

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 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

Mayor Moore led the Council, Staff, and attendees in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Meadows led the Council, Staff, and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion: Councilman Brooks made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Appointments to the Mount Holly Tourism Development Authority
2. Budget Amendment for revenues not budgeted in FY26
3. Approval of End of Year Fund Balance Appropriation

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4. Approval of Capital Reserve Transfer Fund 61
5. Consideration and adoption of a budget amendment to recognize and appropriate grant funds received from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
6. Award Contract to Blythe Construction, LLC
7. Consideration and adoption of a budget amendment to recognize and appropriate grant funds received from Enbridge Fueling Futures grant
8. Capital Project Ordinance for Hawthorne & W. Central Ave. Paving Project
9. Letter of Intent to Apply for Community Foundation Grant
10. Approve Two Replacement Pieces Associated with the Creative Spaces Initiative
11. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2026
12. Approval of City Council Closed Session Minutes-June 8, 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. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion.

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

Councilman Meadows recognized the City staff for their recommendations for the Tourism Development Authority.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation on Kemp A. Michael Way

Brian DuPont

Mr. DuPont recognized the Project Management Team involved in making this project possible.

- Jason Green, Public Works Director
- Steven Haynie, Manager of Capital Projects and Inspections
- Jon Ford, City Engineer
- Robert Stewart, Deputy Public Works Director of Utilities
- Ryan Phillips, Site Inspector
- Robert Cormier, Site Inspector

Mr. DuPont briefly recounted the project's background citing discussions beginning in 2008. Mr. DuPont stated that the problem that is being solved addresses the approximately 31,000 new daily trips at full buildout, safety at the intersection of NC-273 and Caldwell Drive, and the Economic Development Catalyst Projects. Mr. DuPont reviewed the Phase 1 pictures provided

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by staff. Mr. DuPont stated that Phase 2 will complete approximately 60 linear feet out of the 1,500 total, 244 linear feet of 3-span bridge across Colonial Pipeline, and a multi-use greenway path. Mr. DuPont stated that Phase 2 has an estimated cost of \$6 million to include CEI & Construction. Mr. DuPont stated that Colonial Pipeline required significant bridge design changes to span the entire width of their easement. Mr. DuPont stated that the total project cost is approximately \$10 million. Mr. DuPont stated that Phase 2 will require financing to debt service the project. Mr. DuPont stated that before the Council tonight there are two resolutions for their consideration. Mr. DuPont stated that the first is a Reimbursement Resolution and the second is a Resolution to Authorize the Filing of an Application for the Local Government Commission. Mr. DuPont stated that Phase 2 construction should begin by the end of the year once staff completes the Local Government Commission process.

Councilman Meadows inquired about the continued conversations with Colonial Pipeline and the costs associated with their requirements. Mr. Blanton stated that there have been conversations with Representative Torbett's office requesting assistance with Colonial Pipeline regarding additional options and alternatives for cost relief. Mr. Blanton stated that staff is continuing to pursue those conversations for alternative options but would like approval to move forward with financing should no further options come to fruition.

Councilman Brooks inquired about whether the loans would get paid off sooner if the City receives a direct allocation from the General Assembly. City Manager Blanton stated that if the City receives a direct allocation from the General Assembly that it would use that money prior to securing a loan. Mr. Blanton stated that the City hopes to have some answers in the next few weeks regarding what a budget may look like in the General Assembly, which is where we are heavily soliciting and lobbying for this funding.

Motion: Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Resolution for Reimbursement and the Resolution to Authorize the Filing of an Application for the Local Government Commission. Councilman Brooks seconded the motion.

