

Town of Long View
April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting
Minutes
Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Eddie Marlowe called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Invocation

The invocation was delivered by Alderman Tim Hertz.

Approval of Minutes

March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to approve the March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to approve the March 9, 2026 meeting Minutes was unanimous.

March 30, 2026 Budget Retreat Minutes (Open Session)

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to approve the March 30, 2026 Budget Retreat Open Session minutes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to approve the March 30, 2026 Budget Retreat Open Session minutes was unanimous.

March 30, 2026 Budget Retreat Minutes (Closed Session)

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to approve the March 30, 2026 Budget Retreat Closed Session minutes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion to approve the March 30, 2026 Budget Retreat Closed Session minutes was unanimous.

Items for Discussion

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Mayor Eddie Marlowe presented the Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation to the Child Advocacy Protection Center. The mayor read the proclamation in full, presenting to Mollie Bowman with the Children's Advocacy Protection Center.

Proclamation Honoring Barbara Teague

Minutes prepared by the Office of the Town Clerk., Heather Minor, CMC, NCCMC, Town of Long View, North Carolina Regular meeting April 13, 2026

Mayor Eddie Marlowe presented the Proclamation Honoring Barbara Teague, also affectionately known as "Miss Sunshine." The mayor first inquired whether any members of Miss Teague's family were present. Upon being encouraged by Town Clerk Heather Minor, the Mayor read the proclamation in full.

Recognition of Officer Pierce

Police Chief Justin Reid came before the Board to present recognition to Officer Pierce. Chief Reid explained that a recognition ceremony had been held previously in November for Officer Pierce's excellent work involving the deployment of a Stop Stick device. Chief Reid noted that since that time, the department had submitted the relevant information to the Stop Stick company, which subsequently and formally recognized Officer Pierce as having the Stop Stick deployment of the month for October. Chief Reid emphasized the significance of this recognition, noting it was awarded out of hundreds, if not thousands, of Stop Stick deployments nationwide. Chief Reid presented Officer Pierce with a letter and a small gift on behalf of the company, and invited Officer Pierce to step forward to receive the recognition.

Recognition of Master Patrol Officer Xiong

Police Chief Justin Reid provided background on the incident that led to the recognition of Master Patrol Officer Xiong. Chief Reid explained that on March 5 of the current year, officers responded to a call for service involving a B&E in progress with one of the town's residents. During the response, an officer was exposed to fentanyl. Chief Reid described how Officer Xiong was present and assisted, and how emergency contacts were notified and the fire department responded in what Chief Reid noted was one of the fastest response times he had ever witnessed from the fire department.

Chief Reid further explained that Officer Xiong administered Narcan (Naloxone), which was identified as one of the critical actions that may have saved the officer's life during the fentanyl exposure incident.

The Fire Department Captain, Alex Smith, also addressed the Board regarding the incident, sharing that his department had received a call by phone before dispatch had even been able to send them out. He noted that upon arrival — within less than two minutes — the exposed officer was conscious and able to speak. Captain Smith expressed strong praise for the way all personnel handled the situation, emphasizing how well everyone performed on scene in recognizing the problem and responding immediately. He spoke to the concept of managing "an incident within an incident," noting that while there was already an ongoing call for service, a larger and more urgent problem had suddenly emerged and was handled with exceptional professionalism.

Captain Smith recognized the Police Department as a whole, commending everyone present that day — from Chief Reid's identification of the drug involved, to officers administering the Narcan. He stated that while he was sorry the situation occurred, he did not believe it could have gone any better and that the best possible outcome was achieved.

Town Clerk Heather Minor, a family member of the affected officer, also addressed the Board and those present, speaking on behalf of their family to express profound gratitude. She noted they could hear responders yelling and saw them running to their vehicles, and shared that the family was able to spend Easter together — something that could have been very different had Police and Fire not acted as quickly as they did. Clerk Minor extended heartfelt thanks to all involved.

Planning Board Appointment

Town Planner Susan Matheson was unable to attend the meeting so the planning board appointment was taken off and will be presented next month.

