Reader's Guide to the Budget

Introduction

The City's budget document serves to present the City Council and community with a clear picture of the services and programs the City of Longview furnishes as well as provides City management with a financial and operating plan that conforms to the City's accounting system.

The document consists of the following sections:

- **Reader's Guide to the Budget** is an introduction to the City's comprehensive biennial budget.
- **Budget Message** is a preface to the budget in the form of a letter from the City Manager to the City Council. It explains the budget and outlines recommended fiscal policies and programs for the biennium. The entire budget is founded on the goals and policies previously adopted by the Longview City Council. The budget message also illustrates the relationship of the recommended expenditures to these fiscal policies and programs, the reasons for changes from previous budgets, and an explanation of recommended revisions in financial policy. In addition, the message provides a clear picture of the City's present financial condition and a forecast for the future.
- **Budget Process** describes the process for putting the budget together, from setting policy through its strategic plan, *Longview 2023: Our Preferred Future*, to estimating revenues and expenditures, to adopting the budget. A timeline is included for reference.
- **Financial Summary** has two main focuses. The first half of the chapter provides an overview of the local economy and focuses on the City's strategies to maintain financial stability and on the basis for future revenue projections. Additional financial information can be found in the *Budget Message* section. The second half of the financial summary consists of a comprehensive overview of the budget. This portion includes detailed explanations and information about the various funds the City manages, as well as an overview of the City's accounting system and definitions of each fund. City revenue sources along with definitions, a complete listing of revenues and expenditures for 2019/2020, information about long-term debt, five-year comparisons by department, and comparisons by funds portray a clear financial picture of the City.
- **Fund Summary** includes details of the projected revenues and approved expenditures for the two-year budget cycle. This section is arranged by the various funds the City manages (green tabs). The General Fund section includes information about the various City departments (orange tabs), including organizational charts, descriptions of programs and services, performance measures, and expenditures and/or revenues.
- **Capital Improvement Program** looks at the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program and identifies anticipated capital projects.
- **Glossary of Budgeting Terms** explains key terms with which the reader may not be familiar.
- **Appendix** contains information about Longview's workforce as well as demographic information about our community. It also contains supplementary information relative to the budget and to Longview.

The ***Reader's Guide to the Budget*** also includes the following information on pages 2-12:

- An overview of City government, including the City Council and an organization chart
- City and regional services
- Brief history of Longview, including information about local attractions and amenities
- Commissions, boards and committees of the City
- City mission statement
- ***Longview 2023: Our Preferred Future***

Longview's Form of Government

Longview is a non-charter code city that adopted the council-manager form of government on March 14, 1968. This form of government relies on the belief that policy-making and administrative functions should be kept separate. The council, which determines policy and is politically responsible for its actions, appoints a city manager as the chief administrator. The city manager is responsible for carrying out policies set by the council, including directing employees and managing City resources to provide City services as effectively and efficiently as possible. Full details of the council-manager form of government can be found in Chapter 35A.13 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

Longview City Council

The Longview City Council is composed of seven members elected at large by the citizens of the city. Council members are elected for four-year terms with four positions being elected first and the other three positions being elected two years later. This ensures that some members have experience at all times. The Council members elect a mayor from among themselves every two years.

The Council takes action on items presented at regularly scheduled or special meetings. A public hearing may be scheduled as part of a regular or special Council meeting. The public hearing allows the Council to meet legal public participation requirements pertaining to an issue, hear background information or reports about a topic, receive public input on the issue, and then make a decision based on the information presented. Council workshops are scheduled to allow Council members to study an issue in depth without taking immediate action.

The City Council meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m. in the Longview City Hall, second floor, 1525 Broadway Street. Workshops are usually scheduled on the third Thursday of the month, and at other times as needed. The Mayor has regular office hours during the week.

