



MINUTES

City Council Regular Session (livestreamed)

April 22, 2025

City Council Chambers, 350 Kimbark St., Longmont, CO

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The April 22, 2025, Regular Session of the Longmont City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Susie Hidalgo-Fahring in the City Council Chambers.

The Longmont City Council meets in person for two regular session meetings and one study session meeting each month.

Regular and study session meetings are live-streamed and can be watched at:

- *The City's Agenda Management Portal webpage*
at <https://www.longmontcolorado.gov/online-services/agendas-and-minutes/agenda-management-portal>
- *The City's YouTube channel* at <https://Bit.Ly/Longmontyoutubelive>
- *Via Longmont Public Media's website*
at <https://LongmontPublicMedia.Org/Watch/>
- *On Comcast Channels 8 or 880*

All City Council meetings are open to the public.

2. ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Krystal Shed, Deputy City Clerk, called the roll. Those present were Mayor Pro Tem Hidalgo-Fahring and Council Members Diane Crist, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, and Shiquita Yarbrough.

Mayor Pro Tem Hidalgo-Fahring led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Peck was absent.
Council Member McCoy was absent.

3. CHAIR REMINDER TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Pro Tem Hidalgo-Fahring reviewed the procedures for Public Invited to be Heard and Public Hearings.

Public participation at regular and special City Council meetings is regulated by Rule 5 of City Council Rules of Procedure.

- **Speakers should sign up on the sheet outside of Council Chambers prior to the start of the meeting at 7 pm.**
- **Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes and one person may not give or assign their time to others.** The Chair may regulate the time for public participation, may restrict cumulative or redundant presentations, and may require that each speaker's comments pertain to the subject under discussion
- **Only Longmont residents and employees of the City of Longmont may speak during "First Call – Public Invited To Be Heard" (Item 8) and must sign up on the list prior to the start of the meeting**
- **Persons wishing to speak on a specific Second Reading or Public Hearing Item (Item 10) are asked to add their name to the speaker list for the specific item prior to the start of the meeting**
- **Anyone may speak and no sign-up is required to speak during "Final Call – Public Invited To Be Heard" (Item 13)**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 8, 2025 – Regular Session

MOTION

Diane Crist moved, seconded by Aren Rodriguez, to approve the April 8, 2025 – Regular Session minutes as presented

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

5. AGENDA REVISIONS, AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS, AND MOTIONS TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO ADD AGENDA ITEMS TO FUTURE AGENDAS

MOTION

Aren Rodriguez moved, seconded by Shiquita Yarbrough, to direct staff to bring back to a study session, concepts on increasing development height limits in certain zoning districts

Approved: Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: Diane Crist

Abstained: None

Carried: 4 – 1

MOTION

Susie Hidalgo-Fahring moved, seconded by Shiquita Yarbrough, to direct staff to include in the ordinance a limit of three registered sex offenders, based on legal advice received via a confidential email from the City Attorney's Office

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

MOTION

Susie Hidalgo-Fahring moved, seconded by Aren Rodriguez, to use up to \$10,000 from Council Contingency Funds for this year's Juneteenth event and earmark \$10,000 per year for ongoing Juneteenth celebrations in future years

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no report from the City Manager.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Update On Metropolitan District Funding For Youth Programs In Longmont

Christina Pacheco, Director of Human Services, presented an update on youth activity funding made possible through the Metropolitan State Stadium grant, which provided over \$980,000 in support. The Youth Council and the Children, Youth and Families team developed the funding framework. Pacheco shared a video produced by Longmont Public Media featuring updates from 16 funded agencies, highlighting the positive impact and diversity of youth programs supported by the grant.

B. A Proclamation Designating May 1-31, 2025, As "Older Americans Month" In Longmont, Colorado.

Mayor Pro Tem Hidalgo-Fahring read the proclamation into the record and invited Karen Roney, President of the Board of Directors for Friends of the Longmont Senior Center, and John Higgins, Chair of the Longmont Senior Citizens Advisory Board, to accept it. Roney provided an update on upcoming events and activities at the Longmont Senior Center.

