



# City of Longview

1525 Broadway  
Longview, WA 98632  
www.ci.longview.wa.us

## Agenda

### City Council

*Mayor Erik Halvorson  
Mayor Pro Tem Keith Young  
Council Member Chris Bryant  
Council Member Mike Claxton  
Council Member Ruth Kendall  
Council Member Kalei LaFave  
Council Member Wayne Nichols*

Thursday, May 28, 2026

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

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If you are participating virtually, you may submit written comments to the City Clerk’s Office with the subject line “Public Comment for Disbursement to City Council.”

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82394132374>

Telephone options (dial any of the following numbers):

1-253-215-8782 or 1-346-248-7799 or 1-408-638-0968 or 1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 823 9413 2374

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION\*/FLAG SALUTE**  
26-00447 BOB GILES, FAITH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **CHANGES/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**
5. **AWARDS**
6. **CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)**
7. **PRESENTATIONS**  
26-00396 PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL POLICE WEEK - MAY 10-16, 2026; RECIPIENT POLICE CHIEF ROBERT HUHTA

26-00457 PROCLAMATION - LONGVIEW PUBLIC WORKS WEEK - MAY 24-30, 2026; RECIPIENT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CHRIS COLLINS

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

26-00446 KELSO-LONGVIEW HOME CONSORTIUM 2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HOLD PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN. UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING NO FURTHER ACTION IS NEEDED.

9. CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)

10. BOARD & COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

11. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

26-00367 APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

26-00363 APPROVAL OF MAY 21, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP MINUTES

26-00364 CLAIMS

26-00444 BID REVIEW – LONGVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND AWARD TO ATTA ELEVATORS PORTLAND INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$117,186.01

26-00445 SET PUBLIC HEARING – 2027-2032 SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND RIVERCITIES TRANSIT PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO SET THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 25, 2026, AS THE DATE AND TIME FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2027-2032 SIX-YEAR TIP/POP

26-00448 SET PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF 4511 OCEAN BEACH HWY AND ASSOCIATED PARCELS AND APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT AND ZONING DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 25, 2026

13. MAYOR'S REPORT

14. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

26-00434 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE PDA

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN TAYLOR TO THE PDA TO A TERM THAT WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND END DECEMBER 31, 2029

15. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

26-00437 HOPE VILLAGE REPORT

26-00467 LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

26-00468 CITY OF LONGVIEW BRAND UPLIFT

26-00469 PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

16. MISCELLANEOUS

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

18. ADJOURNMENT

**\* Any invocation that may be offered at the Council meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Council. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Council, and the Council does not endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker.**

**NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

# Proclamation

*City of Longview, Washington*

## **National Police Week 2026**

*May 10 to May 16*

*WHEREAS, there are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards and sacrifices of their law enforcement agency, and that members of our law enforcement agency recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and*

*WHEREAS, over 90,000 assaults against law enforcement officers are reported each year, resulting in approximately 16,000 injuries; and*

*WHEREAS, since the first recorded death in 1791, more than 25,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and have been killed in the line of duty; and*

*WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty will be honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Erik Halvorson, Mayor of the City of Longview, do hereby proclaim May 10-16, 2026 as **National Police Week** in Longview, Washington and publicly salute the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation.*

*In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Longview to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.*

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*Erik Halvorson, Mayor Pro-Tem*

# Proclamation

City of Longview, Washington

## Longview Public Works Week

May 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

“People-Purpose-Presence”

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the people of City of Washington; and

WHEREAS, these infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public work professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our nation’s transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in the City of Longview to gain knowledge of and maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 66th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Erik Halvorson, Mayor of the City of Longview, do hereby designate the week May 24-30, 2026, as **Longview Public Works Week**. I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and advancing quality of life for all.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Longview to be affixed this \_\_\_\_ day of May 2026.

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Erik Halvorson, Mayor



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### **KELSO-LONGVIEW HOME CONSORTIUM 2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**HOLD PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN. UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING NO FURTHER ACTION IS NEEDED.**

#### **COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:**

Strengthening governance, communication, and engagement

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A**

#### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates federal funding on annual basis for the HOME Investment Partnerships and Community Development Block Grant programs. These funds are used for Low to Moderate income housing development, homeowner rehabilitation, public services, economic development, public facility improvements, economic development, and other eligible activities. As a requirement HUD mandates that the city submit an Annual Action Plan (AAP). The AAP informs HUD of planned activities that will use the allocated funding to ensure compliance with the City's five-year consolidated plan. HUD requires that a public hearing be held to allow constituents to comment on the city's AAP.

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Kenny Robinson. Program Coordination Specialist

Attachments: None



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## Minutes

### City Council

*Mayor Erik Halvorson  
Mayor Pro Tem Keith Young  
Council Member Chris Bryant  
Council Member Mike Claxton  
Council Member Ruth Kendall  
Council Member Kalei LaFave  
Council Member Wayne Nichols*

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Webinar ID: 823 9413 2374

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Pro Tem Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*

2. **INVOCATION\*/FLAG SALUTE**

*The flag salute was recited.*

3. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mayor Halvorson (on-line), Mayor Pro Tem Young, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Nichols

**Staff Present:** City Manager Jennifer Wills, Interim City Attorney Designee Jennifer Robertson, Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins, Community & Economic Development Director Nick Little, Police Chief Robert Huhta, Fire Chief Brad Hannig, Human Resources Director Sabrina Fraidenburg, Public Information Officer Angela Abel, Information Technology Director Mike Sullivan, Parks and Recreation Director Justin Brown, Finance Director Aaron Hill, Program Coordination Specialist Kenny Robinson, Deputy City Clerk Sam Van Laer

4. **CHANGES/REVISIONS TO AGENDA**

5. **AWARDS**

- 26-00327 **PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL POPPY DAY - MAY 16, 2026; RECIPIENT SANDIE ST. ONGE, LONGVIEW AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 155 POPPY CHAIR**  
*Mayor Pro Tem Young presented the proclamation to Sandie St. Onge, who accepted on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, Longview Unit 155.*
- 26-00380 **PROCLAMATION - HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH - MAY 2026; RECIPIENT HPC CHAIR ANGELA STEPHENSON**  
*Mayor Pro Tem Young presented the proclamation to Angela Stephenson, who accepted on behalf of the Longview Historic Preservation Commission.*
- 26-00376 **RA LONG AWARD RECIPIENT AND NOMINEE RECOGNITION BY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
 2026 AWARD RECIPIENT — ANGELA STEPHENSON BY JACOB COLE, LONGVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY  
 FRED BAXTER NOMINATED BY BRAD WHITE  
 SUSAN PIPER & HAL CALBOM OF COLUMBIA RIVER OF COLUMBIA RIVER READER  
 NOMINATED BY TIFFANY DICKINSON/ GRUMBLEBUG PRESS  
 SANDBAGGERS NOMINATED BY SANDY B NUTT, LONGVIEW SANDBAGGERS**  
*Community & Economic Development Director Nick Little presented the award to Angela Stephenson.*

6. **CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)**

*A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.  
 Derek Fine provided public comment.  
 Jason Still provided public comment.  
 Stephanie Clark-McNally provided public comment (on-line).*

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

26-00329 **DOWNTOWN SUMMIT REPORT AND REVIEW PATH FORWARD**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**RECEIVE REPORT ON DOWNTOWN SUMMIT HELD JANUARY 20th; PROVIDE DIRECTION ON FUTURE ACTION ITEMS INCLUDING SCHNEITER LOT**

*Community & Economic Development Director Nick Little presented.  
 City Council discussed and came to concurrence on directing Little to move forward with the RFP, amending the zoning, and the loan program.*

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

26-00382 **FISCAL YEAR 2026 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**1) HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY 2026 HOME PROGRAM GRANT ALLOCATIONS.  
 2) MOTION TO ALLOCATE \$100,000 OF HOME FUNDS TO FOUNDATION FOR THE CHALLENGED FOR REMODEL OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOME FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND \$14,321 TO LOWER COLUMBIA CAP FOR OPERATING FUNDS.**

*Program Coordination Specialist Kenny Robinson presented.  
 Council asked clarifying questions.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Young opened the public comment for the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.  
 Mayor Pro Tem Young closed the public comment for the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.*

*A motion was made by Mayor Halvorson, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to allocate \$28,643 for grant administration, \$100,000 to FFC for FFC XV, and \$14,321 to Lower Columbia CAP for CHDO operating funds. The motion carried unanimously.*

**26-00383 FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATIONS**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- 1) **HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY 2026 CDBG PROGRAM GRANT ALLOCATIONS.**
- 2) **MOTION TO ALLOCATE FY2026 CDBG FUNDING AS FOLLOWS:**
  - **\$100,448.76 TO LONGVIEW FIRE FOR THE STATION 81 ALERT SYSTEM.**
  - **\$90,000 TO THE CAMPUS TOWERS FOR WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT.**
  - **\$12,062.24 TO LONGVIEW FIRE FOR SAFETY EQUIPMENT.**
  - **\$26,609.50 TO HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON FOR RENT WELL TENANT EDUCATION.**
  - **\$20,000 TO LONGVIEW PARKS AND REC FOR 2027 SUPER SUMMERS.**
  - **\$15,000 TO THE LONGVIEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT FOR A DOWNTOWN LIGHTING STUDY.**

