



Locust City Council Meeting Minutes Joel Huneycutt Community Room

7:00 PM

September 11, 2025

**Mayor
Council Members**

Mayor Steve Huber
Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Baucom, Mandy
Watson, Roger Hypes, De Dee Nathan, Mike
Haigler, Barry Sims, and Rusty Efird

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

2. Presentation of Colors, Prayer

Mayor Huber led in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

3. Adopt Agenda

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to adopt agenda as presented

4. Minutes - adopt August 21, 2025

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Barry Sims (7-0)
Motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2025 meeting

August 21, 2025 Minutes

5. Financial Reports

City Manager Cesar Correa reviewed the financial reports through the end of August, noting that the General Fund expenditures currently exceed revenues by \$588,382.55. This amount will start improving since property taxes became due September 1st. Wastewater Fund revenues exceed expenditures by \$282,303.05.

Financial Summary - August 2025

6. Mayor's Report

Thank you to Mayor Pro-tem Larry Baucom for filling in while Mayor Huber was out for the last 2 months worth of meetings. Thank you to all first responders on this remembrance day of 9/11.

7. Manager's Report

City Manager Cesar Correa reviewed that following the notification of the Accessible Park grant award, the City needs to amend our capital improvement budget to account for this grant revenue and associated expense. Council was presented with a copy of the proposed budget amendment for review. Mr. Correa then reviewed the purchase orders. And then, finally, he presented a resolution in support of expanding school capacity in western Stanly County. A few weeks ago, he met with Dr. Dennis and members of the Stanly School Board. The purpose of the meeting was to update them on upcoming/ongoing Locust projects, and to urge them to take action to improve school capacity for our part of the County as we continue to grow. The Board is actively working on applying for the NC Public School Building Capital Fund Grant. Stanly County Commissioners and Stanly School Board will have a joint meeting later this month to discuss what project to put forward as part of the grant application. Options include expansion to West Stanly Middle School, building a new Oakboro Elementary School, adding to Locust Elementary School, adding to Stanfield Elementary School, or re-opening Ridgecrest Elementary School. Any of these options will directly impact Locust students. According to Superintendent Dr. Jarrod Dennis and School Board Member Dustin Lisk who were present, a resolution from Locust City Council would help with the application. City Manager Cesar Correa spoke with County Manager Andy Lucas to share a copy of the proposed resolution. Should Council decide to approve this resolution, it would help the overall grant application, without creating unnecessary conflict between Commissioners and School Board members. The grant application is due October 3rd. City Manager Cesar Correa then thanked the entire City staff for all they do.

M/S/A Council Members De-Dee Nathan and Larry Baucom (7-0)
Motion to approve budget amendment to account for the Accessibility in Parks Grant

M/S/A Council Members De-Dee Nathan and Mandy Watson (7-0)
Motion to approve purchase orders

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and De-Dee Nathan (7-0)
Motion to adopt resolution in support of expanding school capacity in western Stanly County

Budget Amendment - General Fund Capital Improvement Projects

Purchase Orders

Resolution In Support of Expanding School Capacity in Western Stanly County

8. Administration/HR

Council Member De-Dee Nathan had nothing to report on at this time.

9. Parks

Council Member Mandy Watson spoke on the movie night this Saturday featuring Wild Robots. The final summer concert and fireworks will be on Sept 27th featuring the Tams. Basketball sign-ups will open in

October. The next steps in updating the Officer Jeff Shelton Memorial Park are underway in planning and selecting vendors and equipment to make the park and surrounding bathrooms paths accessible to all who visit. This will make the park a universal playground.

10. Facilities

Council Member Barry Sims gave an update on the Senior Center. Duke Energy has relocated the power lines and the grading is about complete.

Update: Senior Center Construction

11. Public Works

Council Member Larry Baucom reviewed the monthly flow report thanking the Public Works department for all of their hard work during all of the rain the City had over the last month.

Wastewater Flow Report — August 2025

12. ABC, Economic Development & Small Business Support

Council Member Rusty Efird reported that the ABC store has been a little slow and sales have been down due to the construction to the adjacent business this past month. QT is potentially opening October 23rd.

13. Public Safety

Council Member Roger Hypes reviewed the monthly police department statistics. The officer of the month for August was Officer Adam Hartsell. Thank you to the entire department for all they do and their respect and treatment of the community during these stops and situations.

Public Safety Report - August 2025

14. Planning & Zoning

Council Member Michael Haigler reviewed the monthly report. Kevin and Donna Huneycutt of 6780 NC Hwy 24/27 have submitted a contiguous voluntary annexation petition to the City. Council must instruct City Clerk Amy Furr to investigate and certify the sufficiency of the petition. Council has been asked to schedule three (3) public hearings for the October 9, 2025, meeting for conditional rezoning applications submitted by Ray Ray's Chicken Shack, Locust Mower, and Two Buck Saloon. Finally, Daniel Haskett, Pastor of Greater Life Church presented a site plan amendment to the conditional rezoning that has been previously presented to include an above ground retention pond for stormwater runoff.

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and Rusty Efird (7-0)

Motion to schedule a public hearing for conditional rezoning requests submitted by Ray Ray's Chicken Shack 124 James Ave, parcel pin# 556504604676 for Thursday, October 9, 2025

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and Rusty Efird (7-0)

Motion to schedule a public hearing for conditional rezoning requests submitted by Locust Mower, 202 N Central Ave, parcel pin# 557503436358 for Thursday, October 9, 2025

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and Rusty Efird (7-0)

Motion to schedule a public hearing for conditional rezoning requests submitted by Two Buck Saloon, 805 W Main St, parcel pin#'s 557503106854/557503107828 for Thursday, October 9, 2025

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and De-Dee Nathan (7-0)

Motion to instruct the City Clerk to investigate and certify the sufficiency of the contiguous voluntary annexation petition submitted by

Public Hearing opened at 7:53pm for the site plan amendment for Greater Life Church

Public Hearing closed at 7:53pm: No one spoke for or against.

M/A Council Member Michael Haigler (No Second Needed) (7-0)

Motion to approve the site plan amendment request with the associated site plan to be consistent with the 2014 Land Use Plan submitted by Greater Life Church, 103 Locust Ave, parcel pin# 557503422061

Monthly Report - August 2025

Schedule Public Hearings: Locust Mower, Two Buck Saloon, and Ray Ray's Chicken Shack

Voluntary Annexation Request - 6780 NC Hwy 24/27

Site Plan Amendment: Greater Life Church

15. Public Comment Period:

No one signed up to speak

16. Board Closing Comments

Thank you to all who came out this evening and your interest in the City. Thank you to the City Council and all City staff for all of their effort daily. It is a blessing to be in a welcoming and safe community. Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Dennis and School Board Member Dustin Lisk for all that they are doing for our schools. Remembering 9/11 and the way the Country came together in the days after, hoping that the Country today can get back to being respectful of each other's views. The passion that we all share for the Locust community is overwhelming. Lots of developments are being built and the future for Locust and the County is bright.

17. Adjourn

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Rusty Efird (7-0)

Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm

Amy Furr, City Clerk

Stephen Huber, Mayor