

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW
TOWN ALDERMEN MEETING
March 12, 2007**

The Town of Long View Board of Aldermen met on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of the Government Center in Long View, North Carolina.

BOARD PRESENT: The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Norman Cook, Alderman Ken Bumgarner, Alderman Vernon Moyer, Alderman Jackie Bowman, Alderman John McDaris, and Alderman Randall Mays.

STAFF PRESENT: The following members of staff were present: Town Administrator David Epley, Town Clerk Stephanie Watson, Town Attorney Redmond Dill, Finance Director James Cozart, Public Works Director David Draughn, Fire Chief Eric Shepherd, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Police Major Jim Worrell, and Police Officer Brian Collins

OTHERS PRESENT: Others were present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Norman Cook called the meeting to order and Alderman Ken Bumgarner gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Norman Cook asked for approval of the minutes. Motion was made by Alderman Randall Mays, seconded by Alderman Ken Bumgarner to approve the regular February 12, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes. The vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF RAW WATER PUMP STATION BIDS

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board of the bids received for the rehabilitation of the Raw Water Pump Station.

The bids were as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Gilbert Engineering Company	\$577,775.00
SL Wilson	\$640,000.00
Laughlin-Sutton Construction	\$619,500.00
Hickory Construction Company	\$599,887.00
Hickory Sand Company	\$745,460.00
Ralph Hodge Construction	\$607,000.00

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that upon his and Town Engineer Rich Anderson's review of the bids, he felt that the bids should be rejected based on the fact that all bids exceeded the \$500,000.00 parameter that was set by the Town of Long View and the Local Government Commission. He also said that the plans should be modified and the project should then be rebid as soon as possible.

Motion made by Ken Bumgarner and seconded by Jackie Bowmen to reject the bids for the rehabilitation of the Raw Water Pump Station. The vote was unanimous.

FINANCE REPORT:

Monthly Financial Report

Finance Director James Cozart informed the Board that in the General Fund with fifty-eight percent of the budget year complete, Expenditures were \$1,892,518.83 and Revenues were \$2,150,777.12. Revenues exceeded Expenditures by \$258,258.29. As of January 31, 2007, the Town has collected 72.88% of the Town's Budgeted Revenues in the General Fund.

In the Utility Fund with fifty-eight percent of the budget year complete, the total Revenues were \$1,119,390.17 and the total Expenditures were \$904,554.85. Revenues exceeded Expenditures by \$214,835.32. As of January 31, 2007, the Town has collected 55.6% of the Town's Budgeted Revenues in the Utility Fund.

Alderman Vernon Moyer asked about the capital outlay of \$70,000 that was not budgeted in the Powell Bill Fund and Finance Director James Cozart explained that the \$70,000 was used in the purchase of a backhoe for Public Works. He said that the budget was already finalized before the Town had decided to purchase the backhoe with Powell Bill Fund money.

Alderman Randal Mays asked about an item in the Utility Fund in the Water Plant Conservation under Professional Services about a deficit. Finance Director James Cozart said that was an invoice from HSMM for the Engineering fees for the Raw Water Pump Station. The invoice was for \$25,000.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Tailored Foam Project Update

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the Tailored Foam Project was still in the design phase and by mid April it should go to bid.

Sidewalk Project Update

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that plans were to advertise for bids by the end of March. The Town of Long View applied for Encroachment Agreements from the Department of Transportation on March 9, 2007 and the Town is currently waiting for approval.

Centennial Update

Town Administrator David Epley wished to comment to the Board that March 8, 2007 Centennial Day did very well and he thanked the staff for all their work.

Surplus Items Sale Report

Town Administrator David Epley informed that Board that all Surplus Items were sold and generated a total of \$7,500.00.

Retreat Agenda

Town Administrator David Epley reminded the Board and Department Heads about the Budget Retreat that would be taking place on March 27, 2007.

March 8, 2007 Centennial Day Speech

Town Administrator David Epley asked to the Board to incorporate in to the March 12, 2007 Minutes the speech made by Alderman Vernon Moyer at the March 8, 2007 Centennial Day, as follows:

**Town of Long View
March 8, 2007 Centennial Speech
Speech Given By Alderman Vernon Moyer**

One Hundred Years ago today, March 8, 1907, the vision of some progressive leaders in what was formerly the community of Penelope, came to fruition when the General Assembly incorporated the Town of Long View.