8. FIRST CALL - PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Melissa Irwin, 2094 Winding Drive, expressed concerns about the increasing number of registered sex offenders living at the Winding Drive residence, questioned its certification, and requested transparency and safety measures from the City.

Melinda Jordan, 1110 Twin Peaks Circle, praised the St. Vrain Valley School District's Innovation Center for its drone presentation at the Colorado Space Symposium, highlighting Longmont's history and ongoing leadership in advanced technology and aerospace.

Connie Hamming, 2129 Winding Drive, questioned the appropriateness of operating a recovery facility for sex offenders in a single-family R1-zoned neighborhood, urging the City to enforce zoning regulations.

Adilene Marquez, Longmont resident from Boulder County Public Health, urged Council to deny or significantly amend ordinance 2025-29, citing health risks from indoor marijuana smoke and insufficient worker protections.

Chelsea Jewell, 2040 Sunlight Drive, asked Council to uphold its stated values of public safety by preventing densely housed sex offender facilities near schools and parks.

Anna Graves, 2293 Winding Drive, criticized the expansion of the Winding Drive facility, questioned the legitimacy of its vetting and certification process, and urged Council to prevent further growth and protect neighborhood safety.

Charlotte Iverson, 182 Olympia Avenue, called for an ordinance limiting the number of sex offenders per dwelling and setting distance requirements from sensitive areas, and criticized the City for allowing a commercial facility in a residential zone.

Strider Benston, 951 17th Avenue, reflected on recent local and global events, praised community activism in Longmont, and commemorated Pope Francis as a rare and compassionate religious leader.

John Lembke, 744 Stonebridge Drive, celebrated Longmont's positive attributes including family-friendly infrastructure, education, technology, and community spaces, and signaled a future request regarding ranked choice voting.

Steve Altschuler, 1555 Taylor Mountain Drive, urged Council to conduct discussions on sensitive community matters transparently in public, expressed distrust in government secrecy, and criticized recent legislative actions impacting parental rights.

9. CONSENT AGENDA AND INTRODUCTION AND READING BY TITLE OF FIRST READING ORDINANCES

Krystal Shed, Deputy City Clerk, read the titles of the ordinances and the Second Reading and Public Hearing Date into the record and reviewed all of the items on the Consent Agenda.

The Second Reading and Public Hearing for all ordinances introduced on this consent agenda will be held on May 6, 2025

Council Member Popkin noted that the Mayor was originally going to prompt this discussion but, in her absence, some information may not have been fully communicated and asked Harold Dominguez, City Manager, to explain what is happening behind the scenes regarding the ordinance on sex offender distance requirements and to share, as appropriate, what staff and the city are currently working on, given the legal sensitivities involved.

Dominguez responded that several efforts are underway. First, the ordinance regarding sex offender distance requirements is being drafted for consideration on May 6th. Based on Council direction, a second ordinance addressing limits on the number of registered sex offenders in a dwelling unit is also being prepared. With no council meeting on April 29th, both ordinances will be included in upcoming council packets. City Attorney Eugene Mei will provide legal guidance on these matters.

Operationally, staff is addressing several complex issues, which will be detailed in the upcoming council communication. Dominguez explained that state legislation has limited local authority, complicating the enforcement of existing city codes. Key changes include: (1) requirements to treat certain group living facilities the same as single-family homes, (2) prohibitions on banning accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and (3) restrictions on regulating housing based on the number of related occupants. Staff is carefully navigating these state-imposed constraints, which pose challenges not only for Longmont but for cities statewide. Work is also ongoing to ensure compliance with building and fire codes, as exemptions still apply despite the new land use laws.

Dominguez noted that staff have faced similar challenges to those of Longmont residents in obtaining information and have filed open records requests to secure the necessary details. Additional requests citing case law have been initiated to strengthen the city's position. Dominguez emphasized that contractors working for the state are not exempt from transparency requirements.

Dominguez added that while the situation remains difficult, staff are working to address the issues. A detailed presentation covering all aspects will be provided at the May 6th meeting, and all materials will be made publicly available through the council's agenda portal.

