



Locust City Council

Meeting Minutes

Joel Huneycutt Community Room

7:00 PM

June 11, 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

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

2. Presentation of Colors, Prayer

Mayor Huber led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Council Member Michael Haigler gave the invocation.

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

3. Adopt Agenda

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Roger Hypes (6-0)
Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

4. Minutes - adopt May 14, 2026

M/S/A Council Members Barry Sims and Michael Haigler (6-0)
Motion to approve the May 14, 2026 minutes

May 14, 2026

5. Financial Reports

City Manager Cesar Correa reviewed the financial report, noting that the General Fund revenues exceed expenditures by \$1,657,484.78 and the Wastewater Fund revenues exceed expenditures by \$2,532,656.86 as of May 31, 2026. Next, a public hearing was held to hear citizens comments for or against the proposed 2026-2027 operating budget and capital project ordinance that was presented at the May 14, 2026, council meeting.

City Manager Cesar Correa then reported that our health insurance broker was able to identify a good health plan for the City. We are switching to a new carrier called Angle Health. We will be using a level-funded plan (instead of the fully insured plan). This resulted in a renewal at a roughly 7% decrease from existing premiums, while maintaining the same coverage, network and copays.

Public Hearing for the 2026/2027 budget opened at 7:07pm
Public Hearing closed at 7:08pm No one spoke for or against.

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to adopt 2026-2027 fiscal year budget ordinance and capital project ordinance

FY 2026-2027 Budget Adoption

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Huber thanked the staff for all of their hard work on the newly adopted budget. The City is doing very well and the citizens of Locust should be extremely proud.

7. Manager's Report

City Manager Cesar Correa thanked the staff for all of their hard work. He then reviewed purchase orders and budget amendments. He then presented the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan for adoption. This plan identifies specific goals for each department and the City as a whole. Next, the City received a memorandum of understanding (MOU) from Stanly County EMS regarding debris management. This agreement is necessary for coordination of debris removal should our community ever be affected by a FEMA-designated emergency. The purpose of the MOU is to identify who is responsible for removing the debris, what Locust can or cannot remove, and the process for additional FEMA reimbursement approvals. The MOU was presented to Council for approval.

*Representatives with the Rocky River RPO presented the updated Comprehensive Transportation Plan for adoption which is a long-range needs based plan identifying current and future transportation needs for the County and the City of Locust. They reviewed highway recommendations as well as future connection recommendations. They requested approval but Council took no action as they wanted time to study the plan that was presented.

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to approve budget amendments

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

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to adopt 2026-2030 strategic plan

M/S/A Council Members Rusty Efird and Roger Hypes (6-0)
Motion to adopt Memorandum of Understanding with Stanly County EMS for debris management

2026-2030 Strategic Plan

Debris Management MOU

Rocky River RPO - Stanly County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Purchase Orders

Budget Amendments

8. Administration/HR

Council Member De-Dee Nathan presented the GFOA - Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Finance Director Stephanie Morton and City Manager Cesar Correa.

GFOA - Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

9. Parks

Council Member Mandy Watson was absent so City Manager Cesar Correa reviewed the monthly report and spoke about upcoming events. The Tams will be performing on June 27th followed by a fireworks show. This is rescheduled from the rain out last year. Fall Athletics will open July 1st and basketball cam will be later in July and so will the volleyball camp. Redesign of the Officer Jeff Shelton Memorial Park design phase has begun. Parks & Rec Director Emily Jones met with her Park Advisory Board last week to review applications for the current vacancy in the board. The board received 4 applications, and they recommended to appoint Chris Phillips. Mr. Phillips brings a different perspective to the advisory board with a professional athletic background. This appointment fills a vacant seat with an end-date of December 31st. And the board would also like to renew his appointment for the January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2029 term.

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Barry Sims (6-0)

Motion to appoint Chris Phillips to the Park Advisory Board for the remaining term of the vacant seat to expire in December 2026.

Parks & Rec Advisory Board Appointment

10. Facilities

Council Member Barry Sims gave an update on the senior center. Construction is finally making some progress. Stucco installation is finally moving forward as the subcontractors finish the insulation prior to the stucco. The remaining IT/data cable/conduit will also start this coming week, which will allow for insulation and sheetrock to follow. We are looking at end of July for completion and early August for opening.

Senior Center Update

11. Public Works

Council Member Larry Baucom reviewed the monthly flow report. Paving is well underway. Thank you to the entire department for all they do. Yesterday, bids for the East Basin Gravity outfall project were opened. This bid was originally anticipated to cost roughly \$2.6M by our engineers. We received a total of 5 (five) bids. Vity Manager Cesar Correa was pleased to inform Council that BRS (who completed the first half of this project) submitted the lowest bid, just shy of \$1.3M. The actual bid came in almost \$1.5M under engineering estimate. We will be able to complete this project with the remaining NCDEQ grant funds the City received.

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and De-Dee Nathan (6-0)
Motion to adopt resolution of tentative award to BRS for the East Basin Gravity Outfall Project

Wastewater Flow Report - May 2026

Resolution of Tentative Award - East Basin Gravity Outfall

12. ABC, Economic Development & Small Business Support

Council Member Rusty Efird recognized ABC Store manager Heather Hughey and gave positive remarks regarding their store and staff.

13. Public Safety

Council Member Roger Hypes reviewed the monthly statistics report. The officer of the month for May was Officer Adam Hartsell.

Public Safety Report - May 2026

14. Planning & Zoning

Council Member Michael Haigler reviewed the monthly report.

Monthly Report - May 2026

15. Public Comment Period:

Elizabeth Johnson, 148 Kingston, spoke about a need for a yard debris removal service. She also thanked the City for the stop signs in Town Center.

Levi Farmer, 109 Dogwood, spoke to the Mayor and Council and thanked them for paving Dogwood Street and Danita Street.

Patty Harris, 403 Renee Ford Rd, spoke about advocating for Two Bucks Salon/Buzzed Viking and spoke about the positive impact she believes they have had on the community and wants to see the name changed to Two Bucks so Sweet Lew's BBQ will come to Locust. She stated they will not come unless the name is changed from Buzzed Viking to Two Bucks.

Joe Bishop, 108 Tucker, spoke about how grateful the citizens should be for the representation that the City has and the great job the Council has done over the years.

Georgio Prisco, Owner of Buzzed Viking/Two Bucks, thanked the Council and stated that their establishment is the #1 purchaser of alcohol for the City and they don't understand why they can't get their name changed. He wants to give the community what they need. They are looking for Council's support. They are investing in the City and are in the process of taking the business out of their name and running for Council and to change the name of the business.

16. Board Closing Comments

Council thanked everyone for coming out this evening. They thanked the staff for all that they do and love being a part of the community. Take some time to drive out to the new developments and check them out and the beautiful products and homes that are being built in the City. Congrats to Finance Director Stephania Morton and City Manager Cesar Correa on their award. Have a safe and happy 4th of July. Mayor Huber spoke regarding Council doing the best job based on the rules that are set forth by statutes and ordinances and that he is proud of the City Council for all that they do to make Locust the best place to live, work and play.

17. Adjourn

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Roger Hypes (6-0)

Motion to adjourn at adjourn at 8:34pm

Amy Furr, City Clerk

Stephen Huber, Mayor