



TOWN OF LONG VIEW

2404 1st AVENUE SOUTHWEST

LONG VIEW, NC 28602

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December 8, 2025 Board of Alderman Meeting Minutes

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Marla Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted by Mayor Marla Thompson: Alderman Genita Hill, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Alderman Tim Hertzelt, and Mayor Marla Thompson were all present. Alderman Phyllis Pennington was not present for the meeting.

INVOCATION

Town Manager James Cozart gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to approve the November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to approve the November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes was approved unanimously.

At this time, Mayor Marla Thompson left the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt requested everyone stand for the presentation of the colors by the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard-Hickory Composite Squadron.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable Judge Clifton H. Smith administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Elected Douglas E. Marlowe Jr. Following his oath, Mayor Marlowe assumed his seat with the Board of Aldermen as Mayor of the Town of Long View.

The Honorable Judge Clifton H. Smith administered the Oath of Office to Ward 2 Alderman Elect Gary Lingerfelt. Following his oath, Alderman Gary Lingerfelt resumed his seat with the Board of Alderman, returning as Ward 2 Alderman of the Town of Long View.

Mayor Marlowe stated that he would like to thank former Mayor Marla Thompson for her 8 years of service to the Town of Long View.

APPOINTMENT OF WPCOG POLICY BOARD DELEGATE/ALTERNATE

Town Manager James Cozart advised that a delegate and alternate were needed to serve on the WPCOG Policy Board. Town Manager Cozart advised that the WPCOG Policy Board serves as the governing body for the Council of Governments, with delegates and alternates appointed by member jurisdictions. Participation of the Policy Board ensures the Town's interests are represented in regional planning, economic development, transportation coordination, infrastructure initiatives, and intergovernmental collaboration. Town Manager Cozart recommended that Alderman Allen Bumgarner be appointed as delegate. Alderman Phyllis Pennington currently serves as our delegate and needs to be reappointment, however, since she is absence from the meeting, we would appoint her at the January meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Tim Hertzelt to appoint Allen Bumgarner to serve as the WPCOG Policy Board Delegate. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion to appoint Allen Bumgarner was unanimous.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Town Manager James Cozart advised that in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-70, the Board of Aldermen are required to appoint a Mayor Pro Tempore to perform the duties of the Mayor in the Mayor's absence or disability. Town Manager Cozart requested that the Board of Aldermen consider and vote to appoint one of the members to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for the 2025-2027 term, effective immediately upon their appointment.

Alderman Genita Hill stated that Gary Lingerfelt did a great job serving as Mayor Pro Tempore. Alderman Hill made a motion to appoint Alderman Gary Lingerfelt to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion to appoint Gary Lingerfelt as Mayor Pro Tempore was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF THE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE & BUDGET SCHEDULE

Town Clerk Heather Minor presented the proposed 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule to the Board. Clerk Minor advised the dates on the schedule reflected keeping the Board of Aldermen Meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Clerk Minor then advised the Board that a copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Schedule was in their packet, as well, and requested that the first adopt the proposed meeting schedule followed by adopting the proposed budget schedule as presented.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to adopt the proposed 2026 Board of Aldermen Meeting Schedule. Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the 2026 Board of Aldermen meeting schedule was unanimous.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to adopt the proposed Budget Schedule for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as presented. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the proposed Budget Schedule was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Town Manager James Cozart presented the proposed Engagement Agreement to retain Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin from Young, Morphis, Bach, & Taylor, LLP. Town Manager Cozart informed the Board of slight rate increased, noting that the monthly retainer has not been increased since 2018. A summary of changes was as follows:

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
• Monthly Retainer	\$300.00	\$500.00
• Hourly Rate	\$250.00	\$325.00
• Paralegal Rate	\$85.00	\$125.00

The last hourly rate change was in 2023 from \$200 to \$250.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt to approve the engagement of legal counsel as present. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Engagement Agreement to retain Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin from Young, Morphis, Bach, & Taylor, LLP was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF RDED GRANT RESOLUTION FOR 2026 APPLICATION

Town Manager James Cozart presented the Rural Downtown Economic Development Grant Resolution to the Board requesting that they adopt the resolution supporting the Town of Long View's application for the RDED Grant in the amount of \$850,000 for the downtown sidewalk improvement project, along with a required 5% match from the Town as outlined in the resolution.

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the RDED Grant Resolution for the 2026 application was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF REVISED CHAPTER 91. ANIMAL ORDINANCE

Police Chief Justin Reid presented amendments to the town ordinance regarding animals. He explained that while most updates were backed by general statute, it was important to have them clearly stated in the town ordinance to provide guidance to both the community and animal services personnel.

Chief Reid highlighted updates to Chapter 91 of the town services dealing with animals, including requirements for pet owners to have their animals inoculated against rabies and to have tags attached to animals showing proof of vaccination.

He noted that sections 91.06 through 91.09 contained new provisions that had not previously had clear definitions either through general statute or town ordinances. These included more clearly defined terms such as nuisance animals damaging other people's properties, and guidance regarding feral cats, feral dogs, stray dogs, and stray cats.

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to adopt the revisions to Chapter 91. Animals' ordinance as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the revisions to the ordinance was unanimous.

CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Town Clerk Heather Minor advised the Board that the Town of Long View had received a Petition for Voluntary Contiguous Annexation from the owner(s) of the property located at 3569 15th Ave SW Hickory, NC 28602. Clerk Minor advised that she has certified the petition to be sufficient and valid in accordance with NC GS 160A-31(c). Clerk Minor requested that per the next steps of the aforementioned General Statute, the Board should call for a Public Hearing to be held at the January 12, 2026 Board of Aldermen meeting to consider the voluntary annexation petition.

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to call for the public hearing at the January 12, 2026 regularly scheduled Board of Alderman Meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to call for the public hearing was unanimous.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager James Cozart thanked staff and citizens who attended the "Light Up Long View" event the previous week, noting that despite uncooperative weather, there was still a decent turnout and a successful event.

Town Manager Cozart congratulated Mayor Marlowe and Alderman Lingerfelt, expressing that it would be a pleasure to work with both of them. He concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Marlowe expressed gratitude to the citizens of Long View, his family, friends, and all who came to support the evening's meeting. He stated that it was a great honor to be in his position and that he was excited to work with the Board of Aldermen and town staff. He reflected that he never expected to be in this position but was thankful for the opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager James Cozart, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Human Resources Director Sidney Shirley, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Fire Chief James Brinkley, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Fire Lt. Josh Lakey, Fire Personnel Grant Newton, Fire Personnel Barrett Belk, Fire Personnel Jesse Brown, Police Chief Justin Reid, Police Major Dennis Hardin, Police Captain Davey Anderson, Police Sgt. Jason Goudelock, Police Sgt. Brad Lowman, Police Sgt. Andrew Smith, Investigator Emma Harrelson, Investigator Jordan Massagee, Police Officer Chad Fredrickson, Police Officer Julie Goolsby, Police Officer Chase Bently, Code Enforcement Officer Chad Powell, Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Wyatt, Town Clerk Heather Minor.

Honorable Judge Clifton Smith was present to administer oaths of office.