



January 26, 2026
City Council Work Session

Mayor David Moore
Mayor Pro-Tem Phyllis Harris
Councilman William T. Brooks
Councilman Ivory Craig
Councilman Jeff Meadows
Councilman Kenneth Reeves
Councilwoman Lauren Shoemaker
Marie M. Anders, City Attorney
Jonathan Blanton, City Manager



**City of Mount Holly
City Council
Work Session**

January 26, 2026 | 6:30 PM
Municipal Complex - Council Chambers
400 East Central Avenue
Mount Holly, NC 28120

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

SET THE AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Call for Public Hearing to consider a Development Agreement and Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Mount Holly and StreetLights Residential
2. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes - January 12, 2026

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of the Public Input Session for the Downtown Development Project
Matt Black

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the City Council Code of Conduct
Jonathan Blanton
2. City Manager Report
Jonathan Blanton

CLOSED SESSION

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

ADJOURN



Work Session Agenda Action Form

Meeting Date	From
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January 26, 2026

Matt Black, Economic Development Director
Economic Development

CONSENT AGENDA Item # 1

Call for Public Hearing to consider a Development Agreement and Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Mount Holly and StreetLights Residential

Will this require a public hearing?

Yes

Background/Purpose of Request

City Council is to consider calling for a public hearing to consider a Development Agreement and Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Mount Holly and StreetLights Residential. The proposed agreements involve redevelopment activities, construction of public improvements, and the conveyance of property necessary for the project.

Fiscal Impact

Will Item affect current budget?	No
Reviewed by Finance Director?	No
Preaudit Certification Required?	No
Capital Project Ordinance Required?	No
Budget Transfer Required?	No
Total City Dollars:	N/A
Budget Code:	N/A
Reviewed by City Attorney?	N/A

Manager/Staff Recommendation

Attachments

1. Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Mount Holly – Notice of Public Hearing

The Mount Holly City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex to consider approval of a Development Agreement and Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Mount Holly and StreetLights Residential for a proposed public-private redevelopment project pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160D-1315.

The project area includes the following Gaston County parcel identification numbers: 123784, 123780, 123838, 123837, 123836, 123835, 123834, and 123833.

The proposed agreements involve redevelopment activities, construction of public improvements, and the conveyance of property necessary for the project. All interested persons are invited to attend and comment.

Furthermore, the proposed documents are available for public review during normal business hours at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex, 400 East Central Avenue, Mount Holly, North Carolina 28120 and on the City's website.

This the 26th day of January, 2026.

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026
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 Phyllis Harris	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 Lauren Shoemaker- Absent	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilman Kenneth Reeves	Ken Kennedy, IT Director
Councilman William T. Brooks	Eric Smallwood, P&R Director
Marie M. Anders, City Attorney	Becky Conder, Interim Finance Director
Tara Douglas, City Clerk	Matt Black, Economic Development Director
	Jason Green, Public Works Director

INVOCATION

Pastor Charles McCorkle 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 removed Closed Session and moved Consent Agenda item #6 Budget Amendment and establish Capital Project Ordinance for the 911 Communications Center to New Business item # 3. Mayor Moore entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the proposed changes.

Motion: Councilman Meadows made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Pro Tem Harris seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 5-0. (Motion Carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Adopt amended Fee Schedule for 2025-2026 (Stanley Water Agreement)
2. Approval of Council Committee and Liaison Appointments for 2026-2027

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3. Appointment of Interim Finance Director
4. Budget Amendment for South Gateway Road Connector
5. Budget Amendment for Police Enterprise Leases
6. ~~Budget Amendment and establish Capital Project Ordinance for the 911 Communications Center~~
7. Approval of a Resolution Assigning the ABC Board Designee
8. Adopt update to Code of Laws Notice of Abatement for Nuisance Violations which is found in Chapter 50 section 50.035
9. Approval of Adoption of Six Liens for Nuisance Abatement
10. Call for a public hearing to consider a rezoning of Tax Parcel #'s 177847, 177844, 177594, 177846, and 218371 from R-1 (Gaston County) and R-12 (City) to City CD-MF (Conditional District Multifamily) for the Holly Heights Townhome Development, Case R-26-1.
11. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2025
12. Approval of Close Session Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2025