*Program Coordination Specialist Kenny Robinson presented.  
Council asked clarifying questions.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Young opened the public comment for the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.*

*Jason Still provided public comment.*

*Rochelle Burch with HOSWWA Rent Well provided public comment.*

*A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.*

*A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.*

*A representative with Campus Towers, name unstated, provided public comment.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Young closed the public comment for the public hearing comment at 7:27 p.m.*

*Council discussed.*

*A motion was made by Councilmember LaFave to approve the Longview Fire and Campus Towers, and to reallocate the HOSWWA funds of \$10,000 to Community House on Broadway and \$16,609 to Super Summers. The motion failed for lack of a second.*

*A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to approve the CDBG grants as proposed by staff.*

*An amendment to the motion was made by Mayor Halvorson to reduce the grant administration amount by \$23,904.94, making the grant administration amount \$22,704.56, fully fund the Longview Fire Safety at \$97,576.68, strike the HOSWWA Rent Well Program for \$26,609.24, strike the Longview Parks and Rec for \$20,000, and strike the Downtown Lighting for \$15,000. The amendment to the motion failed for lack of a second.*

*An amendment to the motion was made by Mayor Halvorson to strike the grant administration for \$46,000 and use that balance towards the Fire Safety. The amendment to the motion failed for lack of a second.*

*Council discussed.*

*The main motion, made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to approve the CDBG grants as proposed by staff, was taken to a vote.*

*Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Young, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Nichols*

*Nays: Mayor Halvorson, Councilmember LaFave*

*The motion carried.*

9. **CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)**

*Jason Still provided public comment.*

10. **BOARD & COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

11. **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

26-00406 **RESOLUTION NO. 2619 – ADOPTION OF 0.1% SALES AND USE TAX FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE FUNDING**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2619 AND DIRECT STAFF TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION RELATED TO HB 2015.**

*Police Chief Robert Huhta presented.  
Council discussed.*

*A motion was made by Councilmember Bryant, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to approve Resolution No. 2619 as presented.*

*Council discussed.*

*Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Young, Councilmember Kendell, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Nichols, Councilmember LaFave*

*Nays: Mayor Halvorson*

*The motion carried.*

12. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

*The IAFF 828 Collective Bargaining Agreement was pulled separate from the Consent Calendar.*

26-00398 **IAFF 828 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, JANUARY 1, 2026 – DECEMBER 31, 2028**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**APPROVAL OF THE IAFF LOCAL 828 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR 2026-2028.**

*A motion was made by Councilmember Claxton, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to approve the IAFF Local 828 Collective Bargaining Agreement.*

*Ayes: Mayor Halvorson, Mayor Pro Tem Young, Councilmember Kendell, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember LaFave*

*Abstains: Councilmember Nichols*

*The motion carried.*

*A motion was made by Councilmember Nichols, seconded by Councilmember Bryant, to approve the remainder of the consent calendar. The motion carried unanimously.*

26-00378 **APPROVAL OF APRIL 23, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

26-00326 **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

26-00372 **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF A HEARING EXAMINER PURSUANT TO LMC 1.32**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**  
**CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF HEARING EXAMINER**

- 26-00377 RESOLUTION NO. 2621 — APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. ONE TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING AND ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES (ADDING CITY OF KELSO)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**  
**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. ONE TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING AND ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES TO ADD THE CITY OF KELSO AS A BENEFITTED MUNICIPALITY.**

- 26-00399 RESOLUTION NO. 2622 — A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH STRUCTURED COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, INC. FOR MANAGED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**  
**MOVE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2622 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH STRUCTURED COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, INC. FOR MANAGED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$445,419.00, PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES, FEES, AND AUTHORIZED EXPENSES, FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF THIRTY-SIX MONTHS.**

- 26-00400 RESOLUTION NO. 2623 — A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THREE SERVER HOSTS TO REPLACE EXISTING VIRTUAL MACHINE HOST SERVERS IN THE CITY'S MAIN DATACENTER

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**  
**MOVE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2623 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR THE CITY MANAGER'S DESIGNEE, TO SIGN THE PURCHASE ORDER FOR THREE NEW SERVERS TO REPLACE THE CITY'S EXISTING VIRTUAL MACHINE HOST SERVERS IN THE MAIN DATACENTER WITH FUNDING FROM THE OFFICE EQUIPMENT RESERVE (OER) BUDGET.**

13. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

*Mayor Pro Tem provided a report.*

14. **COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS**

*Councilmember LaFave provided a report.  
 Councilmember Nichols provided a report.  
 Councilmember Bryant provided a report.  
 Councilmember Claxton provided a report.  
 Councilmember Kendall provided a report.*

15. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

*City Manager Jennifer Wills provided a report.*

- 26-00405 RENEWAL OF THERAPEUTIC COURT GRANT

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**  
**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO COLLABORATE WITH COWLITZ COUNTY DISTRICT**

**COURT TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS.**

*Police Chief Robert Huhta presented.*

*Council provided concurrence for staff to collaborate with Cowlitz County to submit the grant application.*

**26-00407 FUTURE SOLID WASTE CONTRACT PRIORITY ALIGNMENT**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:  
PROVIDE PRIORITY ALIGNMENT FOR FUTURE SOLID WASTE CONTRACT DISCUSSIONS**

*Community & Economic Development Director Nick Little presented.  
Council discussed.*

*Council asked for more information on the 4.5 FTEs and a pros and cons list for moving billing and customer services to Waste Control.*

**16. MISCELLANEOUS**

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.*

*Sam Van Laer  
Deputy City Clerk*

*Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor*

**NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

**NEXT SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP:**

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – FIRE/EMS LEVIES



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### CLAIMS

Based upon the authentication and certification of claims and demands against the city, prepared and signed by the City's auditing officer, and in full reliance thereon, it is moved and seconded as shown in the minutes of this meeting that the following vouchers/warrants are approved for payment:

**FIRST HALF MAY 2026 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: \$1,474,942.61**

### FIRST HALF MAY 2026 PAYROLL:

- \$, checks
- \$, direct deposits
- \$, wire transfers
- \$ Total

### STAFF CONTACT:

Lindy Kennedy, Accountant  
Sara Rios, Payroll Specialist

Attachments: None



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### **BID REVIEW – LONGVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION**

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND AWARD TO ATTA ELEVATORS PORTLAND INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$117,186.01**

#### **COUNCIL 2026 GOALS AND PRIORITIES ADDRESSED:**

Investing in Infrastructure

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A**

#### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

This project provides for modernization of the existing passenger elevator at the Longview Public Library, including replacement of equipment, controls, electrical systems, safety features, and ADA upgrades. Work includes all components and incidental items necessary to complete the improvements in accordance with the Contract Documents.

On Tuesday, April 28, 2026, three bids were received as follows:

\$117,186.01 – ATTA Elevators Portland, Inc, Portland, OR

\$129,603.04 – TK Elevators Corporation, Portland, OR

\$141,960.56 – Centric Elevator Corporation of Oregon, Portland, OR

**\$212,000.00 - Engineer's Estimate**

The low bid received was determined to be regular and responsive.

#### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY:**

This project is funded through a Washington Department of Commerce Grant.

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Steve Hansen, Assistant Public Works Director

Attachments: None



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### **SET PUBLIC HEARING – 2027-2032 SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND RIVERCITIES TRANSIT PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP)**

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**MOTION TO SET THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 25, 2026, AS THE DATE AND TIME FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2027-2032 SIX-YEAR TIP/POP**

#### **COUNCIL GOALS AND PRIORITIES:**

Investing in Infrastructure

Advancing Economic Opportunity and Community Vitality

#### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

State law requires that each city update its Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) annually and file a copy of the adopted program with the Secretary of Transportation.

Federal law also requires transit agencies receiving Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding to prepare a Program of Projects (POP) identifying the projects to be funded with FTA funding, and to conduct a public hearing and outreach process prior to adopting the POP. The TIP includes FTA funded projects and meets the requirements of the POP.

After adoption, the TIP/POP can be subsequently amended to include new projects and funding sources.

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Chris Collins, Public Works Director

Attachments: None



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### **SET PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF 4511 OCEAN BEACH HWY AND ASSOCIATED PARCELS AND APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT AND ZONING DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION**

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**MOTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 25, 2026**

**DATE:** May 28, 2026

#### **COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:**

Growth & Economic Opportunity

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A**

#### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The property owner of 4511 Ocean Beach HWY (studio west apartments) submitted a notice of intent to commence annexation proceedings to annex into the City from the County and seeking an R-4 High Density Residential zoning designation.

Planning Commission recommended approval of the comprehensive plan amendment and zoning designation associated with the annexation at the May 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 meeting.

