

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present:

Mayor David Moore	Jonathan Blanton, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Shoemaker	Brian DuPont, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Ivory Craig	Alexis Hines, Human Resources Director
Councilman Jeff Meadows	Brian Reagan, Police Chief
Councilman Bryan Hough	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilman Kenneth Reeves	Robert Stewart, Deputy Utilities Director
Marie M. Anders, City Attorney	Eric Smallwood, Parks and Recreation Director - Absent
Tara Douglas, City Clerk – Absent	Michelle Wood, Finance Director - Absent
Shelly Stewart, Deputy City Clerk	Matt Black, Economic Development Director
	Jason Green, Public Works Director

INVOCATION

Peggy Thorns Ministry led the Council, Staff, and attendees in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 59 led the Council, Staff, and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Moore stated that there will be changes to the agenda. Mayor Moore stated that item four under presentations, the Ransom Hunter Park presentation, and Closed Session will be taken off of the agenda. Mayor Moore entertained a motion to set the agenda as amended.

Motion: Councilman Meadows made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilman Craig seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
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CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration and approval of the 2026 Planning Commission Meeting Schedule
2. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes: September 22, 2025

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion: Councilman Hough made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation recognizing October 2025 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Moore

Mayor Moore read the Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation, which included facts about breast cancer and proclaimed October 2025 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Mount Holly.

2. Recognition of retirement for Firefighter Travis Collier

Ryan Baker

Mayor Moore invited Chief Baker and Firefighter Travis Collier to join the Council in front of the dais. Chief Baker stated Travis Collier has been serving the City full time for 25 years but has served the community for almost 35 years in total, starting as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Catawba Heights Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Baker also recognized other retired firefighters in attendance. Chief Baker gave a history of Firefighter Collier's employment with the City's Fire Department starting on October 2, 2000. Mayor Moore read the Resolution Honoring Firefighter Travis Collier Upon His Retirement From the City of Mount Holly Fire Department. Chief Baker and Deputy Chief Spry gave Firefighter Collier a Commemorative Axe as a retirement gift.

3. Recognition of Former Wastewater Treatment Plant Employees

Jonathan Blanton

Mayor Moore invited Keith Lynch, Sarah Conder, and Karrigan Fowler to join the Council in front of the dais. Mayor Moore read the Proclamation Recognizing Keith Lynch, Sarah Conder, and Karrigan Fowler For Outstanding Performance In The Workplace. Mayor Moore presented each employee with a framed Proclamation.

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
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MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
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7:00 PM

4. Black History Forum Presentation

Jimmy Wilson

Mr. Wilson stated that the Mount Holly Black Forum Foundation has changed its name from the Black History Forum. Mr. Wilson stated he is the President of the Black Forum Foundation, and they are dedicated to preserving history, empowering the community, and creating opportunities for future generations. Mr. Wilson stated in April 2023, under the then-president Curtis Alexander, the name of the group and their mission changed. Mr. Wilson stated in 2024 new officers were elected. Mr. Wilson provided updates on events they have held this past year. Mr. Wilson stated in November 2024 they had their first Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner giveaway where they gave away around 100 turkeys to families in need. Mr. Wilson stated in February 2025, the Forum presented a Celebration of Culture with Mayor Moore and Councilman Craig taking part. Mr. Wilson stated that at this Celebration of Culture included a keynote speaker, Ronald Harold – an author, historian and lecturer. Mr. Wilson stated the music was by Mount Calvary Men’s Choir. Mr. Wilson stated that this was their first ticketed banquet and there was almost 200 people in attendance. Mr. Wilson stated in April 2025 member Priscilla Blalock, the assistant treasurer, ran the Mount Holly Run 3k and placed high for her age group. Mr. Wilson stated in May 2025 the Forum participated in SpringFest so they could be out in the community for people to recognize them. Mr. Wilson stated that also in May 2025 the John Hope Scholarship recipient was selected to be a student at East Gaston High School. Mr. Wilson stated in August 2025 they had school supply drive at River Street Park hosted by Natural Barber Shop. Mr. Wilson stated in September 2025 they attended the Ransom Hunter Park ribbon cutting. Mr. Wilson stated their upcoming events include on November 22, 2025 a Car Show and coat give away at River Street Park hosted by Natural Barber Shop, and also on November 22 they are doing another Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner giveaway with a local church. Mr. Wilson stated the Forum has a new website. Mr. Wilson stated they need a new office space to keep up with the community’s needs. Mr. Wilson asked to have a council liaison. Mayor Moore stated that they could appoint someone in December.

Councilwoman Harris thanked Mr. Wilson for the report and was happy to hear about all they are doing in the community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing to consider an update to Section 153.088 of the Subdivision Ordinance to add an approval signature block for rezoning plans. Case # TA-25-12.

