



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*

Tuesday, July 28, 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."

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.

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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. **INVOCATION*/FLAG SALUTE**

26-00460 TOM ELHARDT, COWLITZ COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

After the invocation provided by Tom Elhardt of Cowlitz Community of Christ, 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 Dawn Reitan, Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins, Community & Economic Development Director Nick Little, Parks & Recreation Director Justin Brown, Police Captain Branden McNew, Human Resources Director Sabrina Fraidenburg, Fire Chief Brad Hannig, Information Technology Director Mike Sullivan, Finance

Director Aaron Hill, Senior Assistant City Attorney James Goodman, City Engineer Sam Barham, City Clerk Tiffany Ostreim

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

Mayor Halvorson added an item under City Manager's Report - Appointment of Pro and Con Committee to prepare statements for the Fire and EMS Property Tax Levy Lid Lift Ballot Measure.

Mayor Halvorson moved the council action of the IT Systems Engineer Business Case to under the City Manager's Report; the presentation will remain under Presentations.

5. **AWARDS**

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

Mike Pederson provided public comment.

Clint Hash provided public comment.

Derek Fine provided public comment.

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

26-00543 E-BIKES

Senior Assistant City Attorney James Goodman presented.

Council discussed.

Police Captain McNew and Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Collins answered clarifying questions.

Parks and Recreation Director Brown read the Parks Board recommendation - to maintain alignment with existing Washington State e-bike laws and support the department's education-first approach including website updates and targeted safety signage around Lake Sacajawea and require users under 16 years of age to have an attending adult with them at all times.

Council continued the discussion.

Council suspended the rules and allowed public comment.

Greg Myers provided public comment.

Sam Barham provided public comment.

Jason Still provided public comment.

Council continued the discussion.

Parks and Recreation Director Brown displayed three signs from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the proposed locations of the signs.

Council will continue the discussion at the next regular council meeting, August 11, 2026.

26-00637 IT SYSTEMS ENGINEER BUSINESS CASE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

AUTHORIZE RECRUITMENT FOR ONE IT SYSTEMS ENGINEER, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED TRANSITION PLAN, AND TRANSITION FROM ROUTINE OUTSOURCED INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

IT Manager Mike Sullivan presented.

Council discussed. Any action will be considered under the City Manager's Report.

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

26-00613 ORDINANCE NO. 3580 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON AMENDING CHAPTERS 11.18 AND 11.60 RELATED TO PARKING REGULATIONS;

REPEALING CHAPTERS 11.44, 11.50, 11.58, 11.62, AND 11.63; AND ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 11.61, OFF-STREET AND ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING AND MOTION TO APPROVAL ORDINANCE NO. 3580

Mayor Halvorson opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

Community Development Director Nick Little presented.

Mayor Halvorson opened and closed the public comment portion of the hearing as no one spoke for or against and closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Young, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to adopt Ordinance No. 3580. The motion carried unanimously.

26-00631 PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST TO VACATE A 45 FEET WIDE ALLEY BETWEEN A PORTION OF BALTIMORE STREET AND BEECH STREET LYING APPROXIMATELY 225 FEET WEST AND PARALLEL OF CALIFORNIA WAY

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING THEN MOTION TO:

- **APPROVE THE PROPOSED VACATION AND;**
- **DIRECT THE STAFF TO BRING BACK ORDINANCE 3583 ON AUGUST 11TH FOR ADOPTION AND;**
- **SET THE VACATION FEES AT \$25,000.00 TO BE USED FOR THE ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSFER OF PARCEL #08460 PLUS COUNTY RECORDING FEES.**

Mayor Halvorson opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m.

City Engineer Sam Barham presented.

Mayor Halvorson opened the public comment portion of the hearing

Robert Peterson provided public comment.

Mayor Halvorson closed the public comment portion of the hearing and the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember LaFave, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to approve the proposed vacation and direct staff to bring back Ordinance No. 3583 on August 11, 2026 for adoption and set the vacation fees at \$25,000 to be used for the acquisition, development and transfer of parcel #08460 plus county recording fees. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Jason Still provided public comment.

Meredith Long provided public comment.

Anne Bennett provided public comment.

10. BOARD & COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

11. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

26-00616 ORDINANCE NO. 3579(A) - PERTAINING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ABUSE; ADOPTING SECTION 9.26.110 TO THE LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE, ESTABLISHING THE OFFENSE OF RECKLESS EXPOSURE OF A CHILD TO CONTROLLED

**SUBSTANCES; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; CLASSIFYING THE OFFENSE;
REFERENCING APPLICABLE GENERAL PENALTY AND CULPABILITY PROVISIONS;
AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
ORDINANCE NO. 3579(B) INCLUDES IN UTERO LANGUAGE**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:
ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3579**

Senior Assistant City Attorney James Goodman explained the proposed ordinance. A second ordinance, including in utero language, was not prepared. An analysis was provided under attorney/client privilege.