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

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Brooks seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 5-0. (Motion Carried)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Approval of the Final Design Associated with the Accuvision Mural Project

Paul Lowe

Mr. Lowe reviewed the project and stated that this project will be completed by the end of May 2026. Mr. Lowe stated that PAAC has reviewed the project and recommended approval by the Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to approve the final design associated with the Accuvision Mural Project. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 5-0. (Motion Carried)

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2. SpringFest Event Series

Chloe Clary, Eric Smallwood

Mr. Smallwood gave an update on the plans for various races in Mount Holly. Ms. Clary gave an update on the upcoming spring events and introduced some new events and changes. Ms. Clary announced that SpringFest has been reimaged into a new festival experience named Piedmont Arts & Cultural Experience (PACE). Ms. Clary explained that this event will be thoughtfully created to celebrate the arts, will feature hand crafted vendors, local musicians, interactive art installations and more. Ms. Clary stated that the desire is to create a regionally known and recognized event.

3. Waste Water Treatment Plant Decommissioning Update

Robert Stewart

Mr. Stewart presented the timeline of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Decommissioning project. Mr. Stewart stated that the expected date of completion is May 2026. Mr. Stewart stated that the total acres for the plant is 13.8 acres with 10.3 acres as workable area. Mr. Stewart pointed out the City of Charlotte's force main easement. Mr. Stewart pointed out that this entire property is on an assumed fillable flood plain which means that permits can be obtained to fill in above the flood plain.

Councilman Meadows stated that the other side of the river has a lot of construction going on and would like staff to get information out to the community to make citizens aware.

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to have this space at the former Waste Water Treatment Plant designated for the exclusive use of expanding the City's Parks and Recreation programming at Tuckaseege Park and direct staff to evaluate funding options for the City Council's consideration to fund amenities such as recreation facility and sports expansion on the site. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

Councilman Craig asked if this could be postponed for discussion. Mrs. Anders advised that there could be discussion before the motion is called to question. Mrs. Anders stated that it would also be appropriate for someone to make a motion to table as well.

Councilman Craig stated that this discussion seems like a lot to discuss since this is a potential site.

Mayor Moore stated that the Council has discussed expanding the park once this decommissioning happened.

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7:00 PM

Councilman Craig made a motion to table the discussion to another meeting. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. **(Motion Failed 2-3).**

Councilman Craig and Councilman Meadows voting Yay.

Councilman Reeves, Councilman Brooks and Mayor Pro Tem Harris voted Nay.

Mayor Moore reiterated that there is a motion on the table by Mayor Pro Tem Harris to have this space at the former Waste Water Treatment Plant designated for the exclusive use of expanding the City's Parks and Recreation programming at Tuckaseege Park and direct staff to evaluate funding options for the City Council's consideration to fund amenities such as recreation facility and sports expansion on the site. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion. (Motion Carried 5-0).

Councilman Reeves, Councilman Brooks and Mayor Pro Tem Harris voted Yay.

Councilman Craig and Councilman Meadows abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT- (3-minute limit)

1. Bob Henricks: Creekside Drive, Mount Holly- Mr. Henricks raised concerns regarding the ethics of the Council regarding the sale of 131 S. Main Street.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Downtown Development Timeline

Jonathan Blanton

Mr. Blanton reviewed the downtown development timeline to date. Mr. Blanton reviewed the various renderings that have been presented to the Council and stated that the Council has been very selective during this process. Mr. Blanton reviewed the current proposal with Street Lights and discussed the timeline moving forward. Mr. Blanton stated that this proposal includes 96 townhomes and a 2.7-acre park with \$5.2 million dollars to be invested in this property. Mr. Blanton stated that the City continues to negotiate, consult, and discuss what this partnership could look like. Mr. Blanton stated that the projected timeline will begin with a public information session (Mount Holly Matters) hosted by our partners at the Community Development Foundation on January 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Grand Hall.