Elected Officials

Councilmembers	Expiration of Term
Ken Botero	January 2020
Don Jensen-Mayor	January 2020
Chet Makinster	January 2022
Steve Moon	January 2022
Scott Vydra	January 2020
Mike Wallin-Mayor Pro Tem	January 2020
MaryAlice Wallis	January 2022

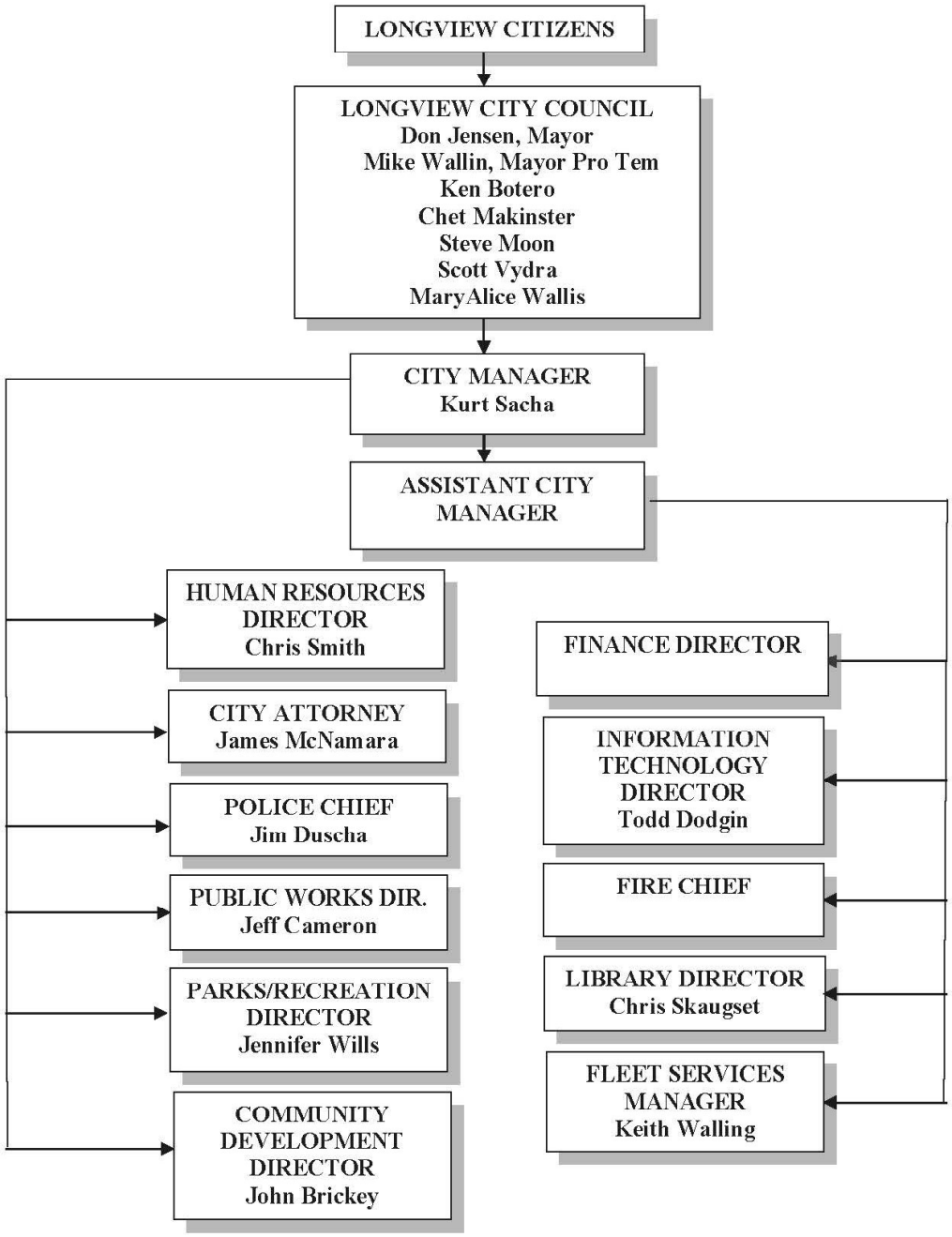
District Court Judges	
Debra L. Burchett, Position 1	January 2023
M. Jamie Imboden, Position 2	January 2023
John A. Hays, Position 3	January 2023