Comprehensive Rec Plan & PARTF Grant Application

Duncan Cavanaugh of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) presented to the Board regarding the Comprehensive Recreation Plan and the PARTF Grant Application. Mr. Cavanaugh began by summarizing the development process of the plan, noting that it had been discussed at an earlier point in the proceedings.

Mr. Cavanaugh explained that the Comprehensive Recreation Plan serves not only as part of the PARTF grant application but also as a long-term planning document for future recreation in the Town of Long View. He outlined how the plan was developed with a strong focus on public input from the beginning, including a

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citizen survey that received 177 responses. A town council presentation was made with the survey results in August of 2025, followed by several steering committee meetings focused on developing the plan and working through various draft options. A draft plan was developed and a public open house meeting was held on March 19, allowing community members to review the plan, its recommendations, and associated maps. The draft plan was subsequently presented to the steering committee and the town council.

Mr. Cavanaugh outlined the plan's purpose and objectives, which he read in full:

- To ensure future facilities are needed and will be well-used by the community;
- To ensure future facilities will be available, accessible, and convenient to as much of the town's population as possible;
- To consider the need for recreation facilities in the context of Long View's climate, topography, population patterns, trends, and other factors;
- To maximize the impact of each dollar spent on recreation;
- To plan with existing resources in mind and maximize the use of existing facilities;
- To make the most of recreation offered by other entities;
- To ensure that the recreational concerns of all citizens and groups are addressed;
- To avoid duplication of facilities and services where unnecessary and undesired; and
- To help justify the need for facilities when applying for grant funding.

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that the plan operates on a 10-to-20-year time frame, encompassing both long-term and short-term projects. He emphasized that the plan is truly comprehensive in that it focuses on recreation opportunities townwide rather than solely at the recreation center.

Regarding the plan's context, Mr. Cavanaugh noted that the plan covers multiple chapters and addresses a wide range of topics. He highlighted several unique opportunities available to the Town given its proximity to other locations such as the City of Hickory, the Hickory Trail system, and the planned River Trail program being developed in Burke County. He confirmed the plan contains a conceptual master plan as well as 25 recommendations developed based on public survey responses, public open house input, and staff feedback. He noted that these recommendations are aligned with both town needs and grant agency requirements, and apply to both short- and long-term potential projects, maintaining a townwide focus throughout.

With respect to the Site Master Plan for the recreation center, Mr. Cavanaugh indicated that a map was available to illustrate the potential projects that could take place at the recreation center. He was careful to note that nothing in the plan is set in stone, as plans change over time, but that the Site Master Plan represents a major component of the PARTF grant application the town is considering. He further noted the plan explores potential connectivity between the recreation center, the future downtown district and park, residential neighborhoods, other community destinations, and the regional trail system.

Regarding the PARTF grant application itself, Mr. Cavanaugh noted the request includes building upgrades and playground equipment based on an aviation theme, selected because of the recreation center's proximity to the Hickory Regional Airport. He expressed enthusiasm for this theme as a means of making Long View's park a unique destination in the region — something that no other community has — and as an educational opportunity for children who may be interested in careers in aviation. He also noted that the park's proximity to the aviation museum being developed at the airport could make it a destination for visitors who might also bring their children to the park.

Additional elements of the grant request include a football field, soccer field, tee ball field, and a splash pad. Mr. Cavanaugh noted that the total estimated town commitment is \$178,500, as the PARTF grant program matches funding dollar for dollar. He concluded his presentation and invited questions from the Board.

Adoption of the Comprehensive Recreation Plan

Alderman Tim Hertzelt made a motion to adopt the Comprehensive Recreation Plan as presented. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The adoption of the Comprehensive Recreation Plan was unanimous.

Adoption of Site Master Plan

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Alderman Gary Lingerfelt made a motion to adopt the Site Master Plan as presented. Alderman Allen Bumgarner seconded the motion. The adoption of the Site Master Plan was unanimous.