- A. **O-2025-27**, A Bill For An Ordinance Conditionally Approving The Vacation Of A LPC And Water Easement And A Utility Easement Generally Located West Of Sunset Street And North Of Donovan Drive, Along The Southern Boundary Of Lots

1 & 2 Bacon's Subdivision Replat B

Council Member Crist pulled the item to raise awareness about national energy policy concerns, particularly the need to maintain access to all energy sources to avoid potential funding impacts. She related this to the easement vacation request, noting project-specific circumstances, including costs to relocate the gas easement.

MOTION

Diane Crist moved, seconded by Aren Rodriguez, to approve **O-2025-27**, A Bill For An Ordinance Conditionally Approving The Vacation Of A LPC And Water Easement And A Utility Easement Generally Located West Of Sunset Street And North Of Donovan Drive, Along The Southern Boundary Of Lots 1 & 2 Bacon's Subdivision Replat B

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

- B. O-2025-28**, A Bill For An Ordinance Approving The Vacation Of An Utility Easement On Parcels A, B, And C Of A Tract Of Land North Of Sunset Diagonal Business Park And West Of Fletcher Minor Subdivision Plat, Generally Located Southeast Of The Intersection Of Nelson Road And Fairgrounds Road

MOTION

Diane Crist moved, seconded by Aren Rodriguez, to approve the consent agenda except items A, C

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

C. O-2025-29, A Bill For An Ordinance Amending Titles 6, 9, 10, And 15 Of The Longmont Municipal Code Implementing Marijuana Hospitality Licensed Establishments

Council Member Popkin pulled the item to express ongoing concerns about the marijuana hospitality ordinance, particularly regarding indoor smoking. Acknowledging that the policy was moving forward, he proposed an amendment to remove section 9.D to prohibit indoor smoking at marijuana hospitality businesses, citing public health concerns about secondhand cannabis smoke. Tim Hole, Assistant City Attorney, clarified the sections of the ordinance related to indoor smoking.

Council Members also noted that cannabis businesses would be required to have proper ventilation, and argued that banning indoor cannabis smoking while allowing cigar bars would be inconsistent. Council Members emphasized that adults knowingly choose to enter these facilities and added that allowing indoor consumption could help reduce secondhand smoke exposure in public areas, such as parks.

During the discussion, it was discovered that the first two pages of the ordinance were missing from the packet. Staff recommended postponing the item for reintroduction to ensure full transparency and discussion among all Council Members. Popkin withdrew his motion, and Council agreed to table the ordinance for reintroduction at the May 20th Regular Session.

MOTION

Matthew Popkin moved, seconded by Diane Crist, to amend O-2025-29, A Bill For An Ordinance Amending Titles 6, 9, 10, And 15 Of The Longmont Municipal Code Implementing Marijuana Hospitality Licensed Establishments by removing section 9.D from the ordinance

After Council discussion, Council Member Popkin withdrew the motion.

Approved: None

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

0 – 0

D. Approve One Capital Improvement Program Amendment

MOTION

Diane Crist moved, seconded by Aren Rodriguez, to approve the consent agenda except items A, C

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

10. ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ANY MATTER

A. O-2025-25, A Bill For An Ordinance Making Additional Appropriations For Expenses And Liabilities Of The City Of Longmont For The Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2025

Mayor Pro Tem Hidalgo-Fahring read the title of the ordinance into the record. There was no formal staff presentation on this item.

Mayor Pro Tem Hidalgo-Fahring opened a public hearing on this item. There being no one present to address Council on this issue, the public hearing was closed.

MOTION

Diane Crist moved, seconded by Aren Rodriguez, to pass and adopt **O-2025-25, A Bill For An Ordinance Making Additional Appropriations For Expenses And Liabilities Of The City Of Longmont For The Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2025**

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

B. O-2025-26, A Bill For An Ordinance Authorizing A Farmland Lease Agreement Between The City Of Longmont And J. Docheff Farms, LLC On The Olander Property

Mayor Pro Tem Hidalgo-Fahring read the title of the ordinance into the record. There was no formal staff presentation on this item.

Mayor Pro Tem Hidalgo-Fahring opened a public hearing on this item. There being no one present to address Council on this issue, the public hearing was closed.

