



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, June 11, 2026

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

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.”

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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**
26-00450 COLE PRUITT, VALLEY VIEW CHURCH
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **CHANGES/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**
5. **AWARDS**
6. **CONSTITUENTS' COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Thirty Minutes)**
7. **PRESENTATIONS**
26-00494 CITY OF LONGVIEW BRAND UPLIFT
26-00505 LONGVIEW 101 COHORT GRADUATION

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

10. BOARD & COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

11. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

26-00503 RESOLUTION NO. 2624 - PROPERTY TAX LEVY LID LIFT FOR FIRE AND EMS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2624

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

26-00449 APPROVAL OF MAY 28, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

26-00365 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

26-00504 BID REVIEW – COLUMBIA THEATER PARKING LOT PAVING

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND AWARD TO TMC CONTRACTORS LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$340,231.65

13. MAYOR'S REPORT

14. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

15. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

26-00492 HOPE VILLAGE REPORT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
REVIEW THE INFORMATION AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF IF DESIRED

26-00493 LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION TO APPROVE CITY OF LONGVIEW LODGING TAX FUNDING POLICY

26-00495 PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND DETERMINE WHICH THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS

26-00502 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX UPDATE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
COUNCIL CONCURRENCE WITH PROPOSED PLAN

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 25, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY JULY 14, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

NEXT SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING/WORKSHOP:

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. - 2027-2028 BASELINE BUDGET



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.



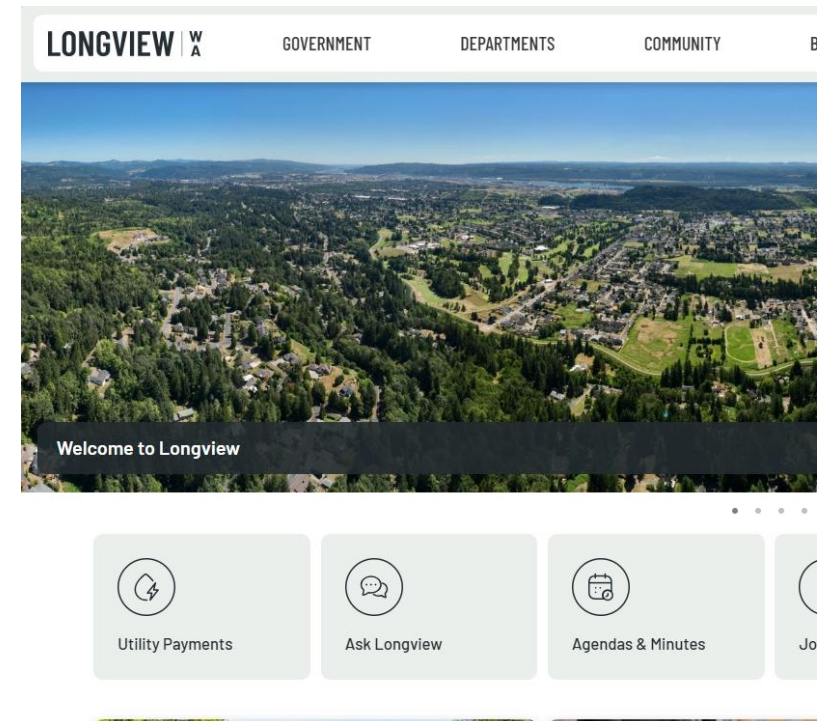
Building From What Already Works

- 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 ^W_A

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



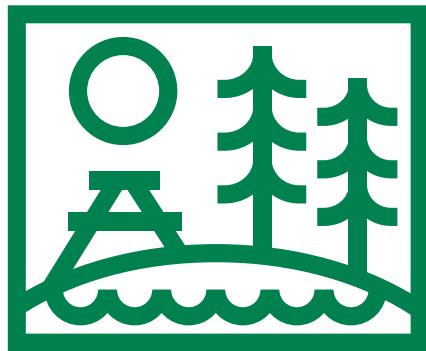
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The City of Longview

