

Town of Long View

April 13, 2026 PART F Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eddie Marlowe at 5:00 p.m., with a note from a board member that the proceedings needed to follow the standard format, including calling the meeting to order and conducting a roll call as in a regular meeting.

Roll Call

Alderman Genita Hill, Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Alderman Tim Hertz, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, and Mayor Eddie Marlowe were all present.

PART-F Presentation

Duncan Cavanaugh with the Western Piedmont Council of Government (WPCOG) provided an overview of the proposed PART-F grant application, detailing the intended use of funds for the following improvements:

Building Upgrades

Mr. Cavanaugh outlined planned building upgrades consisting of restroom renovations — both inside and outside — to bring the facilities into compliance with ADA standards, as well as flooring improvements.

Playground Equipment

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that the playground equipment being proposed would be aviation themed.

Athletic Fields and Splash Pad

Mr. Cavanaugh described planned improvements to include a football field, soccer field, tee ball field, and a splash pad. The presenter noted that these items originated from community input gathered through surveys.

Project Cost and Grant Details

Mr. Cavanaugh explained that the estimated total cost for all proposed improvements is approximately \$357,000. Through the PART-F grant program, a dollar-for-dollar match is offered, meaning the town's investment would be \$178,500, spread over a three-year period at approximately \$59,500 per year.

Mr. Cavanaugh further clarified that this public meeting was being held specifically to satisfy a grant requirement, wherein PART-F tasks the applicant to hold a public meeting allowing community members to speak their minds about the grant application.

Splash Pad Concerns

Marla Thompson, citizen, raised concerns regarding the splash pad component of the application. Town Manager James Cozart noted that the splash pad did not have clear favoritism among the board and expressed uncertainty as to whether it would even be approved when the time came. Mr. Cozart also acknowledged that the splash pad would likely result in a rise in liability insurance costs and that staffing considerations at that location had not yet been addressed by the board. Mr. Cozart emphasized that this presentation represented only the initial phase of reflecting what the community had requested through surveys, and that further deliberation would be needed.

Minutes prepared by the Office of the Town Clerk, Heather Minor, CMC, NCCMC, Town of Long View, North Carolina Special Meeting – April 13, 2026

Citizen Marla Thompson also weighed in on the splash pad, suggesting that the town not pursue it, citing concerns about the cost to the town and the potential for litigation. She expressed reluctance to see their tax dollars used in a way that could increase costs or liability.

Remarks from Parks Authority Representative

A representative from the Parks Authority introduced himself as Doug Auer, a resident of Hickory, North Carolina, and a member of the nine-member Parks Authority — the body responsible for reviewing PART-F applications. He clarified that while he could not speak specifically to the town's application or answer questions about it directly, he was available to answer questions about the review process, what the authority looks for, and the various indicators of a strong project. He offered to address questions either at the meeting or at any time afterward. A meeting official asked Mr. Auer to spell his last name for the record; he confirmed the spelling as A-u-e-r.

Parking Considerations

Alderman Genita Hill raised the matter of parking, asking whether parking needs had been taken into consideration in the event that all or some of the proposed improvements are funded, noting that the town would need to be able to accommodate increased use.

Mr. Cavanaugh responded that parking had been discussed at the Recreation Plan Steering Committee meeting and had since been added as a recommendation in the Comprehensive Recreation Plan. Mr. Cavanaugh clarified that parking is not a specific request within the current PART-F grant application, but is incorporated into the broader Comprehensive Recreation Plan, which is a foundational document required for the grant application. Mr. Cavanaugh explained that without a plan in place, the town would realistically not be eligible for grant funding, and that the plan must come first. Mr. Cavanaugh confirmed that all revisions commented on at the last steering committee meeting had been incorporated into the Comprehensive Recreation Plan.

Grant Application Timeline and Attorney Documentation

Town Clerk Heather Minor inquired about the timeline for receiving a response after submission. Mr. Cavanaugh noted that the grant application deadline is May 1, describing the timeline as short. Mr. Cavanaugh also indicated that work on the grant application had been ongoing in coordination with the WPCOG, and that once the town is ready to proceed, the application can be submitted with whatever components the board approves. Mr. Cavanaugh further noted that after the May 1 submission deadline, the review process typically takes until fall, as the application is highly competitive and the authority receives hundreds of applications from across the state.

Town Clerk Minor then asked about the turnaround time for attorney-signed documentation verifying the deed. Mr. Cavanaugh confirmed that this documentation must be submitted along with the grant application and emphasized that it should be completed as soon as possible prior to the May 1 deadline.

Mr. Cavanaugh also noted that a full presentation on the Comprehensive Recreation Plan was forthcoming during the regular meeting.

Public Participation

Members of the public were present and given the opportunity to speak. One member of the public, Marla Thompson, commented against the inclusion of the splash pad, citing concerns about cost and liability, as detailed above under the PART-F Presentation section.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner to adjourn the public meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.