Appointed Officials

City Manager	Kurt Sacha
Assistant City Manager	Vacant
Finance Director	Vacant
City Attorney	James McNamara
City Engineer	Craig Bozarth, P.E.
Community Development Director	John Brickey
Interim Fire Chief	Jim Kambeitz
Human Resources Director	Chris Smith
Information Technology Director	Todd Dodgin
Library Director	Chris Skaugset
Parks & Recreation Director	Jennifer Wills
Police Chief	Jim Duscha
Public Works Director	Jeff Cameron

Organization Chart

All Departments



City Services

The City of Longview provides a full range of municipal services to its citizens, including police, fire, parks and recreation, street maintenance, planning, zoning, and building permits, code enforcement, information technology, nuisance abatement, library, engineering, water, sewer, storm water, solid waste & recycling, and city administration. The City also provides water and sewer services to customers in unincorporated Cowlitz County adjacent to the city.

- The City of Longview and the Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District (BHWSD) jointly own the Mint Farm Regional Water Treatment Plant (MFRWTP) to provide potable drinking water to all City and BHWSD customers. The City operates the MFRWTP under the direction of the Water Operating Board, the governing body created by interlocal agreement to control ownership and operation of the treatment plant and consisting of representatives from the City and BHWSD.
- The City operates a public municipal golf course and a tennis/racquetball facility.
- Wastewater treatment is provided to the City's sewer customers by a regional sewer treatment plant operated by the Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Authority (TRRWA). The TRRWA was originally created by interlocal agreement as a cooperative between the cities of Longview and Kelso, the Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District, and Cowlitz County. In 2016, the TRRWA was reorganized as a joint municipal utility services authority under state statute, and is now governed by a Board of Directors and an Operating Board consisting of representatives from each of those entities.
- The City operates RiverCities Transit to provide public transit services to the Longview/Kelso urban area in accordance with Federal Transit Administration funding regulations. These services are provided with planning, coordination, and local matching funding provided by the Cowlitz Transit Authority.
- The City Council serves as the governing body for the Longview Transportation Benefit District, formed in 2016 to provide additional funding for roadway rehabilitation and transportation facilities improvements.

Regional Services

The City of Longview is a member of the following regional service providers: Cowlitz Transit Authority, Kelso-Longview Airport Authority, Southwest Washington Clean Air Agency, Cowlitz Technical Services Agency, Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Authority, and the Water Operating Board. Cowlitz County provides our public health department, solid waste disposal, courts, combined emergency dispatch center, and jail. Solid waste collection and recycling, water meter reading, ambulance services and indigent defense are contracted with private firms. Animal control is provided by contract with the Humane Society of Cowlitz County.

Other local governmental entities supply public services to our community. The Port of Longview offers industrial, water transfer and terminal facilities on the Columbia River. Longview School District #122, Lower Columbia College and Washington State University furnish public educational services within the city limits and beyond. Cowlitz Public Utility District # 1 supplies electric power service within the city. The Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington administers low-income housing for the community, and the Lower Columbia Community Action Council offers a range of other services for low-income persons. While Longview may participate cooperatively in various activities with other public agencies and entities, none of their operations are a part of the City's reporting entity. Since the City of Longview neither exercises statutory control over, nor appoints a majority of the members of the various governing bodies of these agencies, they are not included within the City's budget.

History of Longview

Longview's Beginnings

Longview, Washington, lies on the banks of the Columbia River, seventy-five miles from the Pacific Ocean. Only a few decades ago it was a peaceful valley sparsely populated and teeming with wildlife. This rich valley, surrounded

by forests and snow-capped mountain peaks, was first recorded in history when Lewis and Clark in their 1805 western expedition camped at the mouth of what they called the "Cow-elis-kee" River, now known as the Cowlitz River.

Monticello Settled

Following the explorers, missionaries and Hudson's Bay Company scouts came and established a trading post near the spot where Lewis and Clark camped. Led by Darby Huntington, the first party of pioneers paddled up the river in 1849 and filed claims on the land that later became part of Longview. Huntington named this settlement "Monticello" in honor of Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia. A little later, a convention of delegates from the Oregon Territory met here to petition the U.S. government to establish a new territory in the country north of the Columbia River. The petition was granted and the area became Washington Territory. Monticello was made the seat of Cowlitz County, but the little town was wiped out in a flood in the mid-1800s.

