Captain of Operations, (currently) Lieutenant Davey Anderson.
- The fire department assisted with the procession for Hickory Firefighter Jacob Bridges and covered Hickory Station 3 for 24 hours.
- The police department assisted with an incident in Newton over the weekend.

Mr. Cozart expressed gratitude for the departments' assistance to other agencies and the strong network of cooperation in Catawba County.

q. Public Comment

Randall Mays, 2251 15th Ave SW, a resident, thanked the council and staff for their support during his mother's passing. He expressed appreciation for both long-term and short-term staff members who have been like family to him. He presented a Thank You card to the Board.

r. Closing Remarks

Mayor Thompson reiterated appreciation for the police department, fire department, and public works, acknowledging the challenges faced since Hurricane Helene.

6. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager James Cozart, Town Planner Susan Matheson, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Police Major Justin Reid, Police Lt. Davey Anderson, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Information Technology Alan Bumgarner, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Town Clerk Heather Minor

Public in Attendance:

Randall Mays, Reid Collie, Brian Garrison, Ben Griffin Jr.