



City of Longview

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

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*

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.30, that the City Council of the City of Longview, Washington, will conduct a special meeting - Workshop in the Longview City Hall Training Room, 1525 Broadway, Longview, on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. The topics of discussion follow. Final disposition shall be taken on no other matter.

The City Hall is accessible for persons with disabilities. Special equipment to assist the hearing impaired is also available. Please contact the City Executive Office at 360.442.5004 at least 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend the meeting.

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."

Virtual attendees may comment verbally during public hearings only and is only permitted for registered attendees. To participate, please contact the Clerk's Office in advance. Use the "raise hand" feature during the hearing, and the Clerk will unmute participants in the order received. If calling in by phone, dial star - 9 to raise your hand.

<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**

Mayor Halvorson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Staff Present: City Manager Jennifer Wills, Senior Assistant City Attorney James Goodman, Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins, Police Chief Robert Huhta, Public Information Officer Angela Abel, Finance Director Aaron Hill, City Clerk Tiffany Ostreim

4. **WORKSHOP**

26-00311 FIRE/EMS LEVIES

The city of Longview is pursuing a sustainable funding model by seeking a voter-approved Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy under RCW 84.52.069, as well as a voter-approved levy lid lift under RCW 84.55.050. If referred to the ballot by the Longview City Council, the first ballot measure would propose an EMS property tax levy up to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to provide dedicated funds for increased equipment and staffing at the Longview Fire Department. A second ballot measure would propose a levy lid lift to exceed the 101% levy lid limit for the debt service associated with a bond to build a new fire station, general fund impacts related to increasing fire department staffing, as well as maintaining broader public services.

Ian Stewart (on-line), with Fulcrum Strategy Group, presented the public opinion polling results. Council discussed the results.

Introductions were made. Noel Frame, Managing Partner, Uncommon Bridges; Erin Schultz, Co-Founder, Rise Consulting, and Lily Wilson-Codega, Strategy Advisor, Rise Consulting were present.

Fire Chief Brad Hannig presented the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Needs and Related Funding. Council discussed the presentation.

Senior Assistant City Attorney James Goodman presented drafts of the EMS Levy Ballot Title and the Property Tax Lid Lift Ballot Title. Council suggested possible changes to the EMS Levy Ballot Title. Council also discussed combining the two propositions into one Property Tax Lid Lift and the amount.

Fire Chief Brad Hannig illustrated the improved coverage and response reliability.

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

*The council was in consensus about moving forward.
Next steps: City staff and Uncommon Bridges will regroup and look at a possible scope change. A special council meeting will be scheduled for late June or early July. August is the deadline to get the Ballot Title(s) to the Cowlitz County Elections Department.*

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

***Tiffany Ostreim
City Clerk***

***Approved: _____
Mayor***

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.