A Planned City is Built

Officials and engineers of the Long-Bell Lumber Co. came to the Pacific Coast seeking a location for great lumber manufacturing plants and a supply of virgin Douglas fir in southwest Washington. Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, Long-Bell was rapidly running out of timber to feed its sawmills in Louisiana and Texas, and a new source was needed, preferably near a deep-water port for export. Because of the ideal location for rail and water, Robert A. Long, chairman of Long-Bell, purchased 14,000 acres of the Columbia River Valley bottom to build a mill site and accompanying town. Surveys revealed that there were miles of deep-water frontage at this point on the Columbia River, and a turning basin which permitted ocean-going vessels to dock under their own power.

Nationally known city planners were commissioned to design a model and modern city adequate not only to immediate but also to future development. Robert A. Long's vision for a "Planned City" was born. A large-scale city plan that could accommodate 50,000 inhabitants was proposed by J.C. Nichols, a planner and close personal friend of Mr. Long. Long agreed and appointed Nichols to assemble a planning team. George Kessler, a well-known city planner, was selected, as was the respected landscape architectural and town planning firm of Hare & Hare. They drafted the actual plans for the new city.

The city's design, representative of the "*city beautiful" movement*, designated residential and commercial districts adjacent to but opposite of the Civic Center. Within the heart of the planned residential district was Fowler's Slough, a marsh that was dredged to create a large, naturalistic park in the Romantic tradition. Today the area is known as Lake Sacajawea and is the focal point of the city. Restrictions were made for property use, as well as designating arterial streets, park areas, a community center, a business district, and manufacturing and industrial locations. The industrial district was platted south of the commercial district nearer the river. Boulevards with wide streets were laid in the fashion patterned after Rome and Paris.

Begun in 1922, most of the construction was completed by 1927. The Long-Bell investment for the timber, mills, and the city's utilities and buildings totaled $50 million. Many of R.A. Long's contributions to Longview actively survive today.

75 Years Strong and Growing

Longview's name is derived from its founding father, Longview was officially dedicated in July 1923, and was incorporated in February of 1924; a municipal government was established. In 1998, the city of Longview celebrated its 75th anniversary and proudly remembered the visionary efforts of Robert Alexander Long.

Longview Today

The city 's population is 37,710, making it the largest city in Cowlitz County. Longview is located at the junction of Interstate 5 and Washington State Highways 4, 411, 432 and 433, approximately 75 miles east of the Pacific Ocean, 128 miles south of Seattle and 41 miles north of Portland, Oregon. The elevation of the city ranges from 12 to 120 feet above sea level.

Ideally situated between Seattle and Portland, Longview offers residents a comfortable small-city lifestyle with opportunities for year-round recreation. Residents are removed from urban congestion and problems, yet are within an easy drive of big-city amenities.

Flowering trees line the streets of the Longview, nestled at the confluence of the Cowlitz and Columbia Rivers in southwest Washington. Longview has the distinction of having been named a *Tree City U.S.A.* for more than 30 consecutive years. The Parks and Recreation department maintains over 12,000 trees of many varieties. Longview has strived to preserve its unique history in the midst of modern conveniences, and was once designated a *Main Street* city.

Longview's moderate winters and summers offer year-round enjoyment of the Pacific Northwest's magnificent beauty. Its location makes Longview a perfect vacation headquarters. Visitors can trout or bass fish from a mountain lake, deep-sea fish in the Columbia River, or enjoy beachcombing and storm watching at the Pacific Ocean. Nearby Mount St. Helens is also a popular attraction. Roads and over 70 miles of trails have been built for those wishing to explore the volcanic landscape. Helicopter tours and flights are also available.

Throughout the year, Longview offers major city-wide events for family enjoyment. Our Go-4th celebration is one of the area's largest 4th of July events. The Thunder Mountain Pro Rodeo, held in conjunction with the Cowlitz County Fair, attracts the finest competition in the country. Squirrel Fest is an event which offers something for all ages and grows in popularity every year.

