



Locust City Council

Meeting Minutes

Joel Huneycutt Community Room

7:00 PM

February 12, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm

2. Presentation of Colors, Prayer

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

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to excuse Council Member Rusty Efird

3. Adopt Agenda

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to adopt the agenda as presented

4. Minutes - adopt January 8, 2026

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to adopt the minutes from the January 8, 2026 meeting

January 8, 2026

5. Financial Reports

City Manager Cesar Correa reviewed the financial report notating that the General Fund revenues exceed expenditures by \$1,611,613.36 and that the Wastewater revenues exceed expenditures by \$2,006,286.05. The City also received \$44,000 from Stanly County Schools for the School Resource Officer (SRO) grant. City

Manager Cesar Correa and Finance Director Stephania Morton met with department heads to begin the budget process and review requests in anticipation of the budget workshop on Saturday, March 21, 2026.

Financial Summary — January 2026

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Huber has nothing to report at this time

7. Manager's Report

Purchase orders were reviewed.

City Manager Cesar Correa reviewed that consolidation discussions with Stanly County are moving forward. He had an opportunity to meet with Andy Lucas, County Manager to express Locust's goals with the consolidation, and they jointly drafted a consolidation agreement. Mr. Lucas and the County established a sub-committee (comprised of County Manager Lucas, Commissioners Trent Hatley, Mike Barbee, and Scott Efir) to proceed with consolidation talks/negotiations with Locust City Council. He then asked the Council to appoint a 2 or 3 member subcommittee to engage in talks with Stanly County. The goal is to transition the utility effective July 1, 2026, with Locust Public Works acting as a “consultant” for the first year. This would allow an effective transition, and it would allow for Stanly County to hire new staff and get accustomed to the system. The first meeting with Stanly County will be in mid-late February, and the subcommittee will report to City Council as a whole during our budget workshop. City Council will have an opportunity to take action on a recommendation in April/May leading to budget approval.

Council received a request for voluntary annexation during the January 2026 meeting for 2016 N Central Ave, and instructed City Clerk, Amy Furr, to certify the petition, which has been completed. Council will need to adopt a resolution to schedule a public hearing for the March meeting to vote on the extension of incorporated municipal limits.

A Cash Payment Policy that Stephania Morton, Finance Director, authored was presented. The purpose of the policy is to establish our practices in the event certain coins (like pennies or nickels) are unavailable. The policy spells out ways in which Locust residents/users will be able to pay for the various services we offer.

M/S/A Council Members De-Dee Nathan and Larry Baucom (6-0)
Motion to purchase orders

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to adopt the resolution scheduling the public hearing for the voluntary annexation of 2016 N Central Ave, for Thursday, March 12, 2026

M/S/A Council Members Barry Sims and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to adopt the City of Locust Cash Payment Policy

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to form a sub-committee consisting of Council Members Michael Haigler and Larry Baucom, Public Works Director Tim Flieger and City Manager Cesar Correa for the purpose of negotiations with Stanly County for the consolidation of sewer in the City of Locust

Sewer Consolidation Follow Up

Voluntary Annexation - 2016 N. Central Ave.

Cash Payment Policy

8. Administration/HR

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

9. Parks

Council Member Mandy Watson spoke that the City of Locust 2026 event calendar has been finalized. Program Coordinator Jessica Honeycutt is part of this years Leadership Stanly class is doing a drive to purchase sensory items. Spring registration is open until February 20th. Baseball has 103 kids signed up, softball has 37, soccer has 233 signed up and all 3 have a waiting list. Events and sports have picked up significantly and Locust residents are always prioritized.

10. Facilities

Council Member Barry Sims gave an update on the new senior center. Trades (plumbing, HVAC, and electrical) are almost finished inside the building. Next week we anticipate for windows and store front doors to be installed, and for stucco to begin shortly after. Low temperatures and the state of emergency caused some additional delays.

Senior Center Update

11. Public Works

Council Member Larry Baucom reviewed the monthly flow report and thanked the department for all of their hard work. NCDOT has replaced all of the sidewalk ramps on the sides of Hwy 24/27.

Wastewater Flow Report - January 2026

12. ABC, Economic Development & Small Business Support

Council Member Rusty Efird was not present and there was nothing to report at this time. City Manager Cesar Correa gave an update on the remodeling at Walmart. Dunkin Donuts will be locating into the Walmart.

13. Public Safety

Council Member Roger Hypes reviewed the monthly statistics report. The Co-Officers of the month were Corporal Dwayne Dietz and Officer Caleb Whitley. Chief Jeff Shew then spoke about the candidates for the Steven "Smitty" Smith Officer of the Year Award. The nominees were Officer Caleb Whitley, Detective Jared Smith, Officer Jerry Wallace, and Officer Adam Hartsell. He read a little excerpt about each of them and presented them with certificates. The Officer of the Year was awarded to Officer Adam Hartsell. Chief Jeff Shew and Chief Smith's widow, Melissa Smith, presented him with his award. Mayor Huber then spoke a few words on how important the department is and what contributions they bring to the City and the citizens.

Steve "Smitty" Smith Officer of the Year Award

Monthly Report - January 2026

14. Planning & Zoning

Council Member Michael Haigler reviewed the monthly report. He then asked Council to please schedule three (3) public hearings for the Thursday, March 12, 2026 meeting. First, for the conditional rezoning application submitted by Ross Furr Homes for 2016 N Central Ave. Then next, for the Land Development Ordinance Text Change for Base Zoning Districts. And Finally, for the Land Development Ordinance Text Change for the Transportation Impact Analysis. All three (3) come with a favorable recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Board.

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and Barry Sims (6-0)

Motion to schedule a public hearing for Thursday, March 12, 2026, for the conditional rezoning application submitted by Ross Furr Homes for 2016 N Central Ave

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and Barry Sims (6-0)

Motion to schedule a public hearing for Thursday, March 12, 2026, for the Land Development Ordinance Text Change for Base Zoning Districts

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and Barry Sims (6-0)

Motion to schedule a public hearing for Thursday, March 12, 2026, for Land Development Ordinance Text Change for the Transportation Impact Analysis

Monthly Report - January 2026

Schedule Public Hearings

15. Public Comment Period:

No one signed up to speak

16. Board Closing Comments

Thank you to all who came out. Thank you to the Police Department for all they do. Congrats to the finalists and the winner of the Officer of the Year. Council Member Roger Hypes read a poem about helping others and little is much and read the lyrics to the song Thank you, Lord, for your blessings on me. Happy 80th birthday to Council Member Roger Hypes. Proud of Stanly County and proud of the City of Locust. Congrats to PW Director Tim Flieger for 20 years of service to the City of Locust.

17. Adjourn

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)

Motion to adjourn at 8:19 pm

Amy Furr, City Clerk

Stephen Huber, Mayor