The boundary review board approved the annexation at their May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Motion to set a public hearing for June 25, 2026.

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Irene Rutikanga, Planner

Attachments: None



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE PDA**

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN TAYLOR TO THE PDA TO A TERM THAT WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND END DECEMBER 31, 2029**

#### **Attachments:**

1. Agenda Summary Sheet for 05.28.2026 - Taylor appt
2. Taylor, Stephen -2026



## City of Longview Agenda Summary Sheet

1525 Broadway  
Longview, WA 98632  
[www.mylongview.com](http://www.mylongview.com)

**AGENDA TITLE: APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN TAYLOR TO THE PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**DATE: MAY 28, 2025**

**CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Due to the resignation of Holly McShane, there is a vacancy on the Public Development Authority. This is a city council appointment. The council appointments committee (consisting of Erik Halvorson, Ruth Kendall, and Kalei LaFave) recommend the appointment of Stephen Taylor to a term that will begin immediately and end December 31, 2029.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Appoint Stephen Taylor to the Public Development Authority to a term that will begin immediately and end December 31, 2029.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Erik Halvorson, Mayor  
Ruth Kendall, Councilwoman  
Kalei LaFave, Councilwoman

**Profile**

Stephen

First Name

A

Middle Initial

Taylor

Last Name



Street Address

Suite or Apt

City

State

Postal Code

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

**Are you over the age of 18?**

Yes  No

Cowlitz PUD

Employer

Dir. of Regulatory & Regional Affairs

Job Title

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Public Development Authority: Submitted

**Availability (please check all that apply)**

- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Long-term

**Interests & Experiences**

**Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?**

Opportunity to serve the City in a voluntary capacity using my skills and past experience in business and City administration to help facilitate new investment and improve the quality of life for Longview's residents.

**Describe your skill/experience/education that would be beneficial for the volunteer opportunity(ies) you've checked above.**

---

BA Finance & Economics (Eastern Washington University), MA Public Administration (Eastern Washington University) 10 years experience in municipal management (Connell, WA & Kelso, WA) 7 years on Spokane Valley City Council, from the City's inception and incorporation in 2002 Experience negotiating contracts, developing and overseeing budgets, shepherding city ballot resolutions through the election process, purchasing and selling land, overseeing debt issuance Advocating for and passing priority legislation in Olympia and securing direct appropriations and grants from state and federal sources for essential public facilities and infrastructure Developing and drafted zoning codes and development regulations

**RESUME OPTIONAL**

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Upload a Resume

I understand that all members of City Boards and Commissions are expected to abide by the [City of Longview Municipal Code](#), [Washington State Open Public Meetings Act](#), and the [Appearance of Fairness Doctrine](#). Additionally, I have read and agree to abide to the guidelines in the [Guidelines for Individual, Organizational Volunteer Workers, and Commissions, Boards, and Committees policy](#), including the [Agreement for Individual Volunteer Services](#).

**I understand and agree to the expectations as explained above.**

---

I Agree

**I hereby certify that I am capable of performing the volunteer work, or commission, board, or committee services as identified in this application (check which applies):**

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Stephen A. Taylor

**Please list three (non-relative) references. Please include phone numbers.**

---

Gary Huhta, Cowlitz PUD general manager - 360-501-9513 David Futchter, former Kelso Mayor - 360-430-4483 Michael Kardas, Kelso Dir. of Community Development - 360-577-3376



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### HOPE VILLAGE REPORT

**DATE:** May 21, 2026

**COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:**

Community Safety  
Responsible & Honest Governance

**CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW:** N/A

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Hope Village ceased operations on October 1, 2025. At the time of closure, City Council directed staff to return with a six-month follow-up discussion regarding observations and impacts following the closure of the site.

**Discussion**

Staff provided Council (attached) with four summary reports intended to help inform future policy discussions, should Council wish to provide direction moving forward.

The reports include:

- Community and partner observations gathered during a May 7, 2026 stakeholder meeting involving housing providers, outreach organizations, behavioral health professionals, faith-based organizations, and service agencies
- City operational observations and response efforts related to the Hope Village transition, including Behavioral Health Unit outreach and ongoing homelessness response efforts
- Legal and regulatory considerations associated with the pallet shelter site, including operational limitations tied to current state law and building code considerations

The purpose of this item is to provide Council with information and observations gathered since the closure of Hope Village and to allow Council the opportunity to discuss whether any future direction or next steps are desired.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Review the information and provide direction to staff if desired

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Jennifer Wills, City Manager

Attachments:

1. 6 Month COL Since Hope Village Closure
2. 6 Month Community Meeting Recap 5.7.26
3. BHU Hope Village Transition to Closure Data
4. 2561 Task Force Community Meeting Recap 1.6.26

### CITY OPERATIONAL OBSERVATIONS AND RESPONSE

While community partners discussed ongoing service needs and challenges following the closure of Hope Village, City staff also reflected on the extensive efforts undertaken prior to and after the site's closure to support residents through the transition.

Longview's Behavioral Health Unit (BHU), Community Outreach Coordinator, and partner agencies spent years building relationships, trust, and service connections with individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the community. When Hope Village was scheduled to close in September 2025 following notification from the operator that services would end, City staff were faced with the significant challenge of transitioning vulnerable residents within a compressed timeframe.

What followed was one of the most concentrated outreach and stabilization efforts undertaken by the City's Behavioral Health Unit. BHU staff worked intensively with residents, housing providers, behavioral health professionals, nonprofit organizations, and regional partners to identify individualized pathways toward housing, treatment, stabilization, and support services.

While homelessness remains a complex and ongoing regional issue, City staff believe the transition effort helped preserve much of the progress achieved through years of outreach, engagement, and relationship-building.

### TRANSITION EFFORTS PRIOR TO CLOSURE

As Hope Village approached closure, BHU staff quickly shifted into a focused transition and stabilization effort centered on reducing disruption for residents and preserving continuity of care wherever possible. Staff recognized early that residents had varying levels of vulnerability, behavioral health needs, medical concerns, housing barriers, and support systems, requiring individualized approaches rather than a single solution.

At the time of closure:

- 48 individuals remained at Hope Village
- BHU had approximately 45 days to coordinate transition efforts
- Residents presented varying levels of behavioral health, substance use, medical, and housing barriers

BHU utilized a triage-based approach prioritizing:

- Vulnerability and acuity
- Housing barriers
- Available support systems
- Long-term stabilization opportunities

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## COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND TRANSITION OUTCOMES

City staff emphasized that the transition effort would not have been possible without significant coordination between local and regional partners. BHU personnel worked closely with housing providers, nonprofit organizations, behavioral health agencies, outreach workers, and other service providers to identify available resources and create realistic transition plans for residents.

The work often involved extensive case management, problem-solving, and direct engagement with residents to help navigate systems that can be difficult to access even under stable circumstances.

Coordination efforts included:

- Housing navigation
- Treatment referrals
- Documentation assistance
- Case management coordination
- Resource connection

Transition outcomes included:

- The majority of residents successfully transitioned into alternative housing or services
- 3 individuals declined all offered assistance and returned to unsheltered living
- Only a small number of transitioned individuals have since returned to homelessness

City staff noted that participation in housing and supportive services ultimately remains voluntary, even when resources and assistance are available.

## CURRENT CONDITIONS OBSERVED BY THE CITY

Following the closure of Hope Village, City staff closely monitored conditions throughout the community to assess potential impacts. Initial concerns included the possibility of widespread encampment growth or a return to conditions previously experienced throughout parks, public spaces, and highly visible areas of the city.

To date, City staff report that those concerns have not materialized at the scale initially feared. While homelessness and housing instability remain ongoing concerns, current observations suggest that homelessness has become more geographically dispersed and less concentrated in visible encampments.

City observations since closure include:

- Longview has not experienced a significant return of large-scale encampments
- Homelessness appears more geographically dispersed and less visible
- Some individuals are residing in vehicles, motels, or outside the city core
- Current outreach efforts primarily involve a smaller number of chronically resistant individuals who have often had repeated prior engagement with service systems

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The City’s Community Outreach Coordinator continues proactive outreach and engagement efforts throughout the community.

## **OPERATIONAL IMPACTS ON THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT**

City staff also discussed how the closure of Hope Village has shifted operational demands for the Behavioral Health Unit. Prior to closure, BHU personnel dedicated substantial time and resources toward shelter-related coordination, encampment management, and ongoing stabilization efforts connected to the site.

With those demands reduced, BHU staff have been able to redirect greater attention toward the unit’s broader behavioral health mission serving the community as a whole.

Current BHU operational focus includes:

- Mental health crisis response
- Substance use interventions
- Suicidal ideation calls
- Behavioral health emergencies
- Broader community stabilization efforts

City staff noted that this operational shift has allowed BHU to maintain homelessness outreach capacity while also increasing focus on community-wide behavioral health response needs.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 7, 2026, the City of Longview convened a follow-up discussion with community partners, housing providers, outreach workers, behavioral health professionals, faith-based organizations, and social service agencies to discuss conditions six months after the closure of Hope Village on October 1, 2025.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather updated observations from organizations working directly with vulnerable populations and to provide City Council with partner perspectives regarding current conditions, service gaps, and potential opportunities moving forward.