Amenities

- Access to the I-5 corridor as well as access to Oregon via the Lewis and Clark Bridge over the Columbia River
- Transcontinental bus service and Amtrak rail service
- National and international flights out of Portland International Airport; the Longview/Kelso Airport serves small aircraft
- St. John's Medical Center (PeaceHealth Hospital), eight nursing/retirement homes (with more being built), Hospice Care Center, and Kaiser Permanente medical facility
- Lower Columbia Community College and a Washington State University branch campus, two high schools, three middle schools, seven elementary schools and specialized education for the disabled

Points of Interest in the Longview Area

- *R.A. Long Park* – In the heart of the Civic Center, named for founding father Robert A. Long
- *Library Grounds* – Beautiful rose garden, giant squirrel memorial, Shay Locomotive, and the Nutty Narrows Bridge

- ◆ *Monticello Convention* commemoration – Memorial in R.A. Long Park in the Civic Center
- ◆ *Catlin Cemetery* – Final resting place for many members of the Monticello Convention
- ◆ *Cowlitz County Historical Museum* – In Kelso, our neighboring city, Native American artifacts, quilts, and logging equipment
- ◆ *Lake Sacajawea* – Scenic 3.5 mile walking/jogging path, several playgrounds, home to squirrels, birds, ducks and geese
- ◆ *Historical buildings* – 41 buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Longview Register

City Commissions, Boards, and Committees

The following are the current commissions, boards, and committees on which citizens may serve. In addition, citizens may serve as volunteers or on short-term committees.

Accessibility Advisory Committee

APPOINTED BY: Mayor with City Council confirmation. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Three years.
MEETINGS: Third Monday of January, March, May, July, September, November at 4:00 p.m. in the small conference room at City Hall.
DUTIES: The purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is to assist and advise the City of Longview on the most appropriate means by which to make its programs, services, activities and facilities accessible to all of its residents and visitors. The committee's primary roles are to advise the City on issues related to accessibility, bring to City staff's attention issues related to accessibility and provide support to the city ADA coordinator. Committee members provide advice on how to enhance accessible community resources and emergency preparedness issues for the City. The work of the Accessibility Advisory Committee does not replace other City of Longview outreach or public involvement efforts. City staff will include the committee's input in its decision making process. Final decisions will reside with staff and city council.

The accessibility advisory committee operates under a committee charter approved by city council. The charter document is available upon request. Committee meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed at the "Agenda & Minutes" page on the City of Longview webpage at www.mylongview.com.

Appeal Board of Adjustment

APPOINTED BY: City Manager with City Council confirmation. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Five years.
MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
DUTIES: Issues special property use permits and has the right to determine suitability of alternate new materials/ types of construction after public hearing. Authorizes granting of variances from zoning ordinances of the City where compliance is impractical or impossible. Also reviews any interpretation of the provisions of Title 16 or 19 of the Longview Municipal Code made by the building official, and any order, requirement, or decision made by the building official in the application of the specific title provision to any parcel of land and/or structure. Affirms or reverses the interpretation made by the building official, and grants variances and special property use permits. The board's decisions are based upon the records and evidence in each case.

Citizen's Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials

APPOINTED BY: Mayor with City Council confirmation. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Four years; may not serve more than two terms.
MEETINGS: As needed, but not less than once during even numbered years, prior to June 30.
DUTIES: Study the relationship of salaries to the duties of members of the City Council and Mayor, and fix the salaries for each respective position.

Civil Service Commission

APPOINTED BY: Mayor. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Six years.
MEETINGS: First Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Small Conference Room at City Hall.
DUTIES: Authorizes and approves recruitments and competitive testing to determine the relative qualifications of persons who seek employment in the Police and Fire Departments, and establishes eligibility and re-employment lists for various classes of positions. May hear appeals of examinations, disciplinary actions, or other matters that may be referred to the Commission. Administers Civil Service rules and regulations according to Title 41-RCW Washington State Law. Approves lists of the most qualified applicants for entrance and promotional exams.