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



LONGVIEW

WASHINGTON

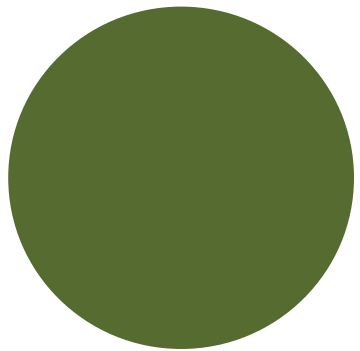


LONGVIEW

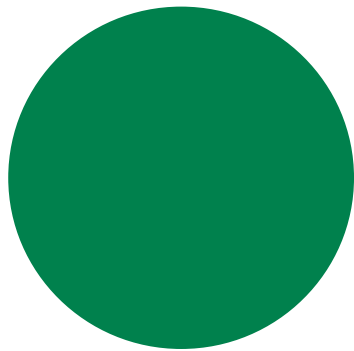
WASHINGTON

Color Palette

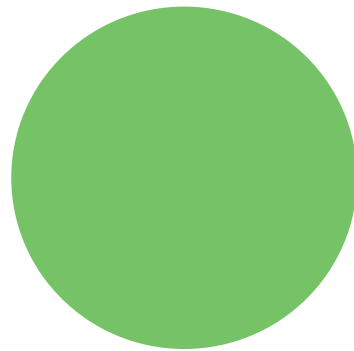
- Palette inspired by the Pacific Northwest landscape
- Blues and greens reflect: rivers, trees, environment
- Strong contrast for digital and physical applications
- Works effectively on uniforms, high-visibility apparel, signage, and print materials



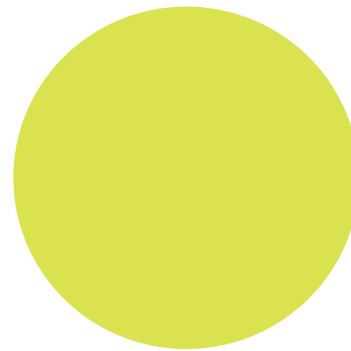
Cowlitz Moss



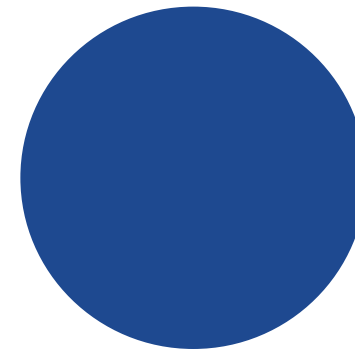
River Meadow



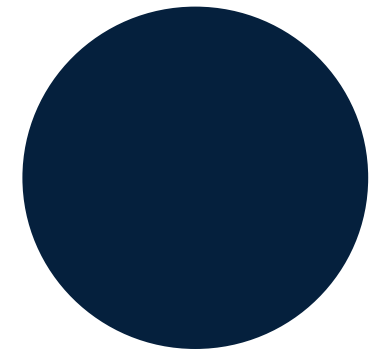
Cascade Green



Cottonwood



Channel Blue



Deep Water

**Citizen
Summits
Summary**

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

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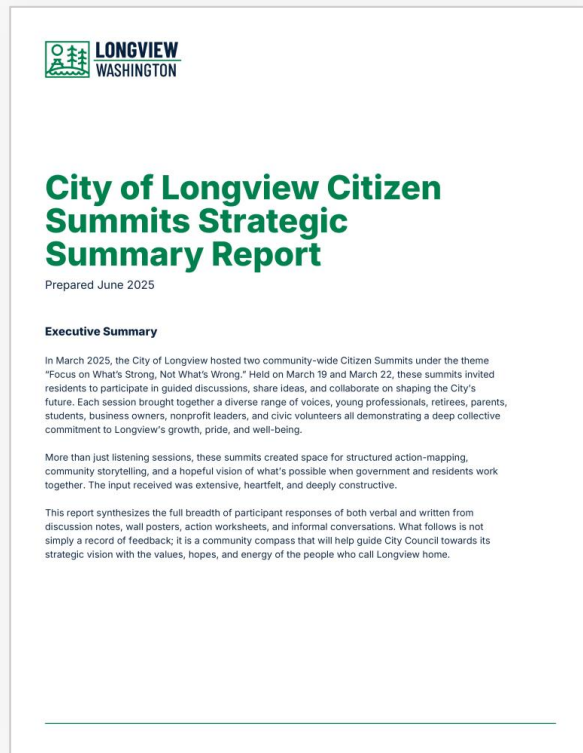
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Rollout Strategy

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



Angela Abel (she/her)
Public Information Officer
o 360.442.5017 | c 360.957.8059
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

RESOLUTION NO 2624. - PROPERTY TAX LEVY LID LIFT FOR FIRE & EMS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2624 SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY LID LIFT UNDER RCW 84.55.050 TO FUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE AND FIRE SERVICES.