Participants were asked to discuss:

- Observed impacts since the closure of Hope Village
- Current conditions and emerging trends
- Available resources and limitations
- Current service gaps
- Opportunities for support and coordination

This summary reflects stakeholder observations, concerns, and ideas shared during the discussion. These comments do not represent official findings or positions of the City of Longview, but rather partner perspectives intended to assist City Council in understanding six-month impacts following the closure.

### KEY THEMES FROM THE DISCUSSION

#### **Continued Need Despite Reduced Visibility**

A consistent theme throughout the discussion was that participants do not believe homelessness has decreased overall since the closure of Hope Village.

Partner organizations described individuals as being:

- More geographically dispersed
- Living outside city limits or in less visible locations
- Staying in vehicles or couch surfing
- Harder for outreach workers and providers to locate
- Increasingly disconnected from services and housing systems

- 
- Multiple partners emphasized that reduced visibility does not necessarily equate to reduced need.

Several providers expressed concern, from their organizational perspective, that individuals are now operating in “survival mode,” making it harder to engage consistently in treatment, recovery, housing programs, or employment opportunities.

### **Loss of a Centralized Service Location**

Many participating organizations repeatedly described Hope Village as more than shelter alone from their experience working directly with clients and vulnerable populations. Partners stated it served as a centralized location where:

- Outreach workers could consistently locate clients
- Housing referrals could be coordinated
- Peer support and behavioral health services could be delivered
- Medical follow-up and medication management were easier to maintain
- Individuals had greater stability while working toward housing or recovery
- Several providers shared that individuals are now significantly harder to contact and support.

Examples discussed included:

- Housing opportunities being lost because clients could not be located
- Increased hotel expenditures to keep clients accessible for appointments and housing searches
- Outreach staff traveling to remote locations attempting to reconnect with clients
- Individuals leaving treatment programs because they did not know where they would go afterward
- One provider shared that six out of fifteen prioritized housing referrals were ultimately lost because individuals could not be located after months of attempted contact.

### **Housing and Service System Pressures**

Providers and partner organizations discussed increasing pressure throughout the housing and service system.

Key concerns included:

- Shortages of affordable one-bedroom units
- Rising rental costs
- Long housing waitlists
- Elderly individuals being displaced from low-cost housing or condemned trailers
- Fixed-income individuals unable to compete in the housing market
- Increased food insecurity and demand for basic assistance
- Concerns regarding tightening Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, and housing funding resources

Housing providers and churches also reported:

- Increased requests for safe parking
-

- 
- More individuals sleeping on church properties
  - Increased unauthorized guests at supportive housing properties
  - Greater operational challenges involving sanitation, security, and property management
  - Several participants noted that pets continue to be a major barrier to housing placement.

### **Perceived Importance of Low-Barrier and Stabilization Approaches**

A major focus of the discussion from participating providers was their belief in the importance of low-barrier engagement. Several participants clarified that, from their perspective, “low barrier” did not mean “no accountability.” Instead, providers described it as:

- Meeting individuals where they are initially
- Building trust before requiring major behavioral change
- Focusing on progress and engagement
- Using peer support and relationship-based approaches
- Creating individualized action plans and goals
- Providers emphasized that many individuals are not immediately capable of succeeding in high-barrier shelter or traditional housing environments.

Several participants stated that stabilization and transitional environments often improve long-term housing success by allowing individuals time to:

- Address recovery and mental health needs
- Rebuild routines and life skills
- Access employment and services
- Reestablish stability and trust
- Participants repeatedly emphasized the importance of human connection, consistency, encouragement, and wraparound support.

### **Ideas and Opportunities Discussed**

Participants discussed several potential concepts and partnership opportunities for future consideration, including:

- A nonprofit-operated or partnership-based operational model
- A City lease arrangement where nonprofit organizations manage operations
- Reduced operational restrictions within future RFP structures
- Multi-agency onsite service coordination
- Community shower and hygiene facilities
- Personal storage lockers
- Safe parking or designated camping concepts
- Resource navigation boards and centralized information
- Work or volunteer-based engagement opportunities
- Improved coordination and information-sharing between providers

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Some participants also discussed the potential need for a low-barrier emergency shelter or stabilization-focused facility with an average stay long enough to allow individuals to meaningfully engage in recovery, treatment, housing navigation, or supportive services.

Several participants expressed interest in continued collaboration and partnership-based approaches related to the concepts discussed above, including coordinated service delivery, wraparound case management, and low-barrier stabilization models. The discussion reflected general openness among organizations to continue working together and exploring future solutions collaboratively. However, no single organization formally identified itself as the lead agency or sole operator for any specific concept or proposal discussed during the meeting.

### **CITY CONSIDERATIONS DISCUSSED**

City staff clarified several operational and legal considerations during the discussion, including:

- The pallet shelters do not meet traditional building code standards for permanent occupancy
- Current state law limits how the units may legally be used
- The site can only be used for emergency shelter purposes under existing regulations
- Future use of the site would require City Council direction and action
- City staff emphasized that the purpose of the discussion was to gather information and perspectives to assist future policy conversations.

### **OVERALL OBSERVATIONS**

The discussion reflected strong concern among participating organizations and community partners regarding:

- The continued need for stabilization and low-barrier options
- Increasing difficulty maintaining continuity of care
- Growing pressure on housing and support systems
- The challenges created when individuals become disconnected from providers and services

At the same time, several partners expressed optimism that stronger coordination, partnership models, and revised operational approaches could improve outcomes moving forward.

The meeting also reflected broad recognition that homelessness remains a complex regional issue involving multiple agencies, systems, jurisdictions, and community partners.

### **NEXT STEPS**

This summary will be provided to City Council as part of ongoing discussions about the future of Hope Village. City staff will continue monitoring trends, impacts, and community feedback. Additional discussion regarding operational feasibility, housing capacity, behavioral health, and public safety may continue as directed by City Council.

Continued engagement with community and faith-based partners remains an important part of the City's ongoing evaluation process.

### HOPE VILLAGE INDIVIDUAL TRANSITION DATA: 48 PARTICIPANTS

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

#### **Permanent Housing:**

- A senior citizen and daughter exited to HUD housing at Fremont Village.
- Disabled senior exited to VA housing at Vancouver Central Park Place.
- A participant exited to Sunrise.
- A participant exited to Columbia House.

#### **In-Patient Treatment:**

- A participant exited to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.
- A participant exited to dual-diagnosis treatment.

#### **Shelter:**

- Several participants were excited to CHOB. One later came to the top of the senior HUD list at Fremont Village.

#### **Sober Living:**

- Several participants were excited to sober living.

#### **Single Room Occupancy:**

- Several participants were excited to single-room occupancy housing.

#### **Housed with Family/Friends:**

- Several participants were excited to live with family or friends.
- Two participants purchased RVs to park at friends' homes.

#### **Exited Due to Rule Violations:**

- Seven participants were excited due to rule violations.

#### **Refused Viable Options:**

- Three participants were offered viable options but chose to return to street living.

#### **Opted to Self-Exited to Motel versus viable plan:**

- Two participants declined viable options and chose to stay in a motel with friends.
- One participant left without engaging.

#### **Returned to Other State of Origin:**

- Two participants were from out-of-state and opted to return.

#### **Complexities:**

- Twelve participants had pets
- Four Registered Sex Offenders

### TASK FORCE 2561

Held: January 6, 2026 | City Hall Training Room

Prepared by: City Manager Jennifer Wills

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 6, the City of Longview convened a facilitated workshop with community and faith-based partners as part of the Resolution 2561 Task Force with 21 people in attendance. The purpose of the conversation was to hear directly from those working closest to individuals experiencing homelessness following the October 1 closure of Hope Village, to understand what partners are seeing on the ground, to identify current services and gaps, and to inform future City decision-making with shared insight and accountability.

Participants included representatives from law enforcement, the City's Behavioral Health Unit, housing providers, medical outreach, faith-based organizations, and social service agencies. In addition to in-room discussion, written input was submitted by several organizations.

The conversation reflected both measurable changes within the City of Longview and ongoing concern from service providers about continuity of care, access to services, and long-term impacts that are still emerging. While partners acknowledged reductions in visible encampments and fewer enforcement contacts within the City, many emphasized that reduced visibility does not equate to reduced need. Several expressed concern that individuals may now be more dispersed, harder to locate, and experiencing increased health risks.

Throughout the workshop, City staff emphasized the City's role as a municipal government: to reduce crime, maintain public safety, manage public spaces, and administer policy within City limits. Partners emphasized the importance of trust, continuity, and regional coordination. The discussion highlighted both the shared commitment to care for vulnerable individuals and the structural differences between municipal authority and regional service delivery systems.

#### PURPOSE, CONTEXT, AND THE CITY OF LONGVIEW'S ROLE

This workshop was held to support City Council's policy oversight under Resolution 2561 and to ensure that community and faith-based partner perspectives are incorporated into the City's evaluation following the pause of Hope Village operations on October 1.