Consolidated Diking Improvement District (CDID) No. 1 Advisory Committee

APPOINTED BY: City Manager || **LENGTH OF TERM:** These appointments are for indefinite successive terms of one year. Upon the occurrence of a vacancy, the appropriate appointing authority shall appoint a replacement member.
MEETINGS: Monthly
DUTIES: The CDID Advisory Committee provides a forum for community input. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Board of Supervisors of items, issues, planning, and financing of the District as outlined and/or approved by the Board of Supervisors. The membership is comprised of nine committee positions that are held by local government officials and representatives from local businesses who have a vested interest in, or the potential to be affected by District operations. Applicants must be a resident of the City of Longview.

Disability Board

APPOINTED BY: Two Council representatives are appointed by the Mayor, Council confirms. Fire and Police department representatives are elected by Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters (LEOFF I) members in their respective departments. The Board elects a Member at Large.
LENGTH OF TERM: Fire Department representatives are elected in February of even years for two years. Police Department representatives are elected in February of odd years for two-year terms. The Board elects a Member at Large for an indefinite term.
MEETINGS: Last Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Small Conference Room at City Hall.
DUTIES: Administers State RCWs regarding LEOFF I members. Considers and approves medical bills submitted by LEOFF I members.

Downtown Advisory Committee

APPOINTED BY: City Council. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Three years with no limitation on re-appointments.
MEETINGS: Monthly meetings beginning at 8 a.m. at Longview City Hall on the second Monday of the month.
DUTIES: Serves as the primary group to recommend implementation of the strategies and goals that are described in the Longview Downtown Planfor the purpose of enhancing the economic vitality of the Downtown Commerce District. Also makes recommendations regarding the need for and use of on-street parking in the downtown area.

Golf Course Advisory Committee

APPOINTED BY: City Manager, City Council confirms. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Two one-year terms and three three-year terms.
MEETINGS: Minimum of quarterly meetings are held at the Recreation Building (2920 Douglas Street) at 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each quarter.
DUTIES: Performs studies and makes recommendations through the Parks and Recreation Director to the City Manager and Council regarding long-range planning, improvement, and operation of the Mint Valley Golf Course and how to best utilize these facilities to meet public needs. (Per Resolution No. 1336) Acts as liaison between the golfing public and the department, including the golf maintenance staff.

Historic Preservation Committee

APPOINTED BY: City Council. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Appointments are for a three-year period, with staggered terms.
MEETINGS: Fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Small Conference Room at Longview City Hall.
DUTIES: Identifies and actively encourages the conservation of the city's historic resources by initiating and maintaining a register of historic places and reviewing proposed changes to register properties. Raises community awareness of the city's history and historic resources, and serve as the city's primary resource in matters of history, historic planning, and preservation. Conducts and maintains a comprehensive inventory of historic resources within the boundaries of the city known as the Longview historic inventory.

Housing Opportunities of SW Washington (formerly Longview Housing Authority)

APPOINTED BY: Mayor. || **LENGTH OF TERMS:** Five years.
MEETINGS: Fourth Monday of the month at 4 p.m., unless advertised differently.
DUTIES: Enacts policies and procedures to be administered by the Executive Director and staff. Reviews and approves financial auditing reports of program activities, offers oversight and direction for the planning of future activities, and provides these services to most of a three-county area — Cowlitz, Pacific and Wahkiakum — excluding the cities of Kelso and Kalama. The mission is to "provide opportunities to people who experience barriers to housing because of income, disability, or special need, in an environment that preserves personal dignity and in a manner that maintains the public trust." This results in administration of HUD Section 8 rental assistance to low-income residents of the service area, provision of special housing for chronic mentally ill, and other special housing as the need may arise.

Library Board of Trustees

APPOINTED BY: Mayor, Council confirms. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Five years. No appointment shall exceed two full consecutive terms (RCW 27.12.025).
MEETINGS: First Monday of each month (unless it falls on a holiday) at 4 p.m. at the Library's Board Room.
DUTIES: Represents the Library both to the people of Longview and to the governing officials. Ensures that adequate funds are obtained for good library service, promotes the best possible use of all library resources in the area, improves the existing library, and extends library service to those not previously served.