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COUNCIL CHAMBERS

7:00 PM

2. Discussion of Zoning Districts and Lot Sizes

Greg Beal

Mr. Beal discussed the history of the zoning districts and lot sizes. Mr. Beal stated that concerns have been raised regarding development density. Mr. Beal reviewed the Land Use Plan adopted by the Council in June 2020 which laid out several place types based on future land use. Mr. Beal stated that one such place type is the Core Residential. Mr. Beal stated that most of the recommendations found within the Land Use Plan kept the density the same (4-10 dwelling units per acre for Core Residential and 4-6 dwelling units per acre for Neighborhood Residential. Mr. Beal stated that R-8 SF zoning with a 60-foot lot width and 8,000 square feet equated to 5.4 dwelling units per acre excluding R-O with infrastructure. Mr. Beal stated that at the 2025 Council Retreat, Council was unanimous that they did not want to see smaller lots in Catawba Heights, as recommended in the Land Use Plan. Mr. Beal stated that the Planning Commission made a unanimous recommendation that the Council consider mandating a minimum lot size for all new infill lots into the RD-District, based on staff research, as well as requiring all new annexations to meet the minimum standards of the R-8 zoning district.

Mr. Beal reviewed the state law impact on the City's action. Mr. Beal stated that the North Carolina General Assembly amended state law to greatly restrict local government discretion to amend local zoning ordinances. Mr. Beal explained that this statutory provision was amended as part of the Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 due to Hurricane Helene and states that local government cannot adopt a down-zoning without written consent from all impacted owners. Mr. Beal stated that this will likely be repealed by the North Carolina General Assembly, but this has frozen everything at the local government level.

3. Budget Amendment and establish Capital Project Ordinance for the 911 Communications Center

Jonathan Blanton

Mr. Blanton stated that this project has been in the works since February 2023 when the City posted an RFQ (request for qualifications) to redesign our 911 center. Mr. Blanton stated that our 911 center is one of only two here in Gaston County and has consistently received high praises for getting zero deficiencies and has not been comprehensively updated since 1991. Mr. Blanton stated that Stuart Cooper Newell was selected in 2024 to design the 911 center based on qualifications and recommended that the City advertise and post an RFQ for a construction manager at risk. Mr. Blanton stated that the City accepted a comprehensive proposal from Edifice to update the City's public safety answering point. Mr. Blanton stated that he is looking for a motion to approve this capital project ordinance for the 911 communication upgrades.

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COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

Councilman Craig made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment and establish a Capital Project Ordinance for the 911 Communications Center. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 5-0. (Motion Carried)

4. City Manager Report

Jonathan Blanton

Mr. Blanton thanked everyone for coming out to our holiday events. Mr. Blanton showed a promotional video highlighting the holiday season. Mr. Blanton reviewed the progress update from Olde Mecklenburg Brewery noting that they are on schedule. Mr. Blanton stated that on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm there will be a Mount Holly Matters meeting hosted by the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation to discuss our downtown park and redevelopment project. Mr. Blanton reviewed the information about the upcoming Small Business Networking Event to be held on January 13, 2026 at The Holland Restaurant. Mr. Blanton stated that the City administrative offices will be closed in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. day. Mr. Blanton stated that the City Council Retreat agenda has been finalized and will be published soon. Mr. Blanton addressed the issue of the December newsletter being inadvertently placed in the recent newsletter. Mr. Blanton stated that the Finance Department has reached out to the contractor as the issue was on their side to address. Mr. Blanton stated that the January newsletter is available on the City's website.

ADJORN

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to adjourn the January 12, 2026 City Council meeting at 8:13 pm. Councilman Brooks seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 5-0. (Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.



Work Session Agenda Action Form

Meeting Date

January 26, 2026

From

Matt Black, Economic Development Director
Economic Development

PRESENTATIONS

Item # 1

Presentation of the Public Input Session for the Downtown Development Project

Will this require a public hearing?