Homelessness was widely acknowledged as a complex issue that exists at a regional, state, and national level. From the City of Longview's perspective, the City's role is defined by its legal authority, jurisdictional boundaries, and responsibility to steward public resources on behalf of residents.

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The City of Longview’s primary responsibilities in this space include:

- Reducing crime and maintaining public safety
- Ensuring public spaces are accessible, safe, and usable
- Adopting and enforcing local ordinances and policies within City limits
- Managing limited municipal resources in alignment with Council-adopted priorities
- Coordinating with, but not administering, county, state, and nonprofit service systems

City representatives emphasized that while collaboration and partnership are essential, the City is only able to directly manage enforcement, policy outcomes, and investments within the City of Longview. The City does not have authority over service delivery, enforcement, or outcomes outside its jurisdiction.

This context framed the discussion and informed how City staff interpret observed outcomes, evaluate impacts, and consider future actions.

## **OBSERVATIONS SINCE THE CLOSURE OF HOPE VILLAGE**

### **City of Longview Perspective**

The Longview Police Department and the City’s Behavioral Health Unit provided an overview of conditions observed since October 1. Staff acknowledged that homelessness has not been “solved.”

However, they reported notable changes within the City of Longview:

- Fewer visible encampments in public spaces
- A significant reduction in RVs being used as residences
- Little to no arrests related to camping or personal property storage
- Fewer overall contacts with unsheltered individuals compared to prior years

It was emphasized that sleeping in a vehicle is not a crime, and therefore there is no reliable dataset to quantify individuals living in their cars.

Behavioral Health Unit staff shared that because they are encountering fewer individuals overall, they can spend more time with those they do engage. This includes making phone calls, coordinating with service providers, assisting with setting up appointments, and facilitating connections to care. Staff reported that this deeper level of engagement has improved their ability to support individuals and follow through on referrals.

From the City’s lens, these outcomes align with its core municipal responsibilities: reducing crime, improving safety, and maintaining public order in public spaces, while continuing to connect individuals to available services when contact occurs.

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## Partner Observations on the Ground

Community and service providers shared perspectives that added important context to the City's observations.

Several partners noted that while the City may be seeing fewer individuals in visible public spaces, service providers continue to encounter high levels of need across the region. Partners described shifts rather than reductions, with individuals relocating to other cities, moving into unincorporated county areas, living in vehicles, unauthorized apartment surfing, or staying in less visible locations.

- Service providers, including faith-based organizations, shared that severe weather shelter operations have served individuals during activation periods; however, utilization data is still being compiled and verified. There has been a decline in nightly use for on average night stays from last year.
- Outreach providers shared awareness of individuals living in vehicles near Lake Sacajawea and in the Highlands neighborhood.
- Community House and CORE Health reported an initial surge in referrals following the closure of Hope Village, followed by individuals moving on to other communities with lower-barrier services. Providers emphasized that while some services remain available, engagement is harder without a centralized access point
- Street medicine volunteers shared that when Hope Village was operational, the overall health of the homeless population improved due to consistent access to shelter, warmth, and routine care.

In addition to partner perspectives, the City has communicated with law enforcement agencies in neighboring jurisdictions. Those agencies reported that they have not observed a corresponding increase in individuals experiencing homelessness or an increased demand on local services since the closure of Hope Village. This information adds further context to the regional impacts and underscores the importance of continued monitoring and data collection over time.

Partners emphasized that reduced visibility can make outreach more challenging, particularly for individuals with complex behavioral health or medical needs. Several expressed concern that individuals who are less visible may delay seeking care until reaching crisis-level conditions.

## Health, Medical, and Continuity of Care

Medical and outreach partners expressed significant concern about continuity of care following the closure of Hope Village.

Street medicine volunteers described Hope Village as a stabilizing environment where basic needs were met, allowing individuals to more consistently engage in:

- Medication management

- 
- Wound care
  - Follow-up treatment
  - Preventative health support

Without a centralized and predictable location, providers shared that it has become more difficult to locate individuals, ensure medication adherence, and provide routine care. Transportation barriers further limit access to clinics and services, particularly for individuals with mobility limitations or severe mental illness.

Partners expressed concern about a growing gap between emergency room treatment and ongoing care on the street. It was noted that PeaceHealth supports street medicine efforts because early intervention can reduce emergency room utilization and prevent illness from escalating to crisis levels. There is not specific data at this time about reduction, this was noted by the financial support reason from PeaceHealth to the Street Medicine Unit.

Several participants expressed worry that individuals may now be sicker overall, not because services no longer exist, but because consistent access and follow-up have become harder to maintain.

### **Available Services and Capacity**

Partners confirmed that most services available prior to Hope Village’s closure technically remain in place, including:

- Mental health services
- Substance use disorder (SUD) outpatient treatment
- Outreach and case management
- Emergency shelter options (CHOB, CHESS, ESS)

However, capacity across systems remains limited.

Housing providers shared that:

- Transitional and permanent housing options are constrained
- Waitlists for housing placements are long, with some senior housing wait times approaching three years
- Vacancy rates remain below levels typically associated with a healthy housing market

Providers emphasized that while services exist, access is limited by capacity, eligibility requirements, and the complexity of navigating multiple systems.

### **Identified Gaps**

Across City and partner perspectives, several consistent gaps were identified:

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1. Continuity and Coordination of Care  
Easy access of a centralized point has made engagement, follow-up, and cross-system coordination more difficult.
  2. Storage of Personal Property  
Fear of losing belongings prevents individuals from attending appointments or engaging in services.
  3. Pets  
Pets continue to be a significant barrier to shelter and housing access. While pets were permitted at Hope Village and the severe weather shelter, most housing and shelter options do not allow them.
  4. Transitional and Supportive Housing  
There are limited options between emergency shelter and permanent housing, particularly for individuals exiting recovery or stabilization.
  5. Resource Awareness and Access  
While a county-maintained resource list exists, it is not widely known or easily accessible. Participants discussed the value of a simple, widely distributed resource card.

## **JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY**

A recurring theme throughout the workshop was the tension between municipal authority and regional service delivery.

City staff clarified that while individuals may relocate outside city limits, the City of Longview's authority, funding, and enforcement responsibilities are limited to the City. Council decisions must be based on outcomes within City limits and within available fiscal capacity, particularly as the City faces broader budget constraints.

Some partners expressed concern that relocation shifts impacts to neighboring jurisdictions. City staff acknowledged the concern while emphasizing that homelessness is not solely a City of Longview issue and cannot be addressed by a single municipal government alone.

There was also recognition that service systems operate across jurisdictions and that siloed work limits effectiveness. Participants expressed interest in improved coordination through county-wide efforts, including the Homeless Direct Support Meeting, and the City expressed willingness to support greater participation and collaboration.

### **Key Takeaways**

- Conditions within the City of Longview have changed since October 1, particularly related to visibility and enforcement.
- Reduced visibility does not equate to reduced need.
- The City is administering its municipal role within its jurisdiction, while partners continue to address broader regional service needs.

- 
- Trust, continuity, and coordination remain critical components of effective service delivery.
  - Additional time and data are needed to fully understand long-term impacts.
  - There is shared commitment among City staff and partners to continue working together within the realities of authority, capacity, and funding.

### **Next Steps**

- This report will be provided to City Council to support ongoing policy discussion under Resolution 2561.
- City staff will continue to monitor police and behavioral health unit impact
- The City will assist in broader distribution of existing resource tools.
- Continued engagement with community and faith-based partners will remain an important part of the evaluation process.



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### **LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUND DISTRIBUTION POLICY**

**DATE:** May 21, 2026

**COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:**

Growth & Economic Opportunity

**CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: REQUIRED**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The City Council will review a proposed update to the City of Longview’s Lodging Tax Funding Policy. The proposed policy modernizes the City’s approach to distributing Lodging Tax revenues in alignment with RCW 67.28 and is intended to better support tourism-generating events while creating greater flexibility for both established and emerging community events.

Historically, Lodging Tax funding was distributed through a biennial grant cycle focused primarily on marketing support for established events. While successful in supporting long-standing community traditions, the structure limited opportunities for new events and created challenges in addressing the increasing cost of required City services associated with hosting events.

The proposed policy introduces several key changes, including:

- Annual funding application opportunities rather than a biennial cycle
- Creation of two funding categories:
  - Tourism Promotion Grants
  - Event Services Support Fund
- Increased flexibility to support new and emerging tourism events
- A structure to help offset required City service costs such as traffic control, police staffing, park support, and street closures
- Recognition of “Heritage Community Events” that demonstrate long-standing community and tourism value

The policy also establishes guiding principles for Lodging Tax investments focused on promoting tourism, supporting community traditions, lowering barriers for event organizers, encouraging new tourism opportunities, and ensuring responsible stewardship of public funds. The Lodging Tax Advisory Commission (LTAC) would continue reviewing and recommending Tourism Promotion Grant applications to the City Council, while the City would administer Event Services Support funding associated with operational City service costs. Staff is bringing forward this policy framework in advance of the 2027–2028 budget development process so that Council has an established policy direction in place as Lodging Tax funding decisions and budget priorities are considered during the upcoming biennial budget cycle.