Loan Review Board

APPOINTED BY: City Manager. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Three years
MEETINGS: As needed
DUTIES: Develops, amends, adopts and implements all operating policies and procedures for the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program. Reviews, selects, and approves RLF loan applications, and makes final decisions concerning RLF loans, consistent with adopted RLF policies and procedures.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

APPOINTED BY: City Council. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** One-year renewable terms. (Ordinance 2680, Resolution 1633)
MEETINGS: Prior to Longview City Council's budget meeting and as necessary.
DUTIES: Review outside agency requests and make a recommendation to the City Council as to the expenditure of lodging tax revenues to support these agencies' requests.

Mosquito Control District Board

APPOINTED BY: City Council. || **LENGTH OF TERMS:** Two years.
MEETINGS: Four times per year.
DUTIES: Provides policy and guidance for mosquito control district.

Parks and Recreation Board

APPOINTED BY: City Council. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Three years.
MEETINGS: Third Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Recreation Building (2920 Douglas Street).
DUTIES: Undertakes studies and makes recommendations regarding Longview's parks and recreation facilities and programs to best meet public needs. Acts as a liaison between the public and the Parks and Recreation Department to provide feedback in regards to department needs, policies, and activities. (Resolution 1887).

Planning Commission

APPOINTED BY: City Council || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Four years.
MEETINGS: First Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
DUTIES: Serves in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council with respect to the best methods of ensuring the growth, development, and expansion of the municipality. May conduct studies, analyses, research, and reports concerning municipal development, expansion, and general welfare made through the office of the Community & Economic Development Director. Holds the required public hearings for amending Title 19 of the Longview Municipal Code. Performs such administrative functions as holding hearings on preliminary plats of proposed subdivisions, and makes recommendations to City Council regarding changes to the Longview Municipal Code, Title 19. The Planning Commission has all the powers and duties as specified in RCW 35A.63.030.

Project Longview

APPOINTED BY: City Council. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Three years.
MEETINGS: First Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the training room at City Hall (or as needed)
DUTIES: Dedicated to building and maintaining a vibrant Longview. Provides recommendations for activities to further the economic growth and tourism of the City. The Committee has worked on projects such as city beautification planning, streetscape planning and city signage.

Public Development Authority

APPOINTED BY: City Council. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Four years.
MEETINGS: Third Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the small conference room at City Hall
DUTIES: Assists with and facilitates the redevelopment of property within the Event Center Master Plan area.

Sister City Commission

APPOINTED BY: City Council. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Three years.
MEETINGS: Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the small conference room at City Hall.
DUTIES: The commission serves as the primary group to process and make recommendations for cultural exchanges with sister cities of the City of Longview, and provides recommendations for activities to further the cultural diversity and or economic relations of the City as it relates to sister cities. The commission encourages, conducts, sponsors or co-sponsors, for the benefit of the citizens of Longview, public programs to further the development and public awareness of, interest in, and furthering of cultural activities between sister cities and the City. The commission is a central body to whom parties interested in cultural activities related to the sister cities may come for information or assistance.

Stormwater Advisory Committee

APPOINTED BY: City Manager. || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Two years.
MEETINGS: As needed
DUTIES: The committee makes recommendations to the city council and city staff regarding implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit and Longview's Stormwater Management Plan.

Visual Arts Commission

APPOINTED BY: City Manager || **LENGTH OF TERM:** Three years.
MEETINGS: Minimum of four meetings per year. Quarterly on the 4th Wednesday of January/April/July/October at 5 p.m. at the Recreation Building (2920 Douglas Street)
RESPONSIBILITIES: All members of the commission shall have a demonstrated knowledge, interest or expertise in the area of visual arts. The Commission serves as an advocate of the visual arts, promotes public awareness and provides advice about ownership, placement, and display of visual art in public buildings, parks, and other places. (Ordinance 2808).

