

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026
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 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
	Ashley Whetstine, Finance Director
Tara Douglas, City Clerk	Matt Black, Economic Development Director
	Jason Green, Public Works Director

INVOCATION

Councilman Reeves led the Council, Staff, and attendees in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Shoemaker led the Council, Staff, and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Moore stated that Closed Session will be removed from the agenda. Mayor Moore entertained a motion to set the agenda as amended. Councilman Meadows requested that Consent Agenda item #1 be moved to #1 under New Business.

Motion: Councilwoman Shoemaker 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 6-0. (Motion Carried)

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CONSENT AGENDA

1. ~~Proclamation recognizing City Clerk Tara Douglas and Deputy City Clerk Shelly Stewart for Municipal Clerks Week.~~
2. Proclamation for National Police Week
3. Call for a public hearing to consider an amendment to Chapter 3 Section 3.21A of the Zoning Ordinance to update the setback requirements for dumpsters. Case # TA-26-1.
4. Call for a public hearing to consider an amendment to Section 153.056 to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to make updates to the regulations relating to open space, and the provision of open space in the City. Case # TA-26-3.
5. Approval of Municipal Legal Services Contract with Stott, Hollowell, Windham & Stancil, PLLC
6. Approval of a resolution of support for the City's application to the IMD Multimodal Planning Program grant program
7. Approve a Replacement Piece Associated with the Creative Spaces Initiative
8. Approval of the one-acre parcel land purchase from Caromont, for the future Pump Station site.
9. Letter of Intent to utilize Contemporary Benefits Advisor as Insurance Broker
10. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes – April 13,2026
11. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – April 13,2026

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 Brooks seconded the motion.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Evaluation of Selling Plots at Pineview Cemetery

Brian Dupont

Mr. DuPont reviewed the background citing the first lots were sold in 1939 and the final lots were sold in 1985. Mr. DuPont stated that these lots are required to be sold by Cemetery Deed, signed by the Mayor, state for burial purposes only, subject to the rules and regulations of the cemetery and not transferable or assignable without the written consent of the City. Mr. DuPont stated that this item has been discussed at the 2021 and 2025 City Council Retreats. Mr. DuPont stated that this item had been requested to be brought forward for review and discussion by the Council.

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Mr. DuPont discussed the evaluation of needs if the Council was interested in establishing this Cemetery. Mr. DuPont stated that there would need to be a perpetual care trust fund, an update of the city code and fees, and establish and appoint a cemetery board of trustees. Mr. DuPont stated that the challenges to selling lots are a lack of internal records as to lots sold citing not all deeds were recorded. Mr. DuPont stated that another challenge would be an increase in ongoing maintenance. Mr. DuPont stated that the City spends approximately \$11,300 per year for maintenance. Mr. DuPont stated that the expense needed to potentially get the cemetery ready for selling plots would be approximately \$530,000 to include survey/design/construction services as well as operation expenses. Mr. DuPont stated that the recurring annual expense would be \$110,000 for operations and maintenance. Mr. DuPont reviewed the evaluation of potential revenue. Mr. DuPont reviewed a cost benefit analysis for the lifetime of the cemetery. Mr. DuPont stated that the cemetery is easy to maintain currently because the majority of the property is open land.

Councilman Reeves asked about alternatives to selling plots. Mr. DuPont stated that if the Council approved, the land could be used for other needs in the City. Mr. DuPont confirmed that a portion of the property is a cemetery and will continue to be taken care of and maintained as such. Mr. DuPont confirmed that the entire property is approximately 21 acres.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proclamation recognizing City Clerk Tara Douglas and Deputy City Clerk Shelly Stewart for Municipal Clerks Week.

Mayor Moore

Mayor Moore read the proclamation recognizing City Clerk Tara Douglas and Deputy City Clerk Shelly Stewart for Municipal Clerks Week and thanked them for their dedication and hard work for the City of Mount Holly.

2. Update on the Request by Historical Society for Mount Holly Museum

Brian Dupont

Mr. DuPont stated that the Grand Re-Opening of the Mount Holly Museum was on November 2, 2025. Mr. DuPont stated that Mr. John Jacob presented three requests before the City Council at the March 9, 2026 meeting on behalf of the Mount Holly Historical Society. Mr. Dupont stated that one of the requests which was for sign placement in the Grand Hall has been accomplished.

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Mr. DuPont stated that the two remaining requests were first that the Mount Holly Historical Society Sign be relocated from the interior wall to the exterior wall on Central Avenue as well as the addition of the Historical Society logo or wording be placed on the door and marquee, and secondly, that there be security cameras and a staff member added to run the museum.

Mr. DuPont stated that that the Mount Holly Historical Society sign can be removed and reinstalled on the exterior by in-house staff. Mr. DuPont stated that the cost to replace the words Mount Holly Museum with Mount Holly Historical Society Museum on the door and marquee would cost approximately \$3800.00. Mr. DuPont stated that the cost for additional security cameras for the inside of the museum would be approximately \$20,000.00 and the cost for a part-time or full-time Curator would be \$25,000.00 up to \$85,000.00 depending on education and experience. There were no questions for Mr. DuPont at this time, and no action was taken by the Council.