This discussion provides Council an opportunity to review the proposed policy direction and provide feedback prior to implementation within the City’s biennial budget and annual Lodging Tax application process.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Motion to approve City of Longview Lodging Tax Funding Policy

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Jennifer Wills, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Longview\_Lodging\_Tax\_Policy\_Presentation
2. LTAC Distribution Policy Draft



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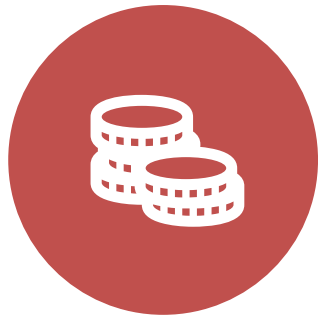
# City of Longview Lodging Tax Funding Policy Update

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Modernizing How We Support  
Tourism & Community Events

**LONGVIEW** | **W  
A**

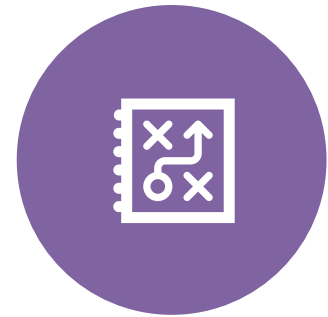
# Why This Matters



TOURISM DRIVES ECONOMIC  
ACTIVITY



EVENTS SUPPORT BUSINESSES  
AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY



WE NEED A FLEXIBLE,  
STRATEGIC APPROACH

**LONGVIEW** | **W**  
**A**

**Where  
We've  
Been**

Biennial grant cycle

Focused on  
established events

Limited flexibility for  
new opportunities

# Why Change Was Needed



LIMITED ACCESS FOR  
NEW EVENTS



HIGH COST OF CITY  
SERVICES



NEED SPACE FOR NEW  
TOURISM INVESTMENT

# Our Goal Moving Forward

01

Support  
heritage and  
new events

02

Reduce  
barriers

03

Maximize  
tourism  
impact

04

Use funds  
responsibly

**LONGVIEW** | **W  
A**

# Two Funding Categories

—  
**Separates  
marketing  
from  
operations**

Tourism  
Promotion  
Grants

Event Services  
Support Fund

**LONGVIEW** | **W  
A**

# Guiding Principles



PROMOTE  
TOURISM



SUPPORT  
TRADITIONS



LOWER  
BARRIERS

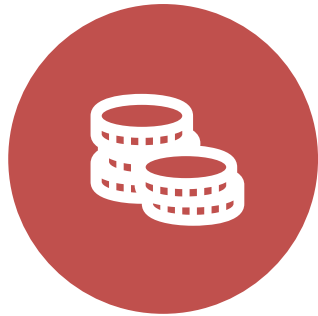


ENCOURAGE  
NEW IDEAS



USE FUNDS  
RESPONSIBLY

# Funding Process



COUNCIL SETS BUDGET



STAFF RECOMMENDS  
ALLOCATION



LTAC REVIEWS AND  
SCORES APPLICATIONS

# Matching & Flexibility

**LONGVIEW** | **W  
A**

Nonprofits fundraising may require match (25%-75%)

Community events may receive full support

Adjusts based on demand

# **Strong Partnerships**

**LONGVIEW** | **WA**

Priority for  
compliant  
returning events

Positive  
collaboration  
matters

# Event Eligibility



MUST ATTRACT VISITORS



PREFERENCE FOR REGIONAL  
AND OVERNIGHT STAYS

# Accountability



POST-EVENT REPORTING  
REQUIRED



ENSURES TRANSPARENCY  
AND IMPROVEMENT

# What This Means

More opportunities

Reduced barriers

Stronger tourism strategy

# The Big Picture

From static funding to flexible investment

Focused on growth and impact

**LONGVIEW** | **W**  
**A**

# Closing

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**Supports events, strengthens  
community, grows tourism**

**LONGVIEW | WA**



**Questions**

**LONGVIEW | W  
A**

**City of Longview**  
**Lodging Tax Funding Policy**

## **Background and Purpose**

Lodging Tax revenues collected by the City of Longview are authorized under RCW 67.28.1816 and are intended to support tourism promotion and activities designed to attract visitors to the community.

Longview has a strong tradition of community events that bring residents and visitors together. These events contribute to the vibrancy of the community, support local businesses, and help position Longview as a regional destination.

Historically, the City distributed Lodging Tax funds through a biennial grant cycle, where event organizers applied for funding every two years. These funds were typically used to offset event costs such as marketing expenses or required City services.

Over time, the City has recognized that this structure, while helpful in supporting established events, has also created challenges for both event organizers and the City's ability to respond to new tourism opportunities.

As Longview's event landscape continues to grow, the City seeks to modernize its Lodging Tax funding structure to better support both long-standing heritage events and emerging tourism opportunities.

This policy establishes a flexible Lodging Tax funding structure that supports tourism promotion while reducing barriers for event organizers hosting tourism-generating events.

## **Challenges the Updated Policy Seeks to Address**

The updated Lodging Tax funding structure is designed to address three primary challenges.

### **1) Limited Opportunities for New Events**

Under the previous biennial funding cycle, funding opportunities occurred only once every two years. This limited the City's ability to support new or emerging tourism events and made it difficult for new organizations to access Lodging Tax funding.

This policy introduces annual application opportunities, allowing the City to respond more quickly to new ideas and growing events.

### **2) High Cost of Required City Services**

Many events hosted in Longview require City services such as street closures, traffic control, police presence, or park maintenance support. These services are necessary to ensure events operate safely and successfully, but they can create significant financial barriers for event organizers.

This policy establishes a dedicated Event Services Support Fund to help offset the cost of required City services for tourism-generating events.

By helping cover these operational costs, organizers can focus more resources on delivering successful events and attracting visitors.

### 3) **Creating Space for New Tourism Investments**

Several long-standing events in Longview have successfully used Lodging Tax funds for many years to help offset event costs while returning resources back to the community through nonprofit fundraising and reinvestment.

As these events have grown and become more established, many are now well-positioned to operate successfully with reduced reliance on direct Lodging Tax marketing grants, particularly when required City services are supported.

This updated structure allows the City to continue supporting these heritage events while creating space for new tourism-focused events and marketing opportunities.

## **Guiding Principles for Lodging Tax Investment**

The City of Longview and the Lodging Tax Advisory Commission will use the following principles when evaluating Lodging Tax funding decisions:

### **1) Promote Tourism**

Invest in events and activities that attract visitors to Longview and encourage overnight stays.

### **2) Support Community Traditions**

Recognize and support long-standing events that contribute to Longview's identity and community culture.

### **3) Lower Barriers for Event Organizers**

Help offset operational costs that make it difficult for organizations to host events.

### **4) Encourage New Tourism Opportunities**

Create space for new events and innovative ideas that may bring visitors to Longview.

### **5) Use Public Funds Responsibly**

Ensure Lodging Tax revenues are used in alignment with state law and deliver measurable community benefit.

## Funding Cycle

The Lodging Tax Advisory Commission (LTAC) will recommend funding allocations within the City's biennial budget framework.

Applications for Lodging Tax funding will be solicited annually each fall for the following calendar year.

If funds remain available after the fall application process, the City may open a secondary application period in May to support new or emerging events.

## Lodging Tax Funding Categories

Each year's Lodging Tax funding will be divided into two categories.

### 1) **Tourism Promotion Grants**

Tourism Promotion Grants support marketing and promotion of events or activities designed to attract visitors to Longview.

Examples of eligible expenses include:

- Digital advertising
- Social media campaigns
- Print advertising
- Event promotional materials
- Regional marketing campaigns
- Event signage and banners

Applicants must demonstrate how their marketing efforts will attract visitors from outside the Longview area.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by the Lodging Tax Advisory Commission, which will make funding recommendations to the City Council.

Evaluation criteria may include:

- Tourism impact
- Marketing strategy
- Organizational capacity
- Event history and performance
- Compliance with prior City event requirements

### 2) **Event Services Support Fund**

A portion of Lodging Tax revenues will be reserved to help offset City service costs required to host tourism-generating events.

These funds will be administered by the City and applied directly toward City service costs rather than reimbursed to event organizers.

Eligible City services may include:

- Police staffing or traffic control
- Street closures and traffic management
- Parks maintenance support
- Public facility preparation or cleanup
- Other City services required for event operations

Applicants must identify anticipated City service needs as part of their application.

## Heritage Community Events

The Lodging Tax Advisory Commission may designate certain events as Heritage Community Events. Heritage events are long-standing events that demonstrate strong community participation and regional tourism value. These events may receive priority consideration for Event Services Support funding. The designation of Heritage Community Events will be reviewed annually by the LTAC to allow flexibility to recognize emerging events or adjust support as event needs and performance evolve.

