

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, August 25, 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.

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

Telephone options (dial any of the following numbers):

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

Webinar ID: 823 9413 2374

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **INVOCATION*/FLAG SALUTE**

26-00466 LARRY RUSSELL, KELSO LONGVIEW MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

After the invocation provided by Larry Russell of Kelso Longview Ministerial Association, 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 (on-line), Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Chris Collins, Community & Economic Development Director Nick Little, Parks & Recreation Director Justin Brown, Police Chief Robert Huhta, Fire Chief Brad Hannig, Public

Information Officer Angela Abel, Finance Director Aaron Hill, Senior Assistant City Attorney James Goodman, City Clerk Tiffany Ostreim

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

Mayor Halvorson requested to strike the presentation by the Cowlitz County Public Facilities District. Council concurred.

5. **AWARDS**

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

Tom Samuels provided public comment.
Shannon McLain provided public comment and a handout.
Dawn Johnson Beal provided public comment.
Adam Newton provided public comment.
Darryl Cole provided public comment.
Bob Clark provided public comment.
Alex Kirby provided public comment.
Melissa Manslan provided public comment.
Stephanie Lavin provided public comment.
Matt Swanson provided public comment.
Derek Fine provided public comment and provided a handout.
Tom DeSpain provided public comment.

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

26-00720 POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Police Chief Robert Huhta presented.
Council asked clarifying questions.

26-00729 COWLITZ COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT - PULLED FROM THE AGENDA

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

26-00733 PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION NO. 2639 - AMENDMENT TO THE 2027 - 2032 SIX YEAR RIVERCITIES TRANSIT PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2639

Mayor Halvorson opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.
Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Collins presented.
Mayor Halvorson opened and closed the public testimony portion of the hearing as no one spoke for or against the subject and closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.
A motion was made by Councilmember Young, seconded by Councilmember LaFave, to adopt Resolution No. 2639. The motion carried unanimously.

26-00731 CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE NO. 3582 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW AMENDING LONGVIEW MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 19.40, COUNTY EVENT CENTER ZONING DISTRICT, TO ALLOW FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING AS AN ALLOWED USE AND REDUCING ACCESS RESTRICTIONS TO PEARDALE LANE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3582

Mayor Halvorson opened the continued public hearing at 7:05 p.m.
Community Development Director Little presented.
Council asked clarifying questions.

Mayor Halvorson opened the public comment portion of the hearing.
Cowlitz County Commissioner Steve Ferrell stated the county still wants the ordinance to pass. It's one of three sites the county is looking at for an animal shelter.
Matt Swanson provided public comment.
Bob Gregory spoke in support of reducing access restrictions to Peardale Lane to allow for access to the Event Center RV Park during controlled events.
Council asked clarifying questions.
Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Collins explained Peardale is a fully developed public street. It functions efficiently now and there are no concerns with capacity as far as construction of the road itself. Any proposed use that would generate any volume of traffic would go through a review mitigation process — through the SEPA process and a traffic study. Any impacts identified during that process would have to be mitigated before any construction could take place.
Mayor Halvorson closed the public comment portion of the hearing and the hearing at 7:29 p.m.
Council discussed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember LaFave, to approve Ordinance No. 3582 version 2 to allow for animal sheltering as an allowed use only. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: Councilmember Nichols, Councilmember Bryant

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Young, to remand the request to reduce access restrictions to Peardale Lane back to the Planning Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Diane Cooper provided public comment on the severe weather shelter.
Meredith Long provided public comment on Ordinance No. 3579.
Jason Still provided public comment on Ordinance No. 3579.
Angela, last name not stated, provided public comment on the severe weather shelter.
Anne Bennett provided public comment on Ordinance No. 3579 and the severe weather shelter.
Cowlitz County Commissioner Steve Ferrell provided public comment on the RV Park at the Event Center.

The council recessed at 8:00 p.m. for a period of 5 minutes, and reconvened at 8:08 p.m. with all members present.

10. BOARD & COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

11. ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

26-00730 RESOLUTION NO. 2633 - MONTHLY UTILITY BILLING FOR ALL CITY UTILITY CUSTOMERS, ELIMINATING THE EXISTING BI-MONTHLY BILLING CYCLES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2633

Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Collins presented.
Council asked clarifying questions.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Mayor Halvorson, to adopt Resolution No. 2633. The motion carried unanimously.

26-00663 ORDINANCE NO. 3579 - 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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 3579

Senior Assistant City Attorney Goodman presented.

Council asked clarifying questions.

Interim City Attorney Archer described the review process.

Police Chief Huhta explained their response to service.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to adopt Ordinance No. 3579 with a change to eliminate Class 2 and insert just "Fentanyl". Council discussed.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mayor Halvorson, seconded by Councilmember LaFave, to strike the change to eliminate Class 2 and insert just "Fentanyl", and adopt the original ordinance as presented.

Council discussed.

The amendment carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: Councilmember Nichols, Councilmember Kendall

An amendment was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to expand Section D - Exceptions, to include anyone in the household with a valid prescription. Council discussed.

The amendment failed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Nichols

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

The main motion as amended to adopt Ordinance 3579 as originally presented passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: Councilmember Nichols

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Councilmember Bryant, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

26-00464 APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND AUGUST 17, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP MINUTES

26-00465 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

13. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Halvorson provided a verbal report.

14. COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

Councilmember Young provided a verbal report.

Councilmember Nichols provided a verbal report.

Councilmember LaFave provided a verbal report. Will be absent September 10.

Councilmember Kendall provided a verbal report.

15. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**26-00756 SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION**

City Manager Wills presented. Option 1: Continue city-hosted shelter at McClelland Arts Center. Option 2: Financially support a partner-hosted shelter at another location. Option 3: Support partner-hosted shelter through city-owned supplies only.

Council discussed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Young, seconded by Councilmember Bryant, to go with Option 2.

An amendment was made by Councilmember Nichols, seconded by Councilmember Kendall, to go with option 1 for 2026-2027 and Option 2 for 2027-2028.

An amendment to the amendment was made by Councilmember LaFave, seconded by Mayor Halvorson, to go with Option 2 and give the funds back to KLMA. The motion failed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember LaFave, Mayor Halvorson, Councilmember Bryant

Nays: Councilmember Nichols, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember Young

The amendment to go with Option 1 for 2026-2027 and Option 2 for 2027-2028 passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Nichols, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Kendall

Nays: Councilmember LaFave, Councilmember Young, Mayor Halvorson

The main motion as amended to go with Option 1 for 2026-2027 and Option 2 for 2027-2028 passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Nichols, Councilmember Claxton, Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Kendall, Councilmember LaFave

Nays: Mayor Halvorson and Councilmember Young

The council discussed drafting a new RFP or using the same operator as last year.

The council gave direction for the City Manager to work with the existing operator to see if they are interested in continuing operation of the severe weather shelter for one more year. If not, council gave direction for staff to issue a new RFP.

26-00770 RESOLUTION NO. 2640 – RESOLUTION RATIFYING EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR REPAIRS TO THE 20TH AVENUE BRIDGE**RECOMMENDED ACTION:****MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2640.**

Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Collins explained the accident that rendered the 20th Ave bridge inoperable.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kendall, seconded by Councilmember Nichols, to adopt Resolution No. 2640. The motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Wills thanked everyone for attending the Employee Appreciation and Recognition Event.

16. MISCELLANEOUS**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

*Tiffany Ostreim
City Clerk*

*Approved: _____
Mayor*

*** 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, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

NEXT SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKSHOPS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – BUDGET, TRAINING ROOM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 - 6:00 P.M. - BUDGET, TRAINING ROOM