No

Background/Purpose of Request

Staff will be presenting the findings from the Public Input Session of the Downtown Development Project, which was held on January 22, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

Will Item affect current budget?	No
Reviewed by Finance Director?	No
Preaudit Certification Required?	No
Capital Project Ordinance Required?	No
Budget Transfer Required?	No
Total City Dollars:	N/A
Budget Code:	N/A
Reviewed by City Attorney?	No

Manager/Staff Recommendation

A recommendation is not required for this item.

Attachments

None



Work Session Agenda Action Form

Meeting Date

January 26, 2026

From

Jonathan Blanton, City Manager
City Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

Item # 1

Discussion of the City Council Code of Conduct

Will this require a public hearing?

No

Background/Purpose of Request

To review the Council Code of Conduct that was adopted on March 25, 2024

Fiscal Impact

Will Item affect current budget?
Reviewed by Finance Director?
Preaudit Certification Required?
Capital Project Ordinance
Required?
Budget Transfer Required?
Total City Dollars:
Budget Code:
Reviewed by City Attorney?

Manager/Staff Recommendation

Attachments

1. 3.25.2024 ADOPTED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CITY COUNCIL (1)



CITY of MOUNT HOLLY

David Moore, Mayor Lauren Shoemaker, Mayor Pro Tem Ivory Craig, Councilman Jeff Meadows, Councilman Bryan Hough, Councilman Kenneth Reeves, Councilman Phyllis Harris, Councilwoman Jonathan Blanton, City Manager

400 East Central Ave. Post Office Box 406 Mount Holly, NC 28120 704-827-3931 704-822-2933 fax www.mtholly.us

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE MAYOR AND MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY, NORTH CAROLINA

(A) Purpose

This Code of Conduct is designed to describe the manner in which City elected officials (the Mayor and City Council members) should interact with each other, City staff, constituents, and others they come into contact with while representing the City of Mount Holly. The constant and consistent theme through this resolution is respect. Demonstrating respect for each individual through words and actions is the touchstone that can help guide elected officials to do the right thing.

(B) Basic Responsibilities

All City elected officials should strive to:

1. Fully participate in City Council meetings and other public forums while demonstrating respect, kindness, consideration, and courtesy to others.
2. Prepare in advance of Council meetings and be familiar with issues on the agenda.
3. Be respectful of other people's time. Stay focused and act efficiently during public meetings.
4. Serve as a model of leadership and civility to the community.
5. Inspire public confidence in the City of Mount Holly government.
6. Demonstrate honesty and integrity in every action and statement.
7. Participate in scheduled activities to increase effectiveness and review Council procedures, such as this Code of Conduct.

(C) Policies and Protocol Related to Conduct

Endorsement of Candidates

Elected officials have the right to support candidates for all offices. It is inappropriate to endorse a candidate at an official City function, or while representing the City in an official capacity

(D) Council Conduct With One Another

In Public Meetings

1. Practice civility and decorum in discussions and debate.
Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of a free democracy in action. This does not allow, however,

elected officials to make belligerent, personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive or disparaging comments.

2. Honor the role of the Mayor in maintaining order.

It is the responsibility of the Mayor to keep the comments of elected officials on track during public meetings. Elected officials should honor efforts by the Mayor to focus discussion on current agenda items. If there is a disagreement about the agenda, or the Mayor's actions, those objections should be voiced politely and with reason, following procedures outlined in this Code of Conduct, the North Carolina General Statutes, any rules of procedure adopted by the City Council, and lastly Roberts Rules of Order for parliamentary procedure.

3. Avoid personal comments that could offend other elected officials.

If an elected official is personally offended by the remarks of another elected official, the offended elected official should make notes of the actual words used and call for a "point of personal privilege" that challenges the other elected official to justify or apologize for the language used. The Mayor will maintain control of this discussion.

4. Strive to demonstrate effective problem-solving approaches.

Elected officials have a public stage to show how individuals with disparate points of view can find common ground and seek a compromise that benefits the community as a whole.

In Private Encounters

5. Policy Making

No binding policy decisions are permitted to be made outside of a public meeting. The use of official City email is reviewable in a public information request or through a subpoena in a lawsuit. Therefore, a file should be maintained just like any other correspondence. The use of private email or other electronic media does not necessarily come under the same scrutiny, but can if used for City business. Elected officials should exercise discretion in any discussion of City business. A quorum of the Council should avoid discussing City business at one time by any means unless in an advertised public meeting.