There are various stories as to how the town got its name. One story is that the pastor's wife at Penelope Baptist Church, for whom the church was named, stood on the railroad tracks and said "Now that is a long view." Another story is that the late Samuel D Campbell stood on a hill and looked over the area and declared it a long view. However the name came in to being, it fits and it stuck.

There has been controversy as to how to spell the town's name. Many of the businesses in town have spelled it as one word. The Longview Elementary School spells it as one word, but the official charter has spelled it as two words. To help promote that official spelling, we have developed a logo for this centennial that shows the two words slightly out of line so as to emphasize the two-word spelling.

There are many facets in a modern town. If our early founding fathers could see this town today, I am sure they would be surprised as to how well we have developed. I am not here to give a comprehensive History lesson, but try to outline some of these faces of the town and how they have developed.

This new town needed to have a place to meet to do its business. There are various meeting places recorded in the early days, such places as JF Abee's Store, the Grade School, J F Harris' Store, Long View Garage, Campbell's Laundry, as well as people's homes. In 1929, the town leased the East Front Room in Carpenter's Store Building. By 1941 the town was discussing the purchase of a building to make an office on town property. It was 1953 when the town built what was then a modern up-to-date Municipal Building with donations and free labor, on what is now 24th Street across from Longview Elementary School. This building housed space for Administration, Town Meetings, as

well as the Police and Fire Departments. This building served the town well for many years, but the Town outgrew this building. In 1984 the town purchased the former Mutt's Chicken n Biscuit Restaurant building across First Avenue and renovated this building to accommodate a new Council Chamber as well as administrative offices. In 1995 the town dedicated an expansion to this building that is the current Town Complex. It includes a 6 bay Fire Department, Fire and Police offices, Planning offices, Conference and Training Rooms, as well as Administrative offices and a new Council Chambers. Last year we installed an emergency generator to completely power this building so that it can serve as a command center in the case of emergency. This facility should serve the town well into the foreseeable future.

In order for the Town to do its work, there needs to be people appointed to do various jobs. The first position recorded was when a Mr. W A Abee was elected to the dual roles of serving as the Street Overseer and the Town Marshall. This was just ten days after the Town was incorporated. The next year a Mr. J C Welch was appointed as the Tax Collector. A note the next year showed that the Tax Collector was paid 8% of what was collected for collecting these taxes. In the third year of the Town, a policeman was hired. In 1952 a Maintenance Man was hired. Staff has continued to grow through the years. Today the Town has a total of 48 employees. We feel like we have the best staff ever. These are professional people who receive ongoing training to do their jobs well. We have accountability systems in place to help them to do their work with the highest ethical standards. They work efficiently to accomplish the work of promoting safety and other services the Town Citizens need.

The fact that the first staff person hired was a Street Overseer indicates how important our founding fathers thought it was to have a good transportation system. The first streets would have been dirt streets that would have become quite muddy when it rained. In 1908 the Town paid a J D Frye \$ 18.75, Frank Fry \$ 1.00 and a Boyd Lock \$.50 to work on roads. In 1913 everyone was made to pay \$ 1.50 in road tax or they could choose to work on the Streets for three days if they did not want to part with the money. Later that year, the Town gave the Township and Road Commission the right of way to build a sand and clay road through Long View. In 1916 the Street Tax was increased to \$ 2.00. In 1933, Highway # 10, which is now Old Highway 70 or First Avenue, was widened through Long View. Come 1938, the Town bought a Public Works Truck for \$ 434.00 to assist in the repair and building of streets. Since those early days, most all of the streets in Long View have been improved and paved. The Town has a Streets committee that meets each year to determine what streets need to be improved. Long View streets are maintained in very good condition. In 1940 a Hugh Abee requested that the Town assist him in building a new street from what was then 10th avenue to 11½ Avenue. This may have been one of the first collaborative efforts for the Town and a private citizen to work together to build streets. Today the Town has a policy to assist property owners whose streets need improvements. The Town will not take the sole responsibility, but will work with the Citizens to accomplish this.