## Funding

### Lodging Tax Funding Allocation

As part of the City's biennial budget process, the City Council will designate the total amount of Lodging Tax revenue available to support tourism promotion and tourism-related events.

Following Council's designation of available Lodging Tax funding, City staff will provide a recommendation regarding the allocation of funds between the City's two Lodging Tax funding categories:

- Tourism Promotion Grants
- Event Services Support Fund

Staff recommendations will consider factors such as:

- Historical City service costs associated with events
- The number and scale of events anticipated during the upcoming year
- Tourism promotion needs
- Past Lodging Tax funding utilization

The City's priority is to ensure that adequate funds are available to offset City service costs required to host tourism-generating events.

After reserving funds for anticipated City service needs, the remaining Lodging Tax funds will be made available through the Tourism Promotion Grant application process administered by the Lodging Tax Advisory Commission.

This structure allows the City to responsibly plan for required municipal services while continuing to invest in tourism promotion and event growth.

### **Matching Requirements**

Events that operate primarily as nonprofit fundraising events may be required to provide a 25%–50% match for Event Services Support funding.

Community events that are not fundraising events may qualify for a higher level of support, including up to 100% coverage of eligible City service costs, depending on the event's community and tourism value.

The required match level may vary based on:

- The number of funding requests received
- Available Lodging Tax funds in a given year
- The scale and tourism impact of the event

In years where demand for funding is high, events may receive a lower percentage of City service cost coverage to ensure support can be distributed across multiple events.

In years where funding demand is lower, the City may provide higher levels of support, including covering up to 100% of eligible City service costs.

If Lodging Tax funds remain available later in the year, event organizers may request an adjustment to previously awarded Event Services Support funding, subject to available funds and City approval.

### **Event Size and Funding Consideration**

Funding levels may vary based on factors such as:

- Estimated attendance
- Tourism impact
- Event scale
- Available Lodging Tax revenues

Maximum funding thresholds may be established to ensure that Lodging Tax funds support a diverse range of events.

### **Priority for Returning Events**

Returning events may receive priority consideration when they:

- Complied with all City permitting and event requirements
- Conducted operations professionally with City staff

- Left parks or facilities in equal or better condition
- Generated no significant community complaints
- Demonstrated positive tourism impact

### **Eligible Events**

Events must demonstrate the potential to attract visitors to Longview. Local events are eligible; however, preference may be given to events that demonstrate regional (50+ miles away) or overnight visitation potential.

### **Application Requirements**

Applications must include:

- Event description and schedule
- Estimated attendance
- Estimated out-of-area visitors
- Marketing strategy
- Requested Tourism Promotion Grant funding
- Anticipated City service needs

### **Reporting Requirements**

Funded events must submit a post-event report including:

- Attendance estimates
- Visitor origin information (when available)
- Marketing activities completed
- Lodging or tourism impact (if available)

Failure to submit required reporting may impact eligibility for future funding.

### **Administration**

The Lodging Tax Advisory Commission will review and score Tourism Promotion Grant applications and make recommendations to the City Council.

The City will administer the Event Services Support Fund and apply funds toward eligible City service costs.

The City values its partnership with event organizers and is committed to supporting events that strengthen community pride while welcoming visitors to Longview.



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### **CITY OF LONGVIEW BRAND UPLIFT**

**DATE: MAY 21, 2026**

#### **COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:**

Empowered & Connected Community  
Growth & Economic Opportunity  
Community First Service  
Responsible & Honest Governance

**CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A**

#### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The City of Longview has undertaken a strategic brand uplift initiative intended to strengthen organizational consistency, improve public recognition, and present a more unified and professional identity across City departments and communication channels. This effort is not a full rebrand. Instead, the approach intentionally builds upon and modernizes existing City brand elements, including colors, typography, logos, and visual identity standards, in a way that is fiscally responsible and reflective of the City's established identity.

The purpose of the initiative is to support a more cohesive "branded house" approach, where departments and divisions are visually connected under a unified City identity while still maintaining operational distinctions where appropriate. A stronger and more consistent brand presence helps reinforce public trust, improve communication clarity, strengthen community recognition, and better position the City in recruitment, economic development, tourism, and community engagement efforts.

Implementation of the updated brand standards will occur in phases and with a focus on minimizing costs. Initial rollout efforts will prioritize no-cost or low-cost updates such as email signatures, digital templates, presentation materials, and electronic communication assets. Physical materials and branded items, including business cards, apparel, signage, and printed materials, will transition over time as existing inventory is depleted or replacement becomes necessary through normal operational cycles.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Council Concurrence

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Jennifer Wills, City Manager

#### Attachments:

1. Presentation-Brand

# City of Longview Brand Uplift

**LONGVIEW** | **W  
A**

# Longview's Logos



# More than a logo

- Builds credibility – puts money in our “trust bank”
- Establishes professionalism
- Creates efficiency and consistency
- Improves public perception and visual identity
- Creates ownership and engagement from staff

**Our goal is to present Longview as a united front.**

# Full Rebrand Vs. Uplift

- Rebrands are costly in both dollars and time
- Typically deviate or make large changes



facebook.



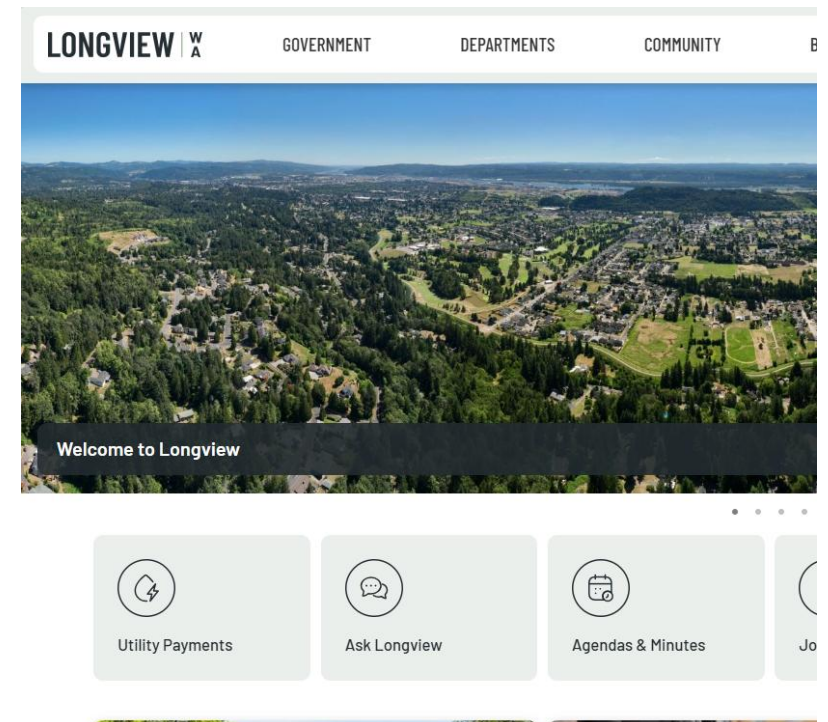
# Building From What Already Works

- A full rebrand would require significant financial investment
- The City already has recognizable and successful brand elements
- Existing community recognition has value
- This approach modernizes and unifies rather than replaces
- Preserves familiarity while improving professionalism and consistency

# The Foundation: Word Marks

- Existing horizontal LONGVIEW | WA mark has been used on the City website for years
- Industrial, clean, professional aesthetic
- Reflects Longview's working roots and economic foundation
- Modern typography creates consistency across platforms

**LONGVIEW | WA**



# Word Marks Versatility

- “LONGVIEW” over “WASHINGTON” creates geographic clarity
- Important distinction from Longview, Texas
- Vertical hierarchy creates flexibility for departments
- Allows standardized structure:
- LONGVIEW, WA, line, department name

**LONGVIEW**  

---

**WASHINGTON**

**LONGVIEW** <sup>W</sup><sub>A</sub>  

---

**PUBLIC WORKS**

# The Foundation: Image Mark

- Inspired by the existing Parks & Recreation logo already loved by staff and community
- Refined for a more professional and timeless appearance
- Sharper lines and updated orientation improve scalability and readability
- Addition of the second tree creates stronger balance and visual storytelling



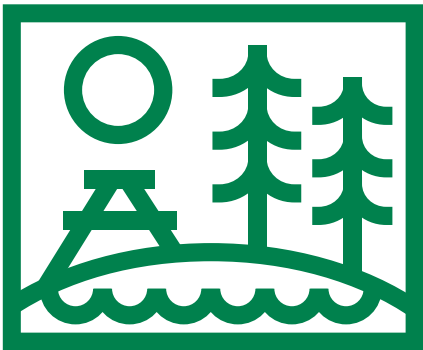
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# The City of Longview

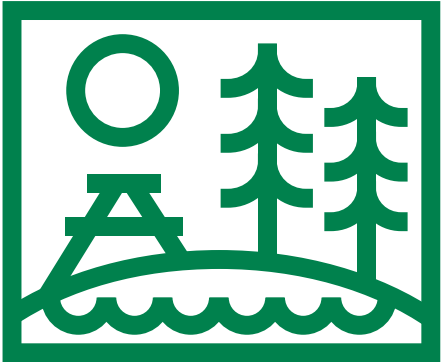
- Industrial Foundation meets a great place to Live, Work, and Play
- Rooted in industry, surrounded by beauty



**LONGVIEW**  

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**WASHINGTON**



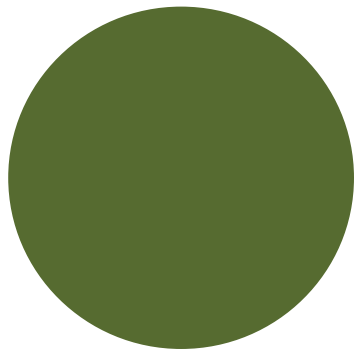
**LONGVIEW**  

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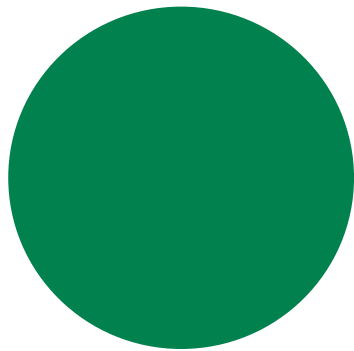
**WASHINGTON**

# Color Palette

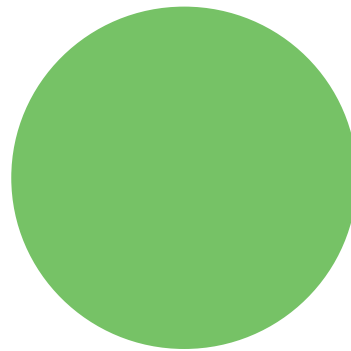
- Palette inspired by the Pacific Northwest landscape
- Blues and greens reflect: rivers, trees, environment
- Strong contrast for digital and physical applications
- Works effectively on uniforms, high-visibility apparel, signage, and print materials



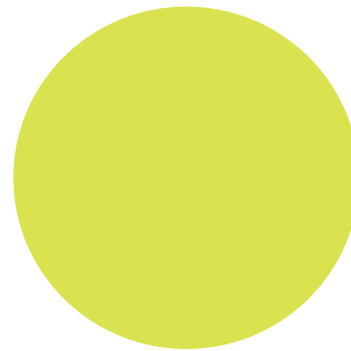
**Cowlitz Moss**



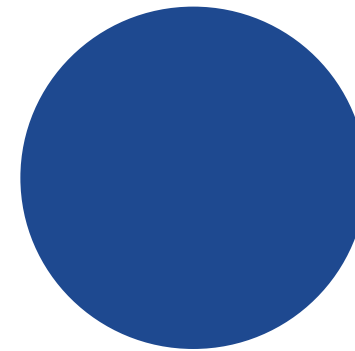
**River Meadow**



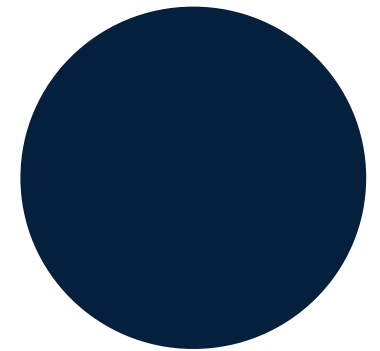
**Cascade Green**



**Cottonwood**



**Channel Blue**



**Deep Water**

**Citizen  
Summits**

Prepared

**Executive**

In March 2025, the City of Longview hosted two community-wide Citizen Summits under the theme "Focus on What's Strong, Not What's Wrong." Held on March 19 and March 22, these summits invited residents to participate in guided discussions, share ideas, and collaborate on shaping the City's future. Each session brought together a diverse range of voices, young professionals, retirees, parents, students, business owners, nonprofit leaders, and civic volunteers all demonstrating a deep collective commitment to Longview's growth, pride, and well-being.

More than just listening sessions, these summits created space for structured action-mapping, community storytelling, and a hopeful vision of what's possible when government and residents work together. The input received was extensive, heartfelt, and deeply constructive.

This report synthesizes the full breadth of participant responses of both verbal and written from discussion notes, wall posters, action worksheets, and informal conversations. What follows is not simply a record of feedback; it is a community compass that will help guide City Council towards its strategic vision with the values, hopes, and energy of the people who call Longview home.



# City of Longview Citizen Summits Strategic Summary Report

Prepared June 2025

## Executive Summary

In March 2025, the City of Longview hosted two community-wide Citizen Summits under the theme "Focus on What's Strong, Not What's Wrong." Held on March 19 and March 22, these summits invited residents to participate in guided discussions, share ideas, and collaborate on shaping the City's future. Each session brought together a diverse range of voices, young professionals, retirees, parents, students, business owners, nonprofit leaders, and civic volunteers all demonstrating a deep collective commitment to Longview's growth, pride, and well-being.

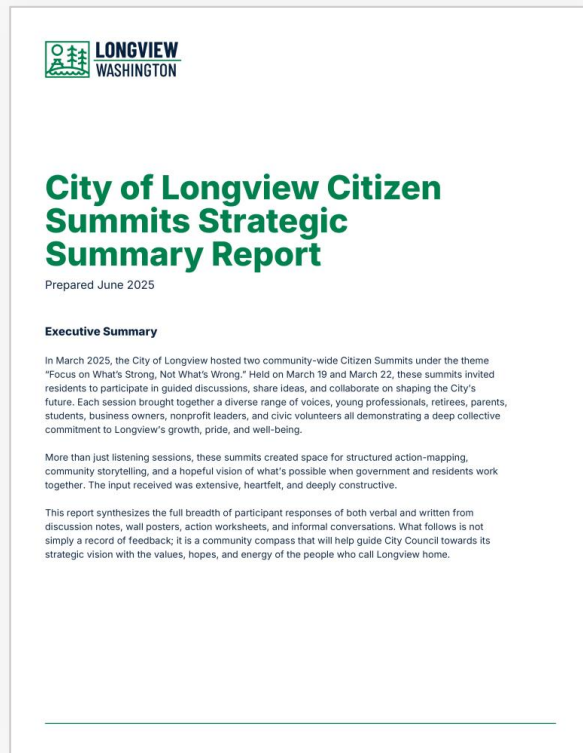
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# Rollout Strategy

- No immediate replacement effort
- Phased implementation minimizes cost
- First phase focuses on no-cost or limited-cost items:



**Angela Abel** (she/her)  
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[mylongview.com](http://mylongview.com) | Follow us on social

# Rollout Strategy

- Second Phase:
  - Replace physical materials only during normal reorder cycles:
    - Business cards
    - Apparel
    - Fleet Decals
    - Signage
    - Printed Materials



# What Success Looks Like

- Residents recognize City communications immediately
- Departments visually connected under one organization
- More professional and modern presentation
- Stronger recruitment and community recognition
- Easier template and material creation across departments
- Long-term consistency across digital and physical spaces
- Builds community pride

**Thank you.**

**LONGVIEW | W  
A**



# City of Longview

## Agenda Summary

### **PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: MAY 21, 2026**

#### **COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:**

Growth & Economic Opportunity

**CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A**

#### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The City Council is being asked to consider the formation of a three-member Economic Development Committee to begin focused discussions on strategies that support thoughtful growth, economic opportunity, and long-term community vitality within the City of Longview.

The intent of the committee would be to provide a collaborative forum for identifying opportunities, challenges, and policy considerations related to economic development and future investment within the community. The committee would serve in an advisory capacity and work alongside City staff and community partners to help shape a proactive and coordinated approach to economic development.

Potential areas of focus for the committee may include:

- Identifying barriers and opportunities related to economic growth and investment;
- Exploring ways to improve the City's readiness and responsiveness for future development opportunities;
- Discussing infrastructure, permitting, land use, utility capacity, and policy considerations that may impact business attraction and expansion;
- Engaging regional and local partners, including organizations such as the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, business leaders, educational institutions, utilities, ports, and other stakeholders;
- Reviewing best practices and strategies used by comparable communities;
- Evaluating how the City can better position itself to attract and retain businesses, industry, housing, and family-wage jobs;
- Exploring opportunities to strengthen regional competitiveness and support redevelopment, industrial recruitment, and strategic investment;
- Discussing potential legislative priorities and policy positions that support economic development efforts at the local, state, and federal levels;
- Developing recommendations for a formal Economic Development Policy or framework for future Council consideration; and
- Helping establish priorities that align with Council goals, infrastructure planning, legislative advocacy efforts, and the City's long-term vision.

The proposed committee would also provide an opportunity for early strategic conversations regarding emerging economic trends, economic resiliency, workforce development, infrastructure readiness, and partnership opportunities that may benefit the community over time.

Staff is seeking Council direction regarding the formation of the committee, committee membership, and any additional priorities or areas of focus Council would like incorporated into the committee's work moving forward.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Motion to move forward with the economic development committee and determine which three council members

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Jennifer Wills, City Manager

Attachments: None