DATE: June 11, 2026

COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Support safe, healthy, and livable neighborhoods

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: REQUIRED

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Longview Fire Department provides essential fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical response services. Call volumes have doubled over the past twenty years, and current station locations create response time gaps, particularly in Columbia Heights and the Highlands. The City has identified the need for an additional fire station to improve coverage and meet future demand, but statutory limits on annual property tax growth restrict the City's ability to maintain or expand service levels.

Resolution No. 2624 proposes a regular property tax levy lid lift under RCW 84.55.050. The ballot title would ask voters to authorize an increase of \$1.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation beginning in 2027, with the voter-approved levy becoming the new base for levy-limit calculations. Funds generated from this levy shall be used for constructing an additional fire station facility, hiring additional medics and firefighters, equipment, related capital costs, associated debt service, and to support the City Fire Department and the administrative and operational services provided by the City necessary to deliver Fire and Emergency Medical Services..

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

City Legal recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2624 submitting the property tax levy lid lift proposition to the voters.

STAFF CONTACT:

James Goodman, Sr. Assistant City Attorney

Attachments:

Resolution No. 2624 – Property Tax Levy Lid Lift
Longview Fire Flier

**CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2624**

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Longview, Washington, submitting to the voters a proposition to authorize a property tax levy lid lift pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 to fund emergency medical response and fire services.

WHEREAS, The City of Longview Fire Department provides essential fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical response services to the community; and

WHEREAS, the City's fire and emergency medical response call volume has doubled over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the City conducted a fire services study which found that Longview operated with one fire station per 9.5 square miles, compared to an average of 5.8 square miles per station among cities of similar assessed valuation, population, and geographic area

WHEREAS, the City's existing fire station locations leave gaps in response time coverage, particularly for Columbia Heights and the Highlands neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified the need for an additional fire station facility to improve fire and emergency medical response times, and address future service demands; and

WHEREAS, the City Fire Department operates as part of a broader system of services supported by administrative and operational functions provided by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City faces ongoing financial constraints due to statutory limitations on annual property tax growth, creating increasing pressure on the ability to maintain service levels; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 authorizes the City to seek voter approval for a property tax levy lid lift to fund such improvements and service needs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to provide a stable and sustainable funding approach to support fire protection facilities and the continued delivery of emergency medical response and fire services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW:

Section 1. Ballot Proposition

The Cowlitz County Auditor is requested to submit to the voters of the City of Longview, at the next available election date, the following proposition:

BALLOT TITLE

The City Council of the City of Longview adopted Resolution No. 2624 concerning funding response time improvements for fire and emergency medical services.

This proposition would support emergency, fire, and medical response services, including funding for hiring medics and firefighters, replacing aging equipment, building an additional fire station facility, purchasing a fire engine, and funding operational functions necessary for emergency services and improving response times. The proposition would increase the regular property tax rate by \$1.15 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation beginning in 2027, and the voter-approved 2027 levy would become the base for future levy-limit calculations under RCW 84.55.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Section 2. Use of Funds

Funds generated from this levy shall be used for constructing an additional fire station facility, hiring additional medics and firefighters, equipment, related capital costs, associated debt service, and to support the City Fire Department and the administrative and operational services provided by the City necessary to deliver Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Section 3. Levy Calculation

The dollar amount of the levy in 2027 shall be used as the basis for computing subsequent levy limitations as provided by RCW 84.55.

Section 4. Certification

The City Clerk is directed to certify this resolution to the Cowlitz County Auditor in accordance with all applicable legal deadlines.

Section 5. Effective Date

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.



HERE FOR LONGVIEW. READY WHEN YOU NEED US.

Strong today. Prepared for tomorrow.

Longview Fire Department provides all-hazard emergency response services, protects lives and property, and helps build a safer, more prepared community.

BY THE NUMBERS



6,000+ INCIDENTS

Nearly 6,000 emergency calls responded to each year.



20+ YEARS

Staffing levels have remained largely unchanged for more than two decades.



80%+ EMS CALLS

Emergency medical calls now make up the majority of our workload.