In 1946 the Town issued permits for persons to operate Taxi Cabs. Around this time my wife recalls that there was the City Bus Service that they used to travel back and forth to

Hickory for \$.10 a ride. Southern Railway has maintained tracks that divide Long View into two distinct sections. In 1945 the Town worked with the railroad to secure rights to construct sidetracks. The railroad has played a significant role in the development of the industry in Long View. The trains no longer stop in Long View, but speed through Town. There is a plan to close a few of the more dangerous crossings in the next few years and to upgrade some of the crossings for greater safety.

Current Transportation issues involve the upcoming widening of 33rd Street from the new I-40 exit to across the railroad and then extending a thoroughfare on to the airport. This project is on the Transportation Improvement List to be done, however it will be years away till we will actually see this project completed. In 1913 our forefathers paid for some sidewalks to be built, this year, we anticipate building a sidewalk along Second Avenue NW from the Hickory/Long View line to the Food Lion Store, with additional sidewalks to come in the future.

Public safety has always been a concern for the Town of Long View. In 1913 the Town printed speed limit signs posting the maximum speed in Long View at 10 miles per hour. I am not sure how they measured this. This would have been in the days of horse and buggies and Model T Fords, neither of which had speedometers. By 1919 the speed limit was increased to 15 miles per hour. In 1917 there was a fine imposed for riding on the sidewalks. In 1915 there were laws established for “obstructing any street by allowing any automobile or other vehicle to stand in or on the public highway between the curb or ditches for more than thirty minutes at any one time.” Parking on streets continues to be a problem in Town. In 2003 the Town Board passed an ordinance that would not allow any parking on any street at any time. A few months later we had to repeal that law because there were some places where the Citizens could not comply because the houses were constructed without driveways in which to park. Since then the Police Department has had to deal with the parking issues on a street-by-street basis.

In 1942 as a precaution in World War II there was an Ordinance passed to authorize blackout and air raid protection orders.

In 2002 Chief Rogers secured a \$ 2,400.00 grant from the Governor’s Highway Safety Commission to purchase 200 Bicycle Safety Helmets for children riding on our Town.

I have no record as to when the Town bought its first police car. In 1958 a Ford Fairlane was bought for the Police Department. It was not until 1964 that the Town bought its first car with a special Police Car package. It was a 1964 Dodge 330 four-door sedan. In recent years we have continued in a program that replaces two police cars each year. The car of choice has been the Ford Crown Victoria with a police package. We have assigned each officer to one car for which he is responsible for the maintenance.

It appears that Fire protection was provided in the early days by the City of Hickory. In 1924 the Town of Long View donated \$ 1,000.00 to the City of Hickory for the purchase of an American La France 75 Fire Truck. This truck was loaned to Long View for \$ 1.00 per year. In 1933 the fire rates paid to Hickory were reduced. It is not until 1952 that

records appear that indicate that Long View formed a Fire Department. The Town considered a building to house the fire truck. In 1953 the Municipal Building was built. They voted that the Fire Department would have a fireman on duty whenever needed. A bed was purchased for the Fire Department. An Elmer Parker was hired at \$ 5.00 per week to stay in the Fire Department. Also a resolution was passed that Long View would resume all responsibilities for fire protection from the City of Hickory as of March 1, 1953. Today we have a modern Fire Department with 7 full time firemen and 26 volunteers. We now have 2 fire engines, and 1 Tanker Truck, and 1 Ladder Truck, and Service Truck, and 1 Command Vehicle, and 1 “rough and ready” Off Road Brush Truck. “You have come a long way baby.”

On April 5, 1994 we developed a Public Safety Service combining the Fire and Police Departments. The officers were cross-trained in an effort to better utilize the Public Safety staff. In 2001 we returned to a two-department system because with modern training requirements, we needed to spend too much time in training for the amount of time the officers had to actually do their jobs.

For a town to exist it needs to have utility services. 1921 is when the Town sent a delegate to Charlotte to discuss the possibility of Southern Public Utility Company providing lights in the Town of Long View. The Mayor then appointed persons to meet with the citizens and to secure a signed subscription. In May of 1922 an ordinance for Southern Public Utility Company to supply the Town of Long View was made. The lights were to be \$ 30.00 each. The Town set up 20 light poles.

In 1933, the Town granted Piedmont Utility Company a franchise to furnish gas for cooking, heating and other purposes.

In 1935 a resolution was passed for the Mayor and the Town Clerk to file an application for a grant to supply the Town with a water works system. In February of 1936, the Town received approval for a \$45,000.00 bond. A Bond vote was taken and the bond was passed. There were 280 people voting for the bond, 137 against, 5 disqualified and 19 not voting. That indicates there were 441 qualified voters at this time. In June of 1937 the town bought 125 water meters and in July a well was drilled. Water bills started going out on the 10th of October. Persons not yet connected did not get water bills.

In 1946 the League of Governments approved authorization for the Town to issue up to \$ 135,000.00 in bonds for the Town to construct a sewer system. In May of 1950, the town voted for a \$ 65,000.00 bond Sewer Bond package. There were 310 votes for and 10 against. Sewer taps were set at \$ 15.00 each and a monthly charge of \$.50 per commode. Outside town limits tap fees were set at \$ 45.00 each.

Telephone services must have come to Town about the 1930's. Cable TV came in the 1980's. In 1990's Fiber optic cable was extended into town as far as Town Hall in order to extend a high-speed connection for the GIS system.

The Town planning process seems to have gotten off to a slow start. In 1941 there was discussion of how to number the streets and houses. Estimates were sought for the cost of street signs, but it was not until 1950 that a Planning Commission was formed. This planning commission set regulations for height of buildings, the number of stories, size of buildings, percentage of the lot that the building could occupy, the size of yards, population density, and the use of the buildings. In 1995 we adopted a comprehensive long-range land use plan. Today we have a full time planner to help the Town grow in a systematic manner.

Education has been an important part of Long View's history. Penelope academy was here before the town existed. The academy was part of what helped the community to develop. It was after the academy closed that the town was born. Early in the Town's history, there were times that the Town met at the schoolhouse and the Town gave money to the school for the use of its facilities. In 1921 when the Town first got electricity, the Town provided three classrooms with lights. In 1924 the Town donated Twelve Hundred dollars to the Board of Education. The town still works with the school to help with projects, and safety education. We are happy to have students from both schools that are now in the Long View Town Limits, Longview Elementary and Southwest Elementary, here today to help us celebrate.

Long View has always valued its relationship with its industries. We have worked together to accomplish growth for all. In 1917 the Town granted Hickory Spinners seven years of free taxes in order to get them to build a plant here in Long View. In 2006, the town has granted similar tax breaks to Drexel Enterprises to allow them to relocate an upholstery operation here in the old J P Stevens building. Our relationship with industry has worked both ways. In 1963 it was Harley Shuford and A A Shuford Donated land to the Town for a recreation center. Other industry leaders have contributed to the town in too many ways to recount, but they were never the less appreciated.

This Recreation Center was made possible through the cooperation of local industry, citizens and the Long View Lions Club. The swimming pool was an integral part of this center for many years. A few years ago, the filter system was no longer repairable. In processing replacing the filter, there were so many other parts of the workings of the pool that were out of date that the try to bring the pool up to required Health Department standards would have cost more that a new pool. It was with great difficulty that the board had to decide that it was not feasible to replace the pool. We are happy that we are able to have this picnic shelter here on the location where the pool was removed.

In 1964 a group of long View Citizens and Business people petitioned the Federal Officials for an improved Post Office for Long View. In 1995 when the new Town Complex was built we reserved space for a new Post Office. Both attempts failed. We believe that it is again time to petition our US Delegation to provide postal services for the citizens of Long View. We believe that Postal Patrons should be able to pick up their mail 24/7. We believe citizens of Long View should have their own Zip Code. We believe that the people of our town should be able to write their addresses to say proudly that they live in Long View, North Carolina.

There have been various laws passed along the years, some relating to issues that have come and gone. In 1916 it was unlawful for any person having small pox scarlet fever, or diphtheria, or who has been exposed to either of said diseases, to exhibit himself on the public streets of the Town of Long View. In 1917 one needed to pay a \$ 10.00 tax to sell fresh meats. There was a fine of \$ 15.00 for selling meat without a license. In 1921 the police were directed to notify all ice cream sellers, not to sell ice cream on Sundays by traveling.