MOTION

Diane Crist moved, seconded by Aren Rodriguez, to pass and adopt **O-2025-26, A Bill For An Ordinance Authorizing A Farmland Lease Agreement Between The City Of Longmont And J. Docheff Farms, LLC On The Olander Property**

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

The discussion and action on each item removed from the Consent Agenda is reflected under the item itself.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Zero Reading For An Ordinance Amending Title 15 Chapter 15.04 Section 15.04.020 Table 4.1 Table Of Allowed Uses Of The Longmont Municipal Code On Commercial Day Cares And 15.04.030.C.4 On Commercial Day Care Facilities

Kristin Cote, Senior Planner, provided information on a proposed code amendment update to allow commercial daycares as a permitted use in the N-PE zone. The goal was to expand access to childcare while maintaining environmental and safety protections. Amendments included requiring environmental buffer studies, prohibiting facilities near unmitigated hazards, and outlining review and appeal processes.

Council discussion focused on traffic concerns near existing facilities, but staff clarified that the amendments addressed only environmental risks, with traffic handled separately through site plan reviews. Staff also noted that state-run schools are exempt from local zoning codes.

Council members expressed support for moving forward with the draft as proposed, and staff was directed to prepare the ordinance for formal introduction at a future meeting.

B. 2025 Legislative Bills Recommended For City Council Position

Sandi Seader, Assistant City Manager, reviewed HB25-1268, concerning the financing of a utility on-bill repayment program for certain energy-related improvements. This bill requires the Colorado Energy Office to establish a state utility on-bill repayment program to help finance energy efficiency measures, electrification measures and energy upgrades installed at utility customers' premises that are repaid through customers' monthly utility bill payments.

The bill requires gas or electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to propose a plan to the public utilities commission for establishing or expanding an existing on-bill repayment program for the commission to review and approve, disapprove, or modify. The bill requires the state treasurer, on July 1, 2025, to make an interest-free loan in the amount of \$100 million from the unclaimed property trust fund to the state utility on-bill repayment program cash fund, which fund is created in the bill, to support the financing of the on-bill repayment programs.

This bill will be voluntary for municipal utilities. On-bill financing is of interest to Longmont and a benefit of the bill is that it identifies a funding source.

Councilmember Popkin asked to bring this bill back for Council position consideration and since it is voluntary for municipalities and is enabling a mechanism to help meet climate and sustainability goals, staff recommends City Council supports HB25-1268.

MOTION

Matthew Popkin moved, seconded by Aren Rodriguez, Support HB25-1268

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

13. FINAL CALL - PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

John Grunsfeld, 229 Airport Road, provided an update on the advancement of electric aircraft, emphasized the economic impact of Vance Brand Airport, and recommended that Council form a task force to support airport improvements, especially in preparation for the upcoming Sundance Festival.

Ryan Forbes praised the Innovation Center for offering students the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree before high school graduation and urged Council to focus on practical, community-based safety measures when addressing housing and rehabilitation for sex offenders.

Nick Torres, representing the American Lung Association, urged Council to reconsider exemptions allowing indoor smoking in marijuana hospitality establishments, citing serious public health risks from indoor air pollution and emphasizing that it would reverse Longmont’s progress on smoke-free policies.

Paul Tiger stated he plans to return to propose changes to the Longmont Fair Campaign Practices Act, arguing that surrounding cities have adopted similar reforms and criticized the city’s current political practices.

14. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Popkin thanked Council for allowing an update regarding the sex offender registry ordinance.

15. CITY MANAGER REMARKS

The City Manager has no additional items to bring before City Council.

16. CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

The City Attorney had no additional items to bring before City Council.

17. ADJOURN

2025 Council Contingency: \$30,000

Carryover Contingency from 2024: \$101,486*

*(will be carried over after 2024 fiscal year close-out)

MOTION

Diane Crist moved, seconded by Matthew Popkin, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00.

Approved: Diane Crist, Susie Hidalgo-Fahring, Matthew Popkin, Aren Rodriguez, Shiquita Yarbrough

Dissented: None

Abstained: None

Carried: 5 – 0

CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The video of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@cityoflongmont>