

October 13, 2025 Board of Aldermen Open Session Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

A roll call was conducted. Alderman Genita Hill, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Alderman Tim Hertz, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, and Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt were all present. Mayor Marla Thompson was noted as being absent from the meeting.

Invocation

Alderman Tim Hertz provided the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the September 8, 2025 regularly scheduled meeting minutes.

Alderman Tim Hertz made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to approve was unanimous.

September 30, 2025 Emergency Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the September 30, 2025 emergency meeting minutes.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to approve the September 30, 2025 emergency meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to approve was unanimous.

Items For Discussion

The Angus Steakhouse Proclamation

Town Clerk Heather Minor presented a proclamation celebrating the Angus Steakhouse's 60 years in business. She introduced Kaley Binigar, the third-generation owner of the establishment, and mentioned that Kaley's father, RB Binigar, was also present, who owned The Angus Steakhouse before Ms. Binigar.

The clerk read the proclamation, which highlighted the following points:

- The Angus Steakhouse was opened in September 1965 by Mary Ann and Cecil Baugh.
- Over six decades, it has become a beloved Long View landmark known for its hand-cut, 21-day aged steak, freshly prepared comfort food, timeless atmosphere, and commitment to quality and hospitality.
- The restaurant represents a family legacy, now in its third generation of ownership.
- The Angus has shown remarkable resilience through challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The establishment continues to embody the spirit of Long View and remains a treasured part of the town's story and identity.

The proclamation officially recognized and celebrated the Angus Steakhouse on its 60th anniversary and expressed gratitude to the Baugh and Binegar families for their contributions to the community.

Long View LEAD Academy Graduation

Town Clerk Heather Minor presented information about the Long View LEAD Academy:

- The idea of a Citizen's Academy was first introduced around January 2025 for residents and business owners in the town.
- The mission was to promote transparent, accessible governance and foster citizen involvement.
- Town Clerk Minor thanked the board, Jamie, and all the departments that helped put the academy together.
- She emphasized the importance of citizen participation in shaping the future of Long View.

Town Clerk Minor then proceeded to congratulate and welcome the graduates of the inaugural Long View LEAD Academy.

Town Clerk Minor expressed gratitude to the graduates for their participation and for being part of Long View's story.

Quarterly Code Enforcement Report

Code Enforcement Officer, Chad Power, gave an overview of the Q3 2025 Code Enforcement Violations noting the following: 104 total violations were observed, 1 illicit discharge, 1 minimum housing, 3 non-residential, 12 junk vehicles, 38 plant overgrowth, and 49 trash, junk, debris, etc. Mr. Powell stated that 75 of the 104 violations were resolved resulting in a 72% resolution rate.

Surplus of Vehicles for Public Works

Town Manager James Cozart presented information on behalf of Public Works Director Chris Eckard, who was unable to attend the meeting. He requested the board to declare three Public Works vehicles as surplus:

- 1987 Ford F600 (last 4 of VIN: 2830)
- 2007 Ford Ranger (last 4 of VIN: 8022)
- 2007 Ford Ranger (last 4 of VIN: 8021)

Town Manager Cozart explained that the two Rangers have electrical issues that cannot be resolved, and the 1987 Ford is obsolete and out of service. He requested that the board declare these vehicles as surplus so they can be listed on GovDeals.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to approve the surplus of the vehicles for public works. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to surplus was unanimous

Finance Report

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented the finance report:

General Fund:

- Total revenues collected: \$3,090,551 (44% of budgeted amount)
- Total expenditures: \$2,700,495 (39% of budgeted amount)
- Revenues exceeding expenditures by \$390,055
- 37% of ad valorem taxes collected
- 36% of investment earnings collected year-to-date

Utility Fund:

- Total revenues collected: \$749,984
- Total expenditures: \$719,299
- Revenues exceeding expenditures by \$29,937
- 2,703 utility bills processed, totaling \$281,301
- 34 accounts disconnected for non-payment
- 29 new applications processed

Manager's Report

Town Manager James Cozart presented the following items:

1. Congratulated the graduates of the LEAD Academy and expressed appreciation for their participation.
2. Shared a letter of appreciation from the police department for Town Clerk Heather Minor's efforts in planning and developing the Lead Academy curriculum.
3. Announced a new partnership with Catawba County Library, starting November 1st:
 - Residents can request library cards online and search the library's catalog
 - Books and media can be delivered to town hall every Tuesday for pickup
 - A monthly mobile library will be set up in the meeting room, offering story times and on-site checkouts.

4. Reminded the board about the upcoming Fall Festival at the rec center on Saturday, October 25th, from 3 to 6 PM, featuring food and craft vendors, entertainment for kids, and hay rides.

Public Comment

The Town Clerk noted that no one had signed up for public comment at the start of the meeting. Residents from Hilltop Apartment Complex came to speak during Public Comment, however, they arrived about 7 to 10 minutes late and were unable to sign up to speak during public comment, per the adopted Public Comment Procedures.

Mayor Pro Tempore/ Alderman Gary Lingerfelt stated: *At this time, the Board of Aldermen will go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney regarding a potential legal matter at the Long View Recreation Center and a potential legal matter at Hilltop Apartment Complex. The public may be dismissed while the Board meets in Closed Session. Guests and staff were asked to leave the Council Chambers, as the Closed Session was not open to the public.*

Closed Session to Discuss Two Potential Legal Matters Pursuant to N.C. G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney regarding a potential legal matter at the Long View Recreation Center and a potential legal matter at Hilltop Apartment Complex.

At 5: 55p.m., Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to enter into Closed Session was unanimous.

At 6:53 p.m., the Board returned to open session

Closing Remarks

No closing remarks were made.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Guests in attendance: Terry Hall, Leslie Freeman, Billy Silver, Tiffany Clark, Kay Clark, Kaley Binegar, Robert Binegar, Josh Poag, Rebecca Duncan, Keith Duncan. Residents of Hilltop Apartment Complex were in attendance but were unable to sign in, as the meeting had already begun.

Staff in attendance: Town Manager James Cozart, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerline, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins, Police Chief Justin Reid, Police Captain Davey Anderson, Fire Chief James Brinkley, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Code Enforcement Officer Chad Powell, Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Wyatt, Town Clerk Heather Minor.