A motion was made by Councilmember Young, seconded by Councilmember LaFave to waive attorney client privilege and disclose the legal memorandum dated July 27, 2026 from Charlotte Archer and James Goodman to the Longview City Council regarding the legal issues pertaining to the inclusion of "in utero" in fentanyl exposure ordinance. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Young, Councilmember LaFave, Mayor Halvorson, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Bryant

Nays: Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Nichols

*Senior Assistant City Attorney Goodman explained the analysis concluded that including protection for unborn children introduced significant constitutional litigation risks that may jeopardize the enforcement of the ordinance as a whole. The analysis was purely legal and not policy-based. The conclusion was based on constitutional law, state statutory restraints, and legal risk.
Council discussed.*

A motion was made by Mayor Halvorson, seconded by Councilmember Young, to adopt Ordinance No. 3579.

Council discussed. There was a consensus for more information. Staff will reach out to each member.

*A motion was made by Councilmember Claxton, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to table the matter until August 25, 2026 to get more information.
The motion carried unanimously.*

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

26-00458 APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES & JULY 21, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP MINUTES

26-00459 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

26-00630 RESOLUTION NO. 2635 – AUTHORIZING APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION GRANT FUNDING

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2635**

26-00632 BID REVIEW – 1100 BLOCK 11TH & 12TH AVE ALLEY SEWER REPAIR

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND AWARD TO NOVA CONTRACTING, INC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$232,089.00**

13. MAYOR'S REPORT

26-00559 LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mayor Halvorson requested council concurrence to send a letter of support to Pacific Fibre Products for continued dredging of the Cowlitz River and the beneficial reuse of dredged material.

Mayor Halvorson provided a verbal report.

14. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

Councilmember Young requested information on flock cameras. Council concurred.

Councilmember LaFave read a statement into the record.

Councilmember Bryant provided a verbal report.

Councilmember Claxton provided a verbal report.

15. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**26-00644 PRO AND CON COMMITTEES****RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

MOTION TO APPOINT BRAD HANNIG, KAREN BERGQUIST, ADN SHANNON MCLAIN AS THE AUTHORS OF THE PRO STATEMENT AND ERIK WRZESINSKI AND CHRIS CARLSON AS THE AUTHORS OF THE CON STATEMENT FOR THE FIRE AND EMS PROPERTY TAX LEVY LID LIFT BALLOT MEASURE

Fire Chief Hannig explained the legislative authority is required to appoint committees to prepare the statements advocating approval and rejection of the ballot measure for inclusion in the local voters' pamphlet.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bryant, seconded by Mayor Halvorson, to appoint Brad Hannig, Karen Bergquist, and Shannon McLain as the authors of the Pro Statement, and Erik Wrzesinski and Chris Carlson as the authors of the Con Statement for the Fire and EMS Property Tax Levy Lid Lift ballot measure.

Council discussed.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Young, seconded by Councilmember Nichols to authorize recruitment for one IT Systems Engineer, implementation of the proposed transition plan, and transition from routine outsourced infrastructure engineering services following successful knowledge transfer.

Council discussed.

The motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Wills provided a verbal report.

16. MISCELLANEOUS**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION****26-00611 PERFORMANCE OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PER RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)**

The City Council, City Manager Jennifer Wills, Interim City Attorney Dawn Reitan, Human Resources Director Sabrina Fraidenburg entered Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) Performance of a Public Employee for a period of 20 minutes. At 9:30 p.m. Executive Session was

continued for 10 minutes. At 9:40 p.m. Executive Session was continued for 5 minutes. At 9:45 p.m. all parties came out of Executive Session.

26-00633 RISK OF PROPOSED ACTION PER RCW 42.30.110(1)(iii)

The City Council, City Manager Jennifer Wills, Interim City Attorney Dawn Reitan, Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins, Community Development Director Nick Little entered Executive Session at 9:47 p.m. pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(iii) Risk of a Proposed Action for a period of 10 minutes. At 9:57 p.m. Executive Session was continued for 10 minutes. At 10:07 p.m. all parties came out of Executive Session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

*Tiffany Ostreim
City Clerk*

*Approved: _____
Mayor*

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

NEXT SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP:

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – PERSONNEL BUDGETING & THE CITY'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM