

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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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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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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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.