Approval of the PARTF Application

Alderman Genita Hill made a motion to approve the PARTF Application as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The approval of the PARTF Application was unanimous.

Adoption of Repealed Minimum Housing Violation Ordinances

Chad Powell, Code Enforcement, addressed the Board regarding the adoption of the repeal of minimum housing violation ordinances — Ordinance No. CO 22 25 26, Ordinance No. CO 23 25 26, and Ordinance No. CO 24 25 26. Mr. Powell explained that these ordinances became necessary due to repairs that had been made to three of the identified problem units. He noted that while some units would remain vacated and closed, the ordinances being brought forward for repeal corresponded to units where repairs had been completed.

Mr. Powell identified the specific addresses affected.

Mr. Powell noted that the property had recently brought in a couple of new maintenance staff members and installed a new on-site manager. He acknowledged that there are still pending issues at the property with deadlines that have not yet escalated to the vacated and closed status, and that he intends to remain heavily present at the property to monitor ongoing compliance.

Mr. Powell also provided an update on the broader status of enforcement actions at the complex, listing the unit numbers currently subject to vacated and closed orders: 105K, 168D, 172A, 180B, 180D, 185E, 183D, 153C, and 153GS. He noted that orders with June deadlines are in place for units 180C and 184C, and that July deadlines apply to units 188J and 168A. He further noted that unit 168C has a hearing scheduled for the following day, at which he intends to issue a 90-day order.

Mr. Powell made clear that this is not a situation where everything has been fixed, but expressed that it was encouraging to see the more glaring issues addressed relatively quickly. Mr. Powell clarified that the vacated and closed ordinances have been adopted and placards have been posted, and that it has been communicated to any occupants that it is unlawful to reside in those units — and that it is not the enforcement officer's responsibility to physically check the door every day.

Adoption of Ordinance No. CO-22-25-26 repealing ordinance No. CO-06-25-26

Alderman Tim Hertz made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. CO-22-25-26, repealing Ordinance No. CO-06-25-26. The motion was seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adopt Ordinance No. CO-22-25-26 was unanimous.

Adoption of Ordinance No. CO-23-25-26 repealing Ordinance No. CO-14-25-26

Alderman Gary Lingerfelt made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. CO-23-25-26 repealing Ordinance No. CO-14-25-26. The motion was seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to adopt Ordinance No. CO-23-25-26 was unanimous.

Adoption of Ordinance No. CO-24-25-26 repealing Ordinance No. CO-15-25-26

Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. CO-24-25-26 repealing Ordinance No. CO-15-25-26. The motion was seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adopt Ordinance No. CO-24-25-26 was unanimous.

Long View Police Department Request to Surplus

Police Captain Davey Anderson appeared before the Board to present a request to surplus four vehicles from the Long View Police Department fleet: Unit 67, Unit 68, Unit 77, and Unit 51.

Captain Anderson addressed each vehicle individually:

- Unit 67 — 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe: Captain Anderson explained that this vehicle had most recently been used as a Public Information Officer vehicle. It has nearly 120,000 miles on it, the interior has

begun to deteriorate and is in poor condition, the department has been unable to keep a battery in it, and it is rear-wheel drive, making it unsuitable for winter weather conditions.

- Unit 68 — 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe: This vehicle has approximately 112,082 miles on it and has experienced multiple electrical issues, including persistent battery problems. Like Unit 67, it is rear-wheel drive and not suitable for winter weather operations.
- Unit 77 — 2018 Dodge Charger: This vehicle has 101,396 miles on it and has been involved in multiple vehicle collisions, leaving the front end with unresolved issues. The vehicle has also experienced significant electrical problems, requiring two wiring harness replacements. Despite these repairs, the vehicle continues to experience various light malfunctions and dashboard issues. Captain Anderson noted that while Unit 77 is all-wheel drive, the ongoing electrical issues made him uncomfortable keeping it in rotation.
- Unit 51 — 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer: This vehicle has 162,242 miles on it and is four-wheel drive. It had previously been used during winter weather scenarios. However, it has also been experiencing electrical issues, and when personnel recently attempted to jump-start the vehicle to return it to service, the four-wheel drive system and transmission both appeared to have significant problems. Captain Anderson noted that the vehicle came close to catching fire in the parking lot, at which point he shut it off, disconnected the battery, and had Public Works disconnect power to it. He identified Unit 51 as being in the worst condition of all four vehicles.

