

August 11, 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 Phyllis Pennington, Alderman Tim Hertz, Alderman Alan Bumgarner, and Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt were present. Alderman Genita Hill was noted as absent. Mayor Marla Thompson was present.

Invocation

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt led the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

The board reviewed the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz to approve the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes

The board then considered the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes.

A motion was made by Alderman Tim Hertz and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington to approve the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Department Swearing-In Ceremony

Police Chief Justin Reid

Police Chief Justin Reid, accompanied by his wife Catherine, was sworn in, for ceremonial purpose.

Police Major Dennis Hardin

Police Major Dennis Hardin, accompanied by his wife Connie, was sworn in next.

Captain of Operations Davey Anderson

Captain of Operations Davey Anderson was sworn in, with Town Manager Cozart standing in for him.

Following the oaths, there was a pinning of badges ceremony for the newly sworn-in officers. The board offered congratulations and expressed appreciation for their service.

Employee Recognition

Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins presented an employee recognition for Angela Waldeck. Ms. Collins highlighted Angela's nearly 20 years of service to the town, specifically her work with the debt set-off program since 2006. Under Angela's stewardship, the town has recouped an impressive \$138,000 through the program, averaging almost \$6,900 a year. These funds represented delinquent utility bills and fees that would have otherwise gone uncollected.

Ms. Collins praised Angela's diligence, consistency, and attention to detail, which have made the program an ongoing success. She noted that Angela's work reflects a deep commitment to responsible stewardship of public funds and a high level of professional excellence. The board joined in thanking and congratulating Angela Waldeck for her outstanding service and for helping the town recover over \$138,000 in otherwise lost revenue.

PARTF Survey Presentation

Duncan Cavanaugh from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments presented the results of a public survey conducted as part of developing a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan for the town. Key points from the presentation included:

- About 82% of survey respondents were Long View residents.
- Top priorities for recreation facilities included paved walking/jogging/biking trails, restrooms, outdoor swimming pools, playgrounds, and splash pads.
- The most popular recreation activities were walking/jogging/running trails, taking dogs to parks, picnicking, and outdoor grilling.
- The survey showed a clustering of age groups in the 0-18 range and the 60+ category.
- The Long View Recreation Center received generally positive ratings for both indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Suggested improvements included increasing beautification, improving public restrooms, adding walking areas and benches, improving pedestrian/bicycle connectivity, and adding a splash pad.
- The average rating for facility maintenance was 4 out of 5.

Mr. Cavanaugh explained that the survey results would inform the development of the comprehensive recreation plan, which is expected to take about 8 months to complete. He noted that this timeline would align well with the potential application for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant in May 2026.

Surplus of Property

Major Dennis Hardin presented a request to surplus a 1985 K5 Chevy Blazer, VIN number ending in 192176. He explained that the vehicle had been out of service for well over five years and that the cost to return it to working condition would exceed its value. Public Works Director Chris Eckerd concurred with this assessment.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertzell to adopt the resolution authorizing the surplus of property and sell the 1985 K5 Chevy Blazer via online auction on GovDeals. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Events Update

Events Coordinator Heather Minor provided an update on upcoming town events:

- Employee Appreciation Picnic: Scheduled for Saturday, August 23rd at the Hickory Crawdads game, with nearly 70 tickets purchased for employees and their families.
- Long View LEAD Academy: A Citizens Academy program starting the first Tuesday in September and running for five weeks. The program aims to educate residents and business owners about local government operations. Seven participants have signed up for the inaugural session.

- Fall Festival: Planned for Saturday, October 25th from 3 to 6 PM at the recreation center. The event will feature approximately 63+ vendors, food trucks, and various activities.
- Light Up Long View: Scheduled for Tuesday, November 25th, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Finance Report

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented the finance report:

- General Fund:
 - Year-to-date revenues: \$1,443,653.22 (20% of annual budget)
 - Year-to-date expenditures: \$1,685,895.29 (24% of annual budget)
 - Expenditures currently exceed revenues by about \$242,000
- Utility Fund:
 - Year-to-date revenues: \$239,655 (8.5% of budgeted revenues)
 - Year-to-date expenditures: \$303,515 (10% of budgeted expenses)
 - Expenditures currently exceed revenues by about \$63,000
- Utility Bills:
 - 2,712 utility bills mailed out for July, totaling \$245,647
 - 63 accounts disconnected for nonpayment
 - 20 new applications for service processed

Manager's Report

Town Manager James Cozart reported on recent promotions and new hires within the town departments:

Promotions:

- Dino DiBernardi- promoted to Fire Lieutenant
- Sydney Shirley - assumed the role of Human Resources Director
- Seth Bowman - promoted to Lieutenant over CID
- Jordan Massegee - moved into CID
- Emma Harrelson - moved into CID

New Hires:

- Jason Goudelock- hired as Police Sergeant
- Josh Austin - hired as Fire Engineer
- Barrett Belk - hired as Fire Engineer
- Jacob Kennan - hired as Firefighter
- William Dobson - returned to full-time status as Fire Engineer

Public Comments

There were no public comments during this meeting.

Closing Remarks

Alderman Bumgarner congratulated everyone who received promotions. The board also extended congratulations to Angela Waldeck for her outstanding work with the debt set-off program.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertzell to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Staff present: Town Manager James Cozart, HR Director Sidney Shirley, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins, Police Chief Justin Reid, Police Captain Davey Anderson, Police Major Dennis Hardin, Fireman Grant Newton, Fireman Brandon Wright, Fire Lieutenant Dino DiBernardi, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Public Works Ryan Montgomery, Police Officer Zack Pierce, Police Officer Jordan Massagee, Police Lieutenant of CID Seth Bowman, Investigator Emma Harrelson, Customer Service Angela Waldeck

Public Present: Judy Jones, Jimmy, SC, Connie Hardin, Jeanine Russell, Terry Richards, Barbara Richards, Brianna Kent