SECONDS MATTER

Response reliability matters. In an emergency, every second counts.

WHAT WE DO



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Over 80% of our calls are EMS-related.



FIRE SUPPRESSION

Protecting lives, homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure.



RESCUE & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Technical rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and disaster response.



PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Helping reduce risk and build a safer, more prepared community.

Meeting Longview's Growing Emergency Service Needs.

Longview's emergency service needs have changed significantly over the last two decades. Emergency medical calls now make up more than 80% of Fire Department responses, while call volumes, service demands, equipment needs, and facility needs continue to grow.

The proposed levy lid lift would support the firefighters, medics, facilities, equipment, and training needed to provide reliable emergency response today and into the future.

INVESTMENTS INCLUDED



Additional firefighter and medic staffing



A fourth response unit to improve emergency coverage



Improved emergency response capacity and reliability



Construction of Station #83



Replacement of aging apparatus and equipment



Fire and EMS prevention programs



Long-term equipment replacement planning

WHY THESE INVESTMENTS MATTER



Improved response times and reliability



Better emergency coverage for current and future community needs



Enhanced firefighter and public safety



Improved preparedness for major emergencies and disasters



Stronger long-term community resilience



COST TO HOMEOWNERS

The proposed levy lid lift would cost approximately

\$32 per month for the owner of a median-priced home in Longview.



PROTECTING LONGVIEW TODAY.
PLANNING FOR A SAFER TOMORROW.

LEARN MORE. CONTACT US.



pio@mylongview.com



facebook.com/LongviewFireDep

Visit us on Facebook for more information, updates, and important announcements.



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

APPROVAL OF MAY 28, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Attachments:

1. May 28, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes



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 28, 2026

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

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Webinar ID: 823 9413 2374

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

A moment of silence was observed for the victims, the families of victims, and first responders who responded to the Nippon Dynawave disaster.

2. **INVOCATION*/FLAG SALUTE**

26-00447 BOB GILES, FAITH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

After the invocation provided by Bob Giles of Faith Family Fellowship, the flag salute was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Halvorson, Mayor Pro Tem Young, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Nichols

Staff Present: City Manager Jennifer Wills, Interim City Attorney Charlotte Archer, Community & Economic Development Director Nick Little, Parks & Recreation Director Justin Brown, Police Chief Robert Huhta, Human Resources Director Sabrina Fraidenburg, Public Information Officer Angela Abel,

Information Technology Director Mike Sullivan, Finance Director Aaron Hill, Community Development Grant Administer Kenny Robinson, City Clerk Tiffany Ostreim

4. **CHANGES/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mayor Halvorson, seconded by Councilmember LaFave, to strike the following City Manager Reports - Hope Village Report, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Fund Distribution Policy, City of Longview Brand Uplift, Proposed Economic Development Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **AWARDS**

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

*Dawn Johnson-Deal provided public comment.
Jeremiah Casey provided public comment.
A citizen, name unstated, provided public comment.*

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

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.

Mayor Halvorson opened the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

*Community Development Grant Administrator Kenny Robinson presented.
Council discussed the presentation.*

*Mayor Halvorson opened the public comment portion of the hearing at 6:19 p.m.
Jason Still provided public comment.
Darryl VanDinter provided public comment.
Mayor Halvorson closed the public comment portion of the hearing at 6:23 p.m.*

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

10. **BOARD & COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

11. **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

12. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A motion was made by Councilmember Young, seconded by Councilmember LaFave, to adopt the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

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**

Mayor Halvorson offered his prayers.

14. **COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS**

Councilmember Nichols provided a verbal report.

Councilmember LaFave provided a verbal report.

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

A motion was made by Mayor Halvorson, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to appoint Stephen Taylor to the PDA to a term that will begin immediately and end December 31, 2029. The motion carried unanimously.

15. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Jennifer Wills provided a verbal report.