6. Be aware of the insecurity of written notes, voicemail messages and email.

Written notes, voicemail messages and email should be treated as potentially "public" communication. Even though private communication cannot be prohibited from distribution, the use of a disclaimer, verbal or written, can act to protect the sender and should be respected. The litmus test should be: Would you feel comfortable if this voicemail/fax/email message appeared in the newspaper verbatim? How would that reflect on the City?

7. Guiding principles for elected officials when collaborating on legislation.

Collaboration among elected officials to develop proposed legislation, policy or ideas is acceptable. Bear in mind that four Council members constitute a quorum for the conduct of City business. It must be understood that no binding decisions can be made, and that the proposal must come before the whole Council for consideration in full, open discussion at a public meeting. Always bear in mind that any record or document of discussion of City business may be subject to public disclosure under North Carolina law. Documents as defined by the law include voicemails, texts, posts, pictures, etc.

(E) Conduct with Staff

Governance of the City relies on the cooperative efforts of elected officials, who set policy and City staff, who implement and administer the Council's policies. Therefore, every effort should be made to be cooperative and show mutual respect for the contributions made by each individual for the good of the community.

1. Treat all staff as professionals.

Clear, honest communication that respects the abilities, experience and dignity of each individual is expected. Poor behavior towards staff is not acceptable.

2. Limit contact to specific City staff.

Questions of City staff and/or requests for additional background information should be directed to the proper department head, the City Manager, or the Mayor. Each should be copied on appropriate questions, comments, or requests. Requests for follow-up or directions to staff should be made only through the appropriate chain of command. When in doubt about what staff contact is appropriate, Councilmembers should ask the Mayor or the City Manager for direction. Materials supplied to a Councilmember in response to a request must be made available to all members of the Council so that all have equal access to information.

3. Do not disrupt City staff from their jobs.

Elected officials should not disrupt City staff while they are in meetings, on the phone or engrossed in performing their job functions to have their individual needs met.

4. Never publicly criticize an individual employee.

Elected officials should never express concerns about the performance of a City employee in public or to the employee directly or to the employee's manager. Comments about staff performance should only be made to the City Manager or department head through private correspondence or conversation.

5. Do not get involved in administrative functions.

Elected officials must not attempt to influence City staff on the hiring for existing positions, processing of development applications, or granting of City licenses and permits.

6. Limit requests for staff support.

Routine secretarial support will be provided to all elected officials by the City administration staff. Requests for additional staff support should be made to the City Manager.

7. Do not solicit political support from staff.

Elected officials should not solicit any type of political support (financial contributions, display of posters or lawn signs, name on support list, etc.) from City staff. City staff may, as private citizens with constitutional rights, support political candidates, but all such activities must be done away from the workplace.

(F) Council Conduct with the Public

In Public Meetings

Making the public feel welcome is an important part of the democratic process. No signs of partiality, prejudice or disrespect should be evident on the part of the individual elected officials toward an individual participating in a public forum. Every effort should be made to be fair and impartial in listening to public testimony and comments.

1. Be fair and equitable in allocating public meeting time to individual speakers.

The Mayor will determine and announce limits on speakers at the start of the public comment process with the consent of the Council. The Mayor will advise speakers to state their name and address for the record and to address their comments to the Council.

2. Ask for clarification, but avoid debate and argument with the public.

Only the Mayor — not individual Councilmembers — can interrupt a speaker during a presentation. However, a Councilmember can ask the Mayor for a point of order or point of information if the speaker is off the topic or exhibiting behavior or language the Councilmember finds disturbing, or would like further information from the speaker.

If a speaker becomes flustered or defensive by Council questions, it is the responsibility of the Mayor to calm and focus the speaker and to maintain the order and decorum of the meeting. Questions by Councilmembers to members of the public testifying or speaking should seek to clarify or expand information. It is never appropriate to belligerently challenge or belittle the speaker.

3. No personal attacks of any kind, under any circumstance.

Elected officials should be aware that their body language and tone of voice, as well as the words they use, could appear to be intimidating or aggressive.

In Unofficial Settings

4. Make no promises on behalf of Council.

Elected officials will frequently be asked to explain a Council action or to give their opinion about an issue as they meet and talk with constituents in the community. It is appropriate to give a brief overview of City policy and refer to City staff for further information. It is inappropriate to overtly or implicitly promise Council action, or to promise City staff will do something specific (fix a pothole, allow special signage, take care of a parking ticket, etc.). Each elected official must remember that even though elected by the citizens of the City, each elected official has no separate authority from the Council by virtue of being elected. Only a decision in an open meeting by the Council as a body has any legal effect.

5. Remember that elected officials' actions are always being scrutinized.

The community is constantly observing elected officials every day that they serve in office. Their behaviors and comments serve as models for proper deportment in the City. Honesty and respect for the dignity of each individual should be reflected in every word and action taken by elected officials, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. It is a serious and continuous responsibility.

(G) Conduct with Other Public Agencies

1. Be clear about whether representing the City or personal interests.

If an elected official appears before another governmental agency or organization to give a statement on an issue, the elected official must clearly state whether his or her statement reflects personal opinion or is the official position of the City.

If the elected official is representing the City, the elected official must support and advocate the official position of the City on an issue, not a personal viewpoint.

Elected officials should be clear about which organizations they represent and inform the Mayor and Council of their involvement.

2. Correspondence should be equally clear about representation.

City letterhead is not to be used for correspondence of elected officials representing a personal point of view, or a dissenting point of view from an official Council or City position.

(H) Conduct with Boards, Clubs, Committees and Organizations

The City has established several boards and committees as a means of gathering more community input. Members who serve on these bodies become more involved in government and serve as advisors to the City Council. They are a valuable resource to the City's leadership and should be treated with appreciation and respect.

1. If attending a board or committee meeting, be careful to only express personal opinions.
Elected officials may attend any board or committee meeting, which are always open to any member of the public. However, they should be sensitive to the way their participation could be viewed as unfairly affecting the process. Any public comments by an elected official at a board or committee meeting should be clearly made as individual opinion and not a representation of the feelings of the entire City Council.
2. Limit contact with board and committee members to questions of clarification.
It is inappropriate for an elected official to contact a board or committee member to lobby on behalf of an individual, business, or developer.
3. Remember that boards and committees serve the community, not individual elected officials.
The City Council appoints individuals to serve on boards and committees and it is the responsibility of boards and committees to follow the policy established by the Council. However, board and committee members do not report to individual elected officials, nor should elected officials feel they have the power or right to threaten board or committee members with removal if they disagree about an issue. Appointment and re-appointment to a board or committee should be based on such criteria as expertise, ability to work with staff and the public and commitment to fulfilling official duties.
4. Be respectful of diverse opinions.
A primary role of boards and committees is to represent many points of view in the community and to provide the Council with advice based on a full spectrum of concerns and perspectives. Elected officials may have a closer working relationship with some individuals serving on boards or committees, but must be fair and respectful of all citizens serving on boards or committees.
5. Keep political support away from public forums.
Board or committee members may offer political support to an elected official, but not in a public forum while conducting official duties. Conversely, elected officials may support board or committee members who are running for office, but not in an official forum in their capacity as an elected official.
6. Inappropriate behavior can lead to removal.
Inappropriate behavior by a board or committee member, appointed by the Council, should be addressed by its chair and/or members of the body. If a member's conduct continues to be unbecoming, the chair shall notify the Mayor, and the Mayor should counsel the offending member. If inappropriate behavior continues, the Mayor should bring the situation to the attention of the Council and the individual is subject to removal from the board or committee.

Conduct with the Media

1. The Mayor is the official spokesperson for the City Council. The Mayor is the designated representative to present and comment on City positions and policies. The Mayor Pro-Tem is the second in line to speak on behalf of the City Council when the Mayor is not available. The Mayor and

Mayor Pro-Tem should, whenever possible, make themselves available in person or by telephone for comment on behalf of the City Council.

