

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 6:30 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	Jason Green, Public Works Director
Marie M. Anders, City Attorney	Eric Smallwood, Parks\Recreation Director
Tara Douglas, City Clerk	Michelle Wood, Finance Director
	Matt Black, Economic Development Director
	Jon Ford, City Engineer
	Ken Kennedy, IT Director

INVOCATION

Gloria Mack from Life Center International led the Council, Staff, and attendees in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Craig led the Council, staff, and attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Councilman Reeves made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker seconded the motion.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Proclamation Honoring Veteran’s Day.
2. Approval of Minutes- City Council Meeting- October 13, 2025.

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

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Special Events Attendance Numbers

Chloe Clary

Miss Clary reviewed the special events' attendance numbers using Placer AI. Miss Clary explained that Placer AI is a software that helps collect data as it pertains to place and gave examples of how Placer AI uses data to show attendance, duration, and demographics of the visitors attending the special events in Mount Holly. Miss Clary stated that Placer AI is able to show where the event attendees are traveling from. Miss Clary highlighted the ways that Placer AI enhances the planning of events by evaluating return of investment (ROI), identifying staffing needs, placement of signage, and advertising optimization. The Mayor and Council thanked Miss Clary for her presentation as well as the success of the recent Pumpkin Piddle Paddle event.

2. Ransom Hunter Park Presentation

Eric Smallwood.

Mr. Smallwood showed a photo presentation of the park from beginning to end. Mr. Smallwood gave a brief historic overview of the process. Mr. Smallwood noted that the ribbon cutting for the park took place on September 20, 2025. Mr. Smallwood highlighted some of the special items in the park that are unique to this project to include the custom play structure that is a replica of Ransom Hunter's home and the custom-built benches by the City of Mount Holly's park maintenance staff from the wood of the historic family tree that fell on the property. Mr. Smallwood gave some statistics using Placer AI since the new park opened. Mr. Smallwood expressed his gratitude to all those who have been involved in this historic project.

NEW BUSINESS

1. City Manager Report

Jonathan Blanton

Mr. Blanton highlighted the induction of David Childers into the NC Music Hall of Fame and Congratulated him and acknowledged the impact that he has made to North Carolina. Mr. Blanton stated that the Pumpkin Piddle Paddle was a great success and very well attended. Mr.

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Blanton stated that the Lantern Parade was a great success and thanked Awaken Gallery. Mr. Blanton reviewed the Street Lights Plan for Veteran’s Park in light of the recent questions. Mr. Blanton stated that on Sunday, November 2, 2025 there will be the Mount Holly Museum Grand Opening. Mr. Blanton reviewed questions received regarding the Holly Springs property and stated that both he and Mayor Moore spoke out against this rezoning at the July meeting. Mr. Blanton stated that he spoke with the Gaston County Manager and was told that the buyer was pursuing a by-right development meaning that they are no longer requesting this conditional rezoning, but that the Gaston County Commissioners will have the final say as this is not in the City limits of Mount Holly. Mr. Blanton gave an update on the Pedestrian Street Bridge at River Street Park and stated that there has been some slowdown due to the Federal Government shutdown.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3 and 5)

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to go out of the regular meeting and into closed session.

Motion: Councilman Hough made a motion to go out of the regular meeting and into closed session at 7:04 PM. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Councilman Craig made a motion to come out of closed session and back into the regular meeting at 7:42 PM. 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 a 60-day extension to the Development Agreement with RTR Property Management LLC for 131 South Main Street. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURN

Motion: Councilman Hough made a motion to adjourn the October 27, 2025 City Council Meeting at 7:43 PM. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM