

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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 William Brooks	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Councilwoman Lauren Shoemaker	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilman Kenneth Reeves	Robert Stewart, Deputy Utilities Director
Marie M. Anders, City Attorney	Eric Smallwood, Parks and Recreation Director
Tara Douglas, City Clerk	Becky Condor, Interim Finance Director
	Matt Black, Economic Development Director
	Jason Green, Public Works Director

INVOCATION

Councilman Reeves 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 requested that the following changes be made to the agenda:

1. Public Hearing #3 to consider a Development Agreement and Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Mount Holly and StreetLights Residential is to be removed and readvertised for the March 23, 2026 work session.
2. Public Hearing #1 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 will open and then immediately be continued to the April 13, 2026 meeting to allow the Planning Commission additional time to review. All members of the public will be presented an opportunity to speak at that time.

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3. Public Hearing #2 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 will open and then immediately be continued until the April 13, 2026 meeting to allow the Planning Commission time to review. All members of the public will be presented an opportunity to speak at that time.

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to set the agenda with the changes as presented.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Adopt an amended Fee Schedule for 2025-2026 to include permit fees for food trucks (page 5)
2. Approve Staff's intention to apply for NCODT's Multimodal Planning Grant
3. Waterline extension to North Belmont Park
4. Resolution to Revise Code of Ethics for the Mount Holly City Council Code of Conduct
5. Resolution to establish a public comment policy for Mount Holly City Council meetings
6. Budget Amendment South Gateway Road Construction Phase 1 & Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) Services
7. Resolution to accept the Lead & Copper Loan at 100% forgiveness
8. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2026

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

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Swearing in for Firefighter Luke Jefferies and Division Chief Kevin Baynard

Ryan Baker

Chief Baker presented Firefighter Luke Jefferies and Division Chief Kevin Baynard to be sworn in by Mayor Moore. Mayor Moore administered the Oath of Office to Firefighter Luke Jefferies and Division Chief Kevin Baynard.

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2. Presentation from the Mount Holly Historical Society

John Jacob

Mr. Jacob stated that the Mount Holly Historical Society has 3 requests for the City Council to consider. Mr. Jacob stated that the Mount Holly Historical Society would like to post a sign in the Grand Hall providing directions from the Grand Hall to the Mount Holly Museum. Mr. Jacob stated that the Mount Holly Historical Society would like to have their old Mount Holly Historical Sign mounted outside of the building. Mr. Jacob would like the signage on the door and the building to be changed to the Mount Holly Historical Society Museum instead of the Mount Holly Museum that is currently displayed. Mr. Jacob stated that the Mount Holly Historical Society is requesting that the City hire a full-time employee for the Mount Holly Museum during its hours of operation. Mr. Jacob expressed concerns over the security of the museum. Councilman Brooks asked about security cameras.

Councilman Craig asked for these requests to be researched by staff and the discussion continued at a future work session. Mayor Pro Tem Harris reminded the Council that she brought the topic of hiring an employee for the museum up at the February 27, 2026 City Council Retreat. Mr. Blanton confirmed that the consensus of the Council was that the Council would hear from Mr. Jacob tonight as he had already requested to approach the City Council regarding his requests. Mr. Blanton stated that additional research and information could be brought back at the April 27, 2026 work session. Councilwoman Shoemaker suggested that the Council allow the sign to be put out in the Grand Hall and that the Mount Holly Historical sign should not take too much effort to install on the outside of the building. Councilwoman Shoemaker stated that the exterior signage would require more involvement.

Consensus of the Council is to allow the portable sign to be placed in the Grand Hall lobby and to begin the installation of the Mount Holly Historical sign on the exterior of the Mount Holly Museum.

3. Approve the Art Associated with the Change Out of the Outdoor Gallery

Paul Lowe

Mr. Lowe presented the artwork to be placed in the outdoor gallery. Mr. Lowe stated that if approved, the artwork change could be completed by mid-April 2026. Mr. Lowe stated that the PAAC voted to recommend approval.

Motion: Councilman Reeves made a motion to approve the art associated with the change out of the outdoor gallery. Councilman Brooks seconded the motion.

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

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PUBLIC HEARING

1. 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.

Brandon Livingston

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. Councilman Craig seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to continue the public hearing for Case R-26-1 until April 13, 2026.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to continue the public hearing for Case R-26-1 until April 13, 2026. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion.

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

2. Public Hearing to consider a petition for annexation, submitted by Alissa Grice and William Stewart Jr., for a 34.35-acre tract of land, located at Parcel #'s 177847, 177844, 177594, 177846, and 218371.

Marie Anders

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. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to continue the public hearing to consider a petition for annexation, submitted by Alissa Grice and William Stewart Jr., for a 34.35-acre tract of land, located at Parcel #'s 177847, 177844, 177594, 177846, and 218371 until April 13, 2026.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to continue the public hearing to consider a petition for annexation, submitted by Alissa Grice and William Stewart Jr., for a 34.35-acre tract of land, located at Parcel #'s 177847, 177844, 177594, 177846, and 218371 until April 13, 2026. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion.

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

- ~~1. Public Hearing to consider a Development Agreement and Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Mount Holly and StreetLights Residential.~~

Jonathan Blanton

Mayor Moore restated that this public hearing had been removed from the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jerry Facchino- 157 Oakland Street, Mount Holly: Mr. Facchino stated that he is representing the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation. Mr. Facchino stated that the MHCDF is looking for volunteers and sponsors for their upcoming Riverhawk Race on April 18, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

1. City Manager Report

Jonathan Blanton

Mr. Blanton stated that there is a lot of progress happening on several projects. Mr. Blanton stated that the Labyrinth across the street at Arts on the Greenway is beginning to come to life. Mr. Blanton thanked the Council, the Tourism Development Authority, Reverend Stewart who has advised on this project, and the private fund-raising efforts from Arts on the Greenway.

Mr. Blanton stated that the sewer line upgrades downtown are set to be completed within the next two weeks.

Mr. Blanton stated that for the River Street Park bridge project, we are awaiting a crane to place the bridge. Mr. Blanton stated that this is a very exciting project that will connect the greenways through there and that he will continue updating the Council and citizens over the next few months on its progress.

Mr. Blanton stated that on Thursday, March 19, 2026 the YMCA will host its ribbon cutting for their grand entrance to their large-scale capital project. Mr. Blanton stated that on Friday, March 20, 2026 Awaken Gallery will be celebrating their 8-year anniversary.

Mr. Blanton reported that City Clerk Tara Douglas recently pass her Parliamentary Procedures Exam. Mr. Blanton stated that this is a 6-month course that focuses on Robert's Rules of Order and Mrs. Douglas will now be a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. Mr.

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Blanton stated that we are very proud of that achievement and certainly thank you to Mrs. Douglas for all that you do for the City of Mount Holly and our Council.

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 pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3 and 5).

Motion: Councilman Brooks made a motion to go out of the regular meeting and into closed session at 7:30 pm. Councilman Craig seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Councilman Brooks made a motion to go out closed session and back into the regular meeting at 7:46 pm. Councilman Craig seconded the motion.

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

ADJORN

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to adjourn the March 9, 2026 City Council meeting at 7:47 pm. Councilman Craig seconded the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.