Jace Roberts, Planning Intern

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

7:00 PM

Mr. Roberts stated this update adds an approval signature block to rezoning plans. Mr. Roberts stated this block will appear on rezoning plans that have to be signed off by the planning director to prove the plan meets all expectations of the City. Mr. Roberts stated this signature block is commonplace in a development process and already appears on our construction plans. Mr. Roberts stated that staff feels this adds a level of verification to the development process and makes sure rezoning plans are consistent with City regulations. Mr. Roberts stated the Planning Commission recommended approval at their public hearing last week.

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to go out of the regular meeting and into the Public Hearing.

Motion: Councilman Meadows made a motion to go out of the regular meeting and into the Public Hearing. Mayor Pro-Tem Shoemaker seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

Mayor Moore stated that there was no one signed up to speak at the Public Hearing. Mayor Moore entertained a motion to go out of the Public Hearing and back into the regular meeting.

Motion: Councilwoman Harris made a motion to go out of the Public Hearing and back into the regular meeting. Councilman Hough seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

Motion: Councilman Hough made a motion to approve the update to Section 153.088 of the Subdivision Ordinance to add an approval signature block for rezoning plans. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

2. Public hearing to consider an update to Section 6.8 of the Table of Permitted Uses, and Section 7.1 – Notes to Table – Note #25 of the City’s Zoning Ordinance to update regulations regarding temporary and coexisting uses. Case # TA-25-13

Greg Beal

Mr. Beal stated this is the third time this has been before the Council this year. Mr. Beal provided a recap of the direction given by Council in August. Mr. Beal stated the redlines he has presented have been vetted by the Planning Commission, staff, and the Council. Mr. Beal stated that staff took feedback from Ms. Yow from the last meeting to allow weighted and secured canopy tents for customers for mobile uses in public parallel parking spaces to get them out of the elements, but stand-alone tents for temporary uses, for example, like tents at Springfest, are not allowed. Mr. Beal stated that out of the 18 towns with these types of ordinances, only 8

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

7:00 PM

prohibit parking in the public right of way. Mr. Beal stated the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve this update.

Councilman Hough stated he wanted to be sure there is a provision for inclement weather (rain or heat) to allow a tent for people to stand under. Mr. Beal stated that this would be allowed for a mobile use.

Mayor Pro-Tem Shoemaker stated the redlines site Gaston County Health Department Permits. Mayor Pro-Tem Shoemaker asked if these permits are applicable to trucks that are coming from outside of Gaston County? Mr. Beal stated he believes that food trucks have to be permitted by the county they are operating in. Mr. Beal stated that there will be resources and links on the City's website to help people with questions about the ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem Shoemaker asked if Mr. Beal feels the way the redlines are worded implies that permits are mandatory if applicable? Mr. Beal stated the redlines do say if applicable because not all mobile uses will have that requirement depending on the entity they are regulated by.

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to go out of the regular meeting and into the Public Hearing.

Motion: Councilman Hough made a motion to go out of the regular meeting and into the Public Hearing. Councilman Craig seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

Mayor Moore stated that there was no one signed up to speak at the Public Hearing. Mayor Moore entertained a motion to go out of the Public Hearing and back into the regular meeting.

Motion: Councilman Craig made a motion to go out of the Public Hearing and back into the regular meeting. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

Motion: Mayor Pro-Tem Shoemaker made a motion to approve the update to Section 6.8 of the Table of Permitted Uses, and Section 7.1 – Notes to Table – Note #25 of the City's Zoning Ordinance to update regulations regarding temporary and coexisting uses. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

Mr. Beal stated in conclusion, staff will have the application ready by November 3, 2025 and staff will work with any vendors as needed.

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Michelle Yow, 2021 Lake Vista Dr – Ms. Yow stated that the first Mount Holly Pride event was held last month as a business crawl with 14 downtown businesses participating, a vendor market, and a resource fair. Ms. Yow stated the event brought several hundred people downtown. Ms. Yow stated they had event passports printed to get people to go around to different businesses to get stamped as a way to encourage people to visit businesses they may not normally go to. Ms. Yow stated there was an estimate of 500-600 people in attendance with people who had traveled from Winston-Salem, Raleigh, and Virginia. Ms. Yow stated this was a privately funded event with no City involvement. Ms. Yow stated their goal was to raise \$1500 to cover the event’s needs, and they ended up raising \$2806 from 57 donations. Ms. Yow stated they were able to donate almost \$500 to Time Out Youth, and \$721 to their Artist in Residence. Ms. Yow stated they kept \$500 to further programing and events, and to register as 501(c)(3) by the end of the year. Ms. Yow stated it was a disappointment for the City to make a post regarding their lack of involvement right before event and to see individual negative comments made on social media. Ms. Yow stated there were no protestors on site. Ms. Yow stated she hopes the City reconsiders their support of the event for next year.