2. Elected officials are frequently contacted by the media for background and quotes. When contacted, elected officials should only comment on behalf of the City when there is consistency and unity among elected officials on the topic in question. Media outlets may search for inconsistencies in City position statements by contacting multiple elected officials regarding the same issue.

Conduct on Social Media

1. While elected officials and City Council-appointed board, committee and commission members may maintain and use personal web pages and websites, blogs, and social networking sites, their status as elected/appointed officials requires that the content of any postings on those sites not be in violation of existing City by-laws, policies, directives, rules or regulations.
2. The City's image as a professional organization is critical to maintaining the respect of its constituents. Although the City recognizes that elected and appointed officials may choose to express themselves by posting personal information upon social media platforms or by making comments on sites hosted by other persons, groups or organizations, this right of expression should not interfere with the operation of the City. That is, although the City acknowledges its officials have the First Amendment right to free speech, the right is not absolute when involving matters of official City business, issues or concerns.
3. If an elected or appointed official conducts any City business or communication as an official from a personal account, professional account, or an account created for a board/committee/commission, officials should assume that City related communications will be considered a public record subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1 et seq., as well as applicable portions of the records retention schedule at <http://archives.ncdcr.gov/ForGovernment/Retention-Schedules/Local-Schedules>.
4. All officials are expected and required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the City's policies and standards of conduct.
5. It is anticipated that from time to time, officials will have access to information that is considered privileged or confidential under North Carolina General Statutes. Such information is typically considered an exception to the public records law and may have specific penalties for inappropriate disclosure. By way of example, such information may include but is not limited to certain personnel information, non-public information from criminal investigations and business trade secrets. Officials must not reveal any confidential or privileged information about the City, its constituents, its employees, or its contractors. Officials must be particularly careful to protect against the inadvertent disclosure of confidential or privileged information.
6. Officials should be honest and accurate when posting information or news, and should quickly correct any mistakes, misstatements and/or factual errors in content upon discovery. Officials should not post or share information known to be false about the City, its employees, constituents, other public officials, suppliers, vendors, or contractors.
7. Unless the official has been designated to serve as a spokesperson, officials should never represent themselves as a spokesperson for the City Council, a City board or committee, the City Administration, or any City department.

8. Officials are expressly prohibited from using personal or professional social media to engage in any activity or conduct that violates federal, state, or local law. Officials are also prohibited from using professional social media accounts to circumvent election or campaign requirements, to campaign for re-election or endorse other candidates for public office.
9. Officials are prohibited from deleting posts and related comments regarding any City-related matters to avoid violating North Carolina Public Records Law, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1 et seq.
10. Officials should be mindful that posting content regarding City-related matters could inadvertently result in the violation of the Open Meetings Law if enough other public officials engage on the post, resulting in a quorum. If this occurs, the online conversation should immediately cease with no further posts by the officials and the City Clerk should be notified accordingly.
11. Officials are prohibited from using social media to engage in any activity that constitutes a conflict of interest.
12. Public officials are strongly encouraged to separate personal social media accounts from professional social media accounts so that City-related matters and all public records generated from those posts are easily archived and not intermingled with personal posts not related to City matters.

Sanctions

1. Although the Council should seldom have occasion to discipline its members, the Council has the right to make and enforce its own rules and to require that Councilmembers, the Mayor, City staff and the public refrain from conduct injurious to the accomplishment of Council business.
2. Elected officials who intentionally and repeatedly do not follow proper conduct may be reprimanded or formally censured by the Council. Serious infractions of the Code of Conduct could lead to other sanctions as allowed by North Carolina General Statutes and deemed appropriate by the Council.
3. If a violation of this resolution occurs outside of a public meeting, the alleged violation should be referred to the Mayor. If the Mayor perpetrated the alleged breach, the Mayor Pro-Tem will be contacted. The Mayor/Mayor Pro-Tem should ask the City Manager and City Attorney when appropriate to investigate the allegation and report the findings to the Council.

Resolution to be effective upon adoption.

March 25, 2024

David Moore _____

Mayor David Moore

ATTEST:

Tara Douglas

Tara Douglas, City Clerk