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

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Downtown Park

Brian DuPont

Mr. DuPont stated that staff had some time to consider ideas and approaches for next steps regarding these properties. Mr. DuPont stated that there is immediate opportunity for engaging this property. Mr. DuPont stated that the map identifies 2.35 acres owned by the City that is west of the stream. Mr. DuPont stated that we have the opportunity for select timbering, natural surface trails and passive recreation. Mr. DuPont reviewed a map generated by the City's GIS Department showing opportunities to connect sidewalks to some paths that would allow access to the property. Mr. DuPont explained that these immediate opportunities could be done in-house while remaining flexible to any new direction for use from the Council. Mr. DuPont reviewed the areas of focus citing the 2.35 acres west of the creek as well as a portion east of the creek, staff to develop a strategy for implementation, public input to include an online poll and public meeting, and revenue from utilizing sale of real property on Central Avenue. Mr. DuPont stated that Staff's recommendation is to move forward with select timbering west of the stream beginning July 1, 2026 costing approximately \$40,000 and to move forward with the recommended areas of focus.

Mayor Moore inquired about timeline for public meetings. Mr. DuPont stated that the timeline for public meetings would be scheduled upon the direction of the Council tonight.

Councilman Meadows asked if the \$40,000 was an estimate or a bid. Mr. DuPont stated that there were three bids and the lowest came in just under \$40,000.

City Manager Blanton stated that staff is looking for consensus from the Council to move forward with the proposed plan.

The Consensus of the Council is to move forward with the proposed plan presented by Mr. DuPont regarding the Downtown Park.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. City Manager Report

Jonathan Blanton

City Manager Blanton reported that the City of Mount Holly has been awarded \$302,580 in FEMA relief assistance which will go towards the stabilization of our riverfront and greenway. City Manager Blanton thanked the Parks and Recreation Director Eric Smallwood for his work securing this funding. City Manager Blanton stated that the Council approved the paving for West Central and Hawthorne which is located behind Ida Rankin. City Manager Blanton thanked the residents for their patience as the City improves these infrastructures. City Manager Blanton stated that we are waiting for concrete at River Street Park and that there will be a grand opening of the bridge later this summer. City Manager Blanton confirmed that the \$10,000 Enbridge Fueling Futures Grant will be utilized for a Disc Golf Expansion at River Street Park. City Manager Blanton thanked the Public Works team for their hard work and dedication during the boil advisory that was issued. City Manager Blanton stated that their quick thinking enabled the City to address the situation in a timely manner. City Manager Blanton apologized for any confusion that was created to the public regarding the boil advisory, citing that it was precautionary and not mandatory. City Manager assured the public that if it had been mandatory there would have been additional steps to ensure that more notice was given. City Manager Blanton encouraged residents to make sure that their contact information is up to date with our Utility Billing Department and that they are on the call list. City Manager Blanton stated that the North Carolina Department of Labor recognized our Police Department, Utilities Department, and our Parks and Recreation for their efforts towards safety. City Manager Blanton gave an update on the recent Juneteenth Celebration at Ransom Hunter Park. City Manager Blanton reported that Placer AI shows over 1300 visits to Ransom Hunter Park. City Manager Blanton stated that we will have our fireworks show this upcoming Thursday, June 25, 2026 starting at 6pm. City Manager Blanton stated that the City Administrative Offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2026. City Manager Blanton stated that the City will have a USA themed drone show for the September 11, 2026 concert series as we celebrate America's 250th all year long. City Manager Blanton thanked Mr. DuPont for his presentations this evening.

Councilman Meadows stated that he would like staff to bring back a map of all of the capital improvements showing a timeline of what has been completed and what will be coming on.

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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 Craig made a motion to go out of the regular meeting and into closed session at 7:00 pm. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to come out of closed session and back into the regular meeting at 7:09 pm. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to amend the agenda for a discussion regarding fencing at Ida Rankin. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion.

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

The Council discussed concerns that have been raised regarding the need for fencing at the wetland bmp located at Ida Rankin.

Motion: Councilman Meadows made a motion to direct staff to investigate the implementation of fencing around the wetland bmp located at Ida Rankin. Mayor Pro Tem Harris 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 June 22, 2026 City Council Meeting at 7:14 pm. Councilman Brooks seconded the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.