26-00437 PULLED FROM AGENDA - HOPE VILLAGE REPORT

26-00467 PULLED FROM AGENDA - LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

26-00468 PULLED FROM AGENDA - CITY OF LONGVIEW BRAND UPLIFT

26-00469 PULLED FROM AGENDA - PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

16. MISCELLANEOUS

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

*Tiffany Ostreim
City Clerk*

Approved: _____
Mayor

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

APPROVAL OF 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:

SECOND HALF MAY 2026 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: \$4,995,413.43

SECOND HALF MAY 2026 PAYROLL:

\$488,705.53, checks
\$1,149,140.89, direct deposits
\$987,403.48, wire transfers
\$ 2,625,249.90 Total

STAFF CONTACT:

Lindy Kennedy, Accountant
Sara Rios, Payroll Specialist

Attachments: None



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

BID REVIEW – COLUMBIA THEATER PARKING LOT PAVING

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND AWARD TO TMC CONTRACTORS LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$340,231.65

COUNCIL 2026 GOALS AND PRIORITIES ADDRESSED:

Investing in Infrastructure

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The project provides for the grinding and installation of new HMA pavement, across two lots, including striping new signage, curb stops tree wells, ADA ramp, a new lighting fixture, and a secondary driveway approach. And any other incidentals necessary to complete the specified work in accordance with the contract plans, contract provisions and standard specifications.

On Wednesday, May 27, 2026, four bids were received as follows:

\$340,231.65 – TMC Contractors LLC, Ridgefield, WA

\$356,956.87 – JH Kelly LLC, Longview, WA

\$359,375.48 – Advanced Excavating Specialists, Kelso, WA

Non Responsive – Great Werks, Battle Ground, WA

\$290,000.00 - Engineer's Estimate

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

This project is funded through an interlocal agreement with Cowlitz County Public Facilities District and Columbia Theater Association for the Performing Arts.

STAFF CONTACT:

Timothy Schulz, Engineer

Attachments: None



City of Longview

Agenda Summary

HOPE VILLAGE REPORT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

REVIEW THE INFORMATION AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF IF DESIRED

DATE: June 11, 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. Memo on Permitted Uses of Shelter Structures
2. 6 Month COL Since Hope Village Closure
3. 6 Month Community Meeting Recap 5.7.26
4. BHU Hope Village Transition to Closure Data
5. 2561 Task Force Community Meeting Recap 1.6.26

CITY OF LONGVIEW

To: City of Longview City Council
City Manager Jennifer Wills

From: Charlotte Archer, Interim City Attorney

Date: May 27, 2026

Re: **Legal Framework for Use of Structures/Sleeping Cabins**

The City of Longview owns fifty structures that are sixty-four square feet in area, which were previously utilized for Hope Village, an emergency temporary housing facility located on City-owned property and operated by the Salvation Army, pursuant to an agreement with the City.

Question: What legal uses are permitted for these structures based on the currently applicable laws?

Answer and Analysis: The legal uses for these structures are guided by state and local laws.

The following is an analysis of potential uses under the existing legal framework for the City of Longview, with reference to other agencies who have modified regulations to address a particular use (where permitted).

- **CAN THE STRUCTURES BE USED AS DWELLING UNITS (FOR OVERNIGHT SLEEPING)?**

*No. Under the existing Washington State Building Code (including the International Building Code (IBC), International Residential Code (IRC), and International Electrical and Plumbing Codes), these structures do not qualify as legal dwelling units.*¹ A “dwelling unit” must provide permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating/cooking, and sanitation. There are also requirements for life and fire safety, ingress/egress, and other structural design issues that disqualify these structures from use as a dwelling unit.

Although recent changes in law require local governments to expand where STEP housing (Shelter, Transitional Housing, Emergency Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing) can be located and to limit agencies’ ability to restrict them, these laws focus on zoning and operational issues that can be barriers to the siting of these housing types in some jurisdictions. For example, House Bill 2266, adopted in 2026, limits local governments from adopting regulations designed to prohibit certain types of housing but only to the extent that type of housing is permissible under

¹ The use of these structures by the City of Longview for the Hope Village program were permitted for the duration of a declared public emergency and as a temporary encampment hosted by a religious organization on property owned or controlled by the religious organization, per RCW 35A.21.360 and RCW 35.21.915, on a limited duration, subject to operational requirements consistent with state and local laws. The continued operation also required the operator to partner with regional homeless service providers to establish pathways to permanent housing, underscoring that the facility was intended only as a temporary intervention.

the existing Washington state building codes. Stated differently, shelters must be allowed where hotels are allowed and permitted on the same terms.

However, under the Washington Building Code, and even with relaxed zoning rules, structures used for human habitation—including shelters—must meet all applicable building and life safety regulations. The legislature has not altered these requirements, which remain a barrier to the use of the structures for sleeping/habitation.

The Washington State Building Code Council, a regulatory body that approves local amendments to the State Building Code within legal parameters, was tasked by the legislature with developing and adopting standards for temporary emergency shelters by July 1, 2026. This process is underway, but the current draft modifications to the building code would only allow the use of a “emergency sleeping cabin” for temporary sleeping during a “declared state of emergency, local declared emergency, or shelter crisis.”² Additionally, if the amendments are approved, an emergency sleeping cabin would only be permitted for sleeping where the minimum floor area is 70 square feet per person, and the structures would be required to meet additional life safety requirements, including but not limited to a mandatory 24-hour fire watch.³

Conclusion: These structures do not qualify as dwelling units and pending modifications to the State Building Code are not likely to alter that conclusion.

- **DO THE STRUCTURES QUALIFY AS TINY HOMES?**

No. The structures do not meet the building code requirements for a legal tiny home, which are permitted for use as a dwelling unit under the state building code. Tiny homes that are used as dwelling units must be built to International Residential Code Appendix Q or ANSI RV standards (for mobile tiny homes), depending on type. The structures do not qualify as a tiny home under the applicable regulations due to dimensional, fire, and life safety aspects of the structures.

Conclusion: These structures do not qualify as tiny homes.

- **CAN THESE STRUCTURES BE USED FOR OTHER DAYTIME USES?**

Possibly. The permitted uses of a structure are dictated by the State Building Code and local land use regulations. Here is a summary of the rules associated with occupancy uses for this size of structure:

² State Building Code Council, Temporary Emergency Shelters Working Documents, Temporary Emergency Shelters Draft (dated 3/19/2026) (available at: <https://sbcc.wa.gov/2024-international-building-code-temporary-emergency-shelters>).

³ A “fire watch” is a person assigned to constantly patrol an area to ensure there are no hazards or fire, while the fire system is down. Typically, there must be an assigned person present 24 hours per day while the structures are occupied.

Uses	State Building Code Requirements	Do the structures qualify for this use?
Storage	Occupancy must be incidental to the use, and a person may temporarily enter for the purpose of accessing stored items but the structure may not be used for assembly.	Likely yes.
Business or Assembly (e.g., workshop, home office, art studio, etc.).	Occupancy for these uses must be accessory to a primary structure, with a minimum of 100 square feet for one person, subject to building, fire and life safety requirements	No.
Sleeping/dwelling	See analysis above.	No.

Conclusion: *The use of these structures for occupancies that include assembly are limited due to their size and other attributes.*

- **CAN THESE STRUCTURES BE USED BY ANOTHER ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, WITHIN THE CITY OF LONGVIEW ON PROPERTY OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE OTHER ORGANIZATION?**

Possibly, subject to RCW 35.21.915. The answer to this question involves issues of zoning, building code compliance occupancy, transfer of public assets, and liability.

RCW 35.21.915 permits religious organizations to host an encampment on their own property (or property under their control) within an existing building. Alternatively, the encampment may occur outdoors, subject to specific requirements, including but not limited to the following:

- Must allow outdoor encampments, temporary small houses, or safe vehicle parking;
- Must be allowed to operate for a minimum of four consecutive months;
- Must provide restrooms within a building on the property or through adequate portable facilities;
- May require 24-hour fire watch if indoor overnight shelter presents fire-related concerns;
- May require an agreement between the sponsoring organization and the city to address impacts on residents, including a required code of conduct, a required sex offender check of all adult residents and guests, and identified access to services.

RCW 35.21.915 defines an "outdoor encampment" to include "any temporary tent or structure encampment," which implies that the structures could possibly be used as a component of a permitted encampment. The use of the structures as a component of a permitted encampment would also be subject to zoning analysis, as the legislation was adopted based on an understanding that the encampments would likely occur as an accessory to a church. Churches are typically permitted for location within residential zones.

For use by non-religious organizations, the structures would not likely qualify for use in a "hosted encampment" as authorized in LMC 7.29.060, which references the sole use of "tents" for sleeping

accommodations. Additional amendments to the municipal code would be required to authorize the use of the structures for a temporary, emergency shelter. The City of Tacoma, at TMC 13.06.080, has adopted requirements for “emergency” and “temporary” shelter facilities, and they are a permitted use largely in industrial zones within the city. Absent similar code language in Longview, encampments using the structures for habitation would not be permitted.