Captain Anderson confirmed that he had conferred with Public Works Director Eckard regarding all four vehicles, and that Director Eckard agreed it was time to surplus them. Captain Anderson's recommendation was to place all four vehicles on GovDeals for auction.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner to surplus the vehicles requested by the Long View Police Department and sell them on GovDeals. The motion was seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to surplus and sell was unanimous.

Appointment of Interim Town Manager

Town Manager James Cozart addressed the Board, noting that the discussion followed up on conversations held during the budget retreat regarding the appointment of Finance Director Melissa LaLonde as Interim Town Manager for a period of 90 days following his retirement, effective July 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Alderman Tim Hertz to appoint Finance Director Melissa LaLonde as Interim Town Manager effective July 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to appoint Finance Director Melissa LaLonde as Interim Town Manager was unanimous.

Finance Report

Finance Director Melissa LaLonde presented the Finance Report to the Board. She reported the following:

General Fund:

- Year-to-date revenues totaled \$6,244,413, representing 91 percent of what had been budgeted.
- Year-to-date expenditures totaled \$5,652,949, equaling approximately 82 percent of budgeted expenditures.
- Revenues are exceeding expenditures by \$591,463.
- The town has collected 94 percent of ad valorem taxes.
- Investment earnings in the general fund have been collected at 108 percent of budget.

Utility Fund:

- The town has collected 80 percent of the budgeted utility revenues.
- Revenues are exceeding expenditures by \$31,033.
- Director LaLonde noted that a significant portion of grant money was received that day and that the numbers would reflect a higher figure in the following month's report.

Utility Billing:

- In the month of March, 2,715 utility bills were mailed out, totaling \$253,403.
- There were 27 applications for service during that period.

Director LaLonde then invited questions from the Board.

Manager Report

Town Manager James Cozart provided two items in his Manager's Report:

Special Meeting — CDBG Infrastructure Grant Public Hearing: Town Manager Cozart requested that the Board call a special meeting on Friday, April 24, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Town Hall for the purpose of holding a public hearing regarding an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) infrastructure grant. Mr. Cozart noted that this grant would be in the neighborhood of approximately \$3,000,000 and would be directed toward infrastructure improvements that had been identified on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) reviewed during the budget retreat. Specifically, he noted the grant would address the oldest infrastructure currently in the ground, running from approximately Nineteenth Street Southwest to about Twenty-Third Street Southwest. He clarified that the grant would be administered through the North Carolina Department of Commerce, which would also assist with the grant application and administration if the grant is awarded. He noted the purpose of the special meeting would be to receive public input on the town's intention to proceed with the application.

A motion was made to call a special meeting on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the CDBG infrastructure grant application. Motion made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. Seconded by Alderman Tim Hertz. The motion to hold the special meeting with public hearing was unanimous.

Letter of Support — Hickory Regional Airport Commercial Airline Service Grant: Town Manager Cozart also informed the Board that the Town of Long View had been contacted by the City of Hickory, which is applying for a grant to bring commercial airline service back to the Hickory Regional Airport. Mr. Cozart explained that the City of Hickory is requesting a letter of support from the Town of Long View acknowledging the economic impact that restored commercial air service could have on the region and on Long View specifically. He clarified that the Town would not be a participant in the grant itself — this would solely be a letter of support to assist the City of Hickory in obtaining funding. Mr. Cozart requested the Board's approval to sign the letter on behalf of the town.

The Board indicated their approval for the Town Manager to sign the letter of support. Alderman Tim Hertz made a motion to approve the letter of support. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion was unanimous.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Closing Remarks

No closing remarks.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.