2. Bob Hendricks, 122 Creekside Dr – Mr. Hendricks stated that he listened to tonight’s presentations and believes we have an incredible city. Mr. Hendricks stated the citizens care deeply about preserving the City’s charm and that they can prosper. Mr. Hendricks stated that for several months citizens have voiced their concerns about decisions made by the City Council. Mr. Hendricks stated citizens talk about a lack of transparency in the Council. Mr. Hendricks stated that some examples are proceeding with Veterans Park after a No vote, accepting a lower bid on 131 Main Street, promoting a tax rate deduction, and free meals. Mr. Hendricks stated there is a Councilmember with a company that the City is negotiating with, which is not illegal, but he questions whether it is ethical and if that person will recuse themselves in the future. Mr. Hendricks stated there is a concern over rising utility rates. Mr. Hendricks stated there was an issue from years ago with appointing Bryan Hough to Council when he did not win the election for Mayor. Mr. Hendricks stated the citizens said no but Council did not listen.

Councilman Hough asked for a point of personal privilege. Councilman Hough stated that he has tried to stay out of the rhetoric of this campaign. Councilman Hough stated he is appalled by what is happening in our community. Councilman Hough stated he can no longer sit idly while good people are maligned by vicious attacks on Facebook and behind their backs. Councilman Hough stated it has been alleged that the manner in which he was appointed to the Council was unethical. Councilman Hough stated he would like to point out that Mayor Moore was appointed

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

7:00 PM

to his seat on the Council to fill his remaining two terms 20 years ago and was not on the ballot at that time. Councilman Hough stated it was the same process used to appoint him, but people are not being told this. Councilman Hough stated people are only being told what specific individuals want them to hear. Councilman Hough stated that half-truths and false innuendos are being used to deceive people who are unaware of the truth. Councilman Hough stated it is a travesty to see the town he loves being embarrassed by so-called leaders who will do anything to win an election. Councilman Hough stated it is shameful and one day each of you will be held accountable for your misdeeds. Councilman Hough stated these same people want to undo the past 20 years of progress that many of us have worked hard to see accomplished together. Councilman Hough stated it is not the time to go backward. Councilman Hough stated it is time to move forward with those who lift up and move positively forward without tearing others down. Councilman Hough stated he genuinely fears for the future of our town if these people can accomplish their goals.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Economic Development Initiatives

Matt Black

Matt Black stated it has been one year since he has been on staff and tonight, he will showcase the economic development updates from the past year. Mr. Black stated the overall goals for economic development are to strengthen place and resilience, create and keep quality jobs, and grow the tax base sustainably. Mr. Black presented a comparative analysis of Mount Holly with Gaston County as a whole. Mr. Black stated that for example, Mount Holly is the youngest and most educated city in Gaston County. Mr. Black presented the business mix in Mount Holly, comparing the amount of business from different industries in Mount Holly to Gaston County. Mr. Black discussed the initiatives that he has taken on over the year, one being property availability tracking. Mr. Black provided an update on the Street Lights engagement. Mr. Black stated that staff has been meeting with Street Lights since the City agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding to get a development agreement together. Mr. Black stated the commercial investments since September 2024 includes issuing 62 commercial permits and over \$46 million in investments with key projects like the medical offices on Highway 273 and the Food Lion renovation. Mr. Black demonstrated some parts of the new economic development website, highlighting the available listings page and business directory. Mr. Black showed two videos made by Garland and Burks to promote economic development targeted at commercial businesses that will be showcased on social media in the next few weeks.

Councilman Hough said the videos looked good. Councilman Reeves thanked him for the work.

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

2. City Manager Report

Jonathan Blanton

Mr. Blanton stated he wanted follow up on Mr. Black's presentation to note that the videos he showed are an addition to last year's video series to promote communication and transparency. Mr. Blanton stated that last week the City was awarded the Nance Award for Regional Collaboration from Centralina Council of Governments in recognition for the Mount Holly Pump Station. Mr. Blanton stated there are lots of events coming up. Mr. Blanton stated that on Sunday November 2, 2025 is the opening of the Mount Holly Museum with an Open House at 2 pm at the Municipal Complex. Mr. Blanton wanted to give thanks to the Police Department, Fire Department, Special Events Team, and Public Works on a successful Mount Holly Nights season. Mr. Blanton stated he wanted to recognize the Fire Department for being awarded the SAFER grant which will provide over \$400,000 in federal funds to bring on new personnel to the Catawba Heights station and a formal announcement will be made in the coming days that the City attained an ISO rating of 1, which is the best rating a Fire Department can achieve. Mr. Blanton stated the City will be awarded over \$1.5 million for NCDOT sidewalk improvements along Beatty Road and Tuckaseege Road. Mr. Blanton stated that National Night Out at Tuckaseege Park was a successful event for the Police Department. Mr. Blanton stated the Pumpkin Piddle Paddle event will be held at River Street Park on Friday, October 24, 2025. Mr. Blanton stated the Lantern Parade will be downtown on Saturday, October 25, 2025.

Councilman Craig stated he is not sure on process the to change the food for the Council meetings, but he would like to look into having the restaurant changed from a Charlotte to a Mount Holly business. Mayor Moore stated he has spoken to the City Clerk about changing the menu while staying in the same price range.

ADJORN

Motion: Councilman Hough made a motion to adjourn the October 13, 2025 City Council meeting at 7:58 pm. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.