3. Update on Request by Mount Holly Community Development Foundation for Art in the Grand Hall
Brian Dupont

Mr. DuPont stated that Mr. Jeff Lee presented at the last Council meeting asking for accommodation of gallery hardware in the Grand Hall. Mr. DuPont stated that staff has evaluated this and showed the Council an example of the conduit considered if it were installed. Mr. DuPont stated that staff examined the feasibility of this project and cited that although it is feasible, there was some feedback by staff expressing some concerns. Mr. DuPont stated that staff concerns were around the responsibility of the art rotation and removal, and the potential of reduced rental reservations due to the interruption of the neutral aesthetics that the Grand Hall currently exhibits for events.

Councilman Reeves inquired about the responsible party for the maintenance of this system. Mr. DuPont stated that depending on the Council's decision, it could be the City, or it could be a partnership with the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation (MHCDF) utilizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Councilman Meadows discussed clarification around the time frame that art would be in the Grand Hall. Mayor Moore asked Mr. Lee to come to the podium to clarify the request. Mr. Lee stated that the railing would be a permanent fixture in the Grand Hall, but that the art pieces could be hung on wire or adjustable fiberglass hooks. Mr. Lee stated that their use would be a one day event only. Mayor Pro Tem Harris inquired about funding responsibilities. Mr. Lee stated that the ask is that the City provide the funding. Councilman Reeves inquired about other potential interferences with the proposed hardware installation. Mr. DuPont stated that staff would be able to identify those potential challenges with further evaluation. Councilwoman Shoemaker suggested that staff could develop a policy with

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guidelines specifying maximum and minimum length of time for various uses. Mayor Pro Tem Harris inquired about the approval process for the art that would be displayed. Mr. Lee stated that the MHCDF intends for the art to be family friendly. Mayor Pro Tem Harris inquired about who would be responsible for taking the art work down. Mr. Lee stated that the MHCDF would not leave artwork over night and that they would be taking the artwork down. Mayor Moore stated that Grand Hall reservations continue to increase and that the Council needs to ensure the protection of the Grand Hall. Mayor Moore confirmed with City Manager Blanton that a Memorandum of Understanding would be recommended.

City Manager Blanton clarified the ask is for the City to purchase and install this railing in the Grand Hall for the MHCDF to hang art twice a year, once for the Juried Art Show and once for the Plein Air Event. City Manager Blanton confirmed with Mr. Lee that this would not be a constant and revolving exhibit. City Manager Blanton stated that if approved, the railing would be available for other entities to utilize upon the Council's approval for usage. City Manager Blanton stated that there had been some confusion about the request and what that process would look like and recommended a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to further clarify those details. City Manager Blanton restated and confirmed that this would not be a revolving art exhibit that the MHCDF would be manning and providing art on a rotating basis year round. Mr. Lee confirmed that City Manager Blanton was correct in his statement.

Councilman Meadows stated the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) has done an excellent job of filtering what artwork is allowed and requested that PAAC play a role in the development of any policy or MOU creation. Councilwoman Shoemaker suggested that the policy or use could piggy back off of the Grand Hall rental agreement as another area to be rented.

Councilwoman Shoemaker stated the possible usages for the hardware and agrees that there should be a policy created. Mr. Lee stated that the liability for the artwork remains with the artist.

Mayor Moore stated that staff will continue to evaluate. No action was taken by the Council at this time.

4. City Manager Report

Jonathan Blanton

Mr. Blanton stated that this week is a busy week with the Senior Dinner, the Community Awards Dinner, and the first Mount Holly Nights of the season leading up to the Piedmont Arts and Cultural Event this weekend. Mr. Blanton stated that the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation successfully hosted the River Hawk Races and noted that Assistant City Manager DuPont brought home the bronze metal in his category. Mr. Blanton stated that he and several of the Council members will be attending the North Carolina League of Municipalities in Raleigh next week where they will be meeting on-on-one with our legislators to discuss legislative

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priorities as well as some legislation that the City has some concerns about. Mr. Blanton stated that the budget is being prepped and ready for the Council over the next few weeks. Mr. Blanton reminded the Council that the May work session will not be held on the fourth Monday in May due to the Memorial Day holiday, but will be held on Monday, May 18, 2026 focusing primarily on the budget discussion. Mr. Blanton stated that Miss Margaret Smith Johnson is celebrating her 100th birthday today. Mr. Blanton stated that Mayor Moore presented her with a proclamation celebrating her birthday and her life here in Mount Holly. Mr. Blanton stated that the City is in a stage one drought and we are encouraging everyone to conserve water and check the City's website for updates on these conditions.

ADJORN

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to adjourn the April 27, 2026 City Council meeting at 7:04 pm. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.