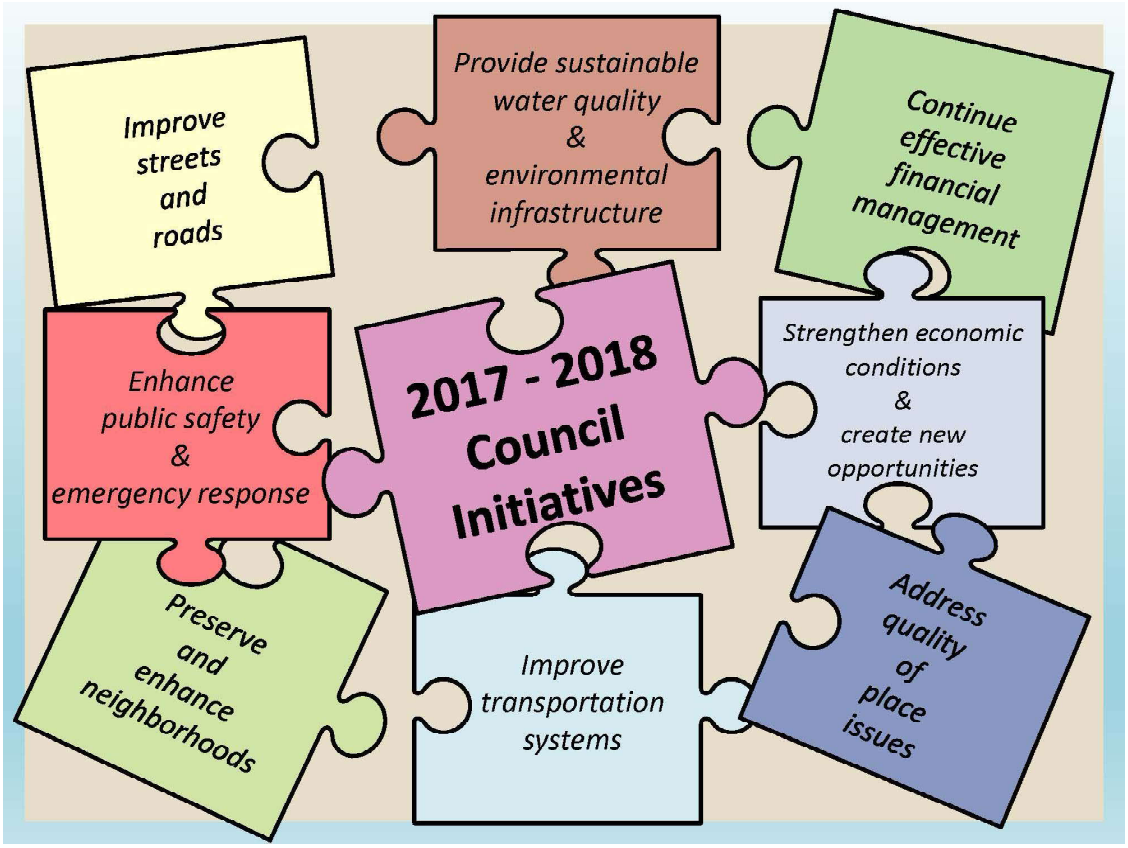
Longview's Mission Statement

It is the mission of the City of Longview to develop and implement strategies that protect and improve the quality of life in our community. In doing so, we strive to deliver services in a cost-effective manner and within an acceptable level of risk. Our vision of Longview requires forward-thinking leadership that creates an environment for excellence within the organization and promotes inclusiveness within the community.

Longview 2023: Our Preferred Future

In 1994, the City's strategic plan (*Longview 2023: Our Preferred Future*) was developed to guide City policy and budgeting in an effort to create a "preferred" future for Longview. During that process the City Council recognized that the vision should be flexible and open to change and improvements, and that new possibilities and challenges would emerge over the next 20-plus years. The *Longview 2023* team summarized the following as vision-critical strategies to achieving a preferred future:

- ◆Maintain the City in a financially solvent position
- ◆Infuse and perpetuate the vision beyond election cycles
- ◆Communicate the vision
- ◆Strengthen the City's commitment to a proactive role in area economic development
- ◆Preserve riverfront areas for multiple uses, including public/private development
- ◆Engage the City of Longview in regional efforts to establish seamless, multi-modal, regional transportation systems that will include access to high-speed rail, ground, and air transportation and an integrated system of bike paths and routes
- ◆Celebrate the high quality of life in Longview and Cowlitz County

Council's Strategic Initiatives

Each year during the Council's planning retreat, *Longview 2023* is reviewed, and goals and objectives are set based on this vision. Council has identified eight initiatives to achieve over the next three to five years.