This memorandum is intended to cover the use of the structures under existing regulations. Liability issues associated with those uses, including liability associated with the transfer of a city asset to an organization for habitation or other uses, are beyond the scope of this memo.

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

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

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.

Six-Month Follow-Up Discussion on Hope Village Closure

Held: May 7, 2026 | City Hall

Prepared by: City Manager Jennifer Wills

COMMUNITY & FAITH BASED MEETING SUMMARY

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

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- 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
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- 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

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.

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.

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

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- 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.

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- 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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO APPROVE CITY OF LONGVIEW LODGING TAX FUNDING POLICY

DATE: June 11, 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

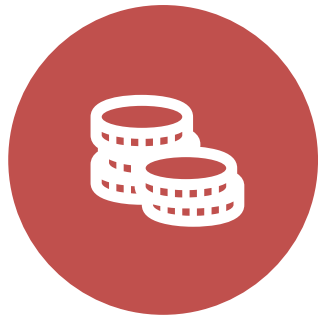


City of Longview Lodging Tax Funding Policy Update

Modernizing How We Support
Tourism & Community Events

LONGVIEW | **W
A**

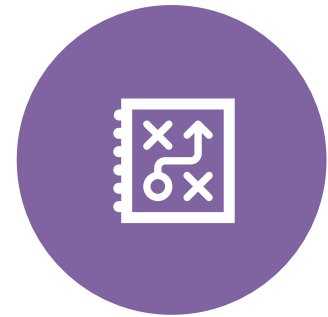
Why This Matters



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



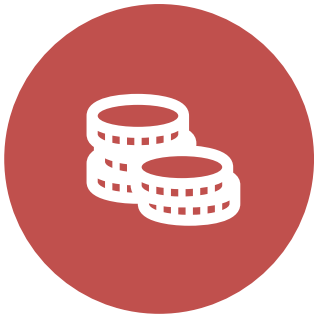
ENCOURAGE
NEW IDEAS



USE FUNDS
RESPONSIBLY

LONGVIEW | **W**
A

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

LONGVIEW | **W
A**

What This Means

More opportunities

Reduced barriers

Stronger tourism strategy

The Big Picture

From static funding to flexible investment

Focused on growth and impact

Closing

**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

PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND DETERMINE WHICH THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



City of Longview Agenda Summary Sheet

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.mylongview.com

AGENDA TITLE: Public Safety Sales Tax Update

DATE: June 11, 2026

COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Community Safety
Vibrant Neighborhoods & Public Spaces
Community First Service
Responsible & Honest Governance

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

On November 5, 2024, voters approved Proposition 1 to enhance public safety within the community. The City began receiving Proposition 1 revenue in May 2025. Through April 2026, total collections have reached \$1,015,396.53. A dedicated Special Revenue Fund has been established to account for all Proposition 1 revenues and expenditures.

To date, Proposition 1 funds have been used to support public safety enhancements, including the hiring of additional police officers and associated costs such as uniforms, equipment, academy training, and related expenses. The Police Department has also completed the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) laptop project previously presented to the City Council and has purchased an additional patrol vehicle.

Based on current revenue trends of approximately \$92,000 per month, the City anticipates an estimated Proposition 1 fund balance of \$570,180.31 at the end of 2026.

The Police Department is recommending the addition of another police officer position, which would allow the creation of a dedicated Traffic Officer assignment. Traffic enforcement remains a significant community concern, and the Department consistently receives requests from residents for increased traffic enforcement efforts. Establishing a Traffic Officer position would enhance roadway safety and address community expectations.

The Department is also recommending an alteration of the front-counter workspace to improve operational efficiency and support future staffing needs. The proposed alteration would:

- Centralize all Records staff in one workspace to strengthen communication, teamwork, and consistency.
- Position Records staff to better support front counter operations.
- Improve efficiency and accessibility for both staff and customers.
- Enhance customer service through increased face-to-face interaction.
- Prepare for the anticipated retirement and reclassification of the current front counter position into a Records position.
- Maximize existing workspace without requiring facility expansion and with minimal cost.

These recommendations support the continued implementation of Proposition 1 objectives and further strengthen public safety services for the community.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Council concurrence with proposed plan

STAFF CONTACT:

Police Chief Robert Huhta