Yes, the Town of Long View has come a long way in one hundred years. The visionary leadership of our early founders laid a solid foundation on which this town has grown. Before us lies the opportunity for continued growth. It is our turn to step up to the plate. The leadership the town needs to continue this growth through this 21st Century, so at the second centennial celebration, our descendents will be able to look back and applaud our work to make their lives better in their day.

Alderman Vernon Moyer

Motion made by Alderman Ken Bumgarner, seconded by John McDaris to incorporate the March 8, 2007 Centennial Day Speech in to the March 12, 2007 minutes. The vote was unanimous.

Catawba County, North Carolina Proclamation Declaring the Town of Long View's 100 Year Celebration

Town Administrator David Epley asked to the Board to incorporate in to the March 12, 2007 Minutes the Catawba County Proclamation given by Kathrine W. Barnes, Catawba County Board of Commissioners Chairperson on the March 8, 2007 Centennial Day, as follows:

Proclamation

Catawba County, North Carolina

THE TOWN OF LONG VIEW CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, one hundred years ago, on March 8, 1907, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified the original charter of the Town of Long View; and

WHEREAS, legend says that the name of this new town was based on a statement made by Sam D. Campbell, who was a prominent contractor and real estate dealer from the area. Standing near his home, Mr. Campbell commented on the length of the view down the Southern Railway tracks toward Hickory and his description of this "long view" was to become the accepted name of this new town; and

WHEREAS, this new town grew and established its own police and fire departments, a town hall and a Board of Aldermen. In the early 1980's Long View, in an effort to further establish its separate identity from neighboring Hickory, adopted its own town seal which depicts a long view of a highway, bordered by pines and reaching the mountains on the horizon; and

WHEREAS, the people of Long View, some 4,800 strong, embrace their community with pride and loyalty to its sense of history and commitment to a quality of life which benefits all who call it home; and

WHEREAS, on the occasion of this Centennial Celebration, we recognize Long View's rich history of a growing town with an economy based on manufacturing and commend the town on its greatest asset, its warm and welcoming citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS does proclaim its recognition and commendation of the Town of Long View at this momentous celebration of its 100th anniversary.

This the 8th day of March, 2007.

Katherine W. Barnes

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Motion made by Alderman Vernon Moyer, seconded by Alderman John McDaris to incorporate the Catawba County Proclamation in to the March 12, 2007 Minutes. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT:

Alderman Jackie Bowman wished to say that he enjoyed the speech given by Alderman Vernon Moyer on March 8, 2007. He also wished to thank the staff for all their hard work with the March 8, 2007 event.

Alderman Randall Mays wished to thank the staff for their hard work on March 8, 2007 and also wished to thank Alderman Ken Bumgarner and Alderman John McDaris for their work with the Centennial Picnic Shelter.

Alderman Mays also wished to know how many people were in attendance on March 8th and estimates were given to be about 200 to 300 people.

Alderman Vernon Moyer asked about storm water retention between 21st and 22nd Streets. Town Planner Charles Mullis responded that Mr. Bellows the owner of the property has put up fences to retain runoff and the parking lot has been paved to reduce runoff. Town Planner Mullis said that he would speak with Mr. Bellows to find out his plans for water runoff and a retention pond.

Alderman Vernon Moyer asked about the plans in progress for the smoke house. He said that there are weeds, broken windows, and the porch is in poor condition. Fire Chief Eric Shepherd responded that several months ago the Town sent out several bids to take care of the situation and as of now has not received any responses. There would be a follow-up.

Alderman Ken Bumgarner said that he would like to comment on the March 8, 2007 event. He believed the staff did an excellent job.

Alderman John McDaris also wished to thank the staff for the March 8, 2007 event.

Mayor Norman Cook thanked the staff for the March 8, 2007 event and wished to thank Alderman Ken Bumgarner and Alderman John McDaris for their hard work with the Picnic Shelter

There being no further business, motion was made by Alderman Ken Bumgarner, seconded by Alderman Vernon Moyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Stephanie C. Watson
Town Clerk

Norman E. Cook
Mayor