



Town of Holly Ridge

Mayor's Message

January 19, 2026



Happy Monday, everyone. I hope you had a wonderful week and weekend. As we observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I wish you a meaningful and positive day. We have a great year ahead with lots of activities and the implementation of our strategic plan objectives. I wish everyone and their families a great week ahead. God bless you and our great town. Here are some updates:

1. We had a closed session at Tuesday's special meeting, so that the council could discuss legal matters pursuant to the Attorney Client Privilege Per North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (3) and (a) (5).
2. We had our regular council meeting on Tuesday Evening at 6:30. Below is a summary of the meeting. Video recordings are available on our Facebook and Vimeo accounts, and minutes will be available soon. **My comments:** We are doing better with live broadcasting and syncing the audio and video. It was great to see so many citizens attending this meeting, and we hope that this trend continues.
 - a. Persons wishing to address the Council - We had one person who spoke to the council regarding possible annexation and environmental impact.
 - b. The town manager reported on the status of various activities in town.
 - c. Consent Agenda: - **Was approved by the council 5-0**
 - d. No old business items were on the agenda.
 - e. Under New Business
 - e1. Action to direct the Town Clerk to investigate the Sufficiency of the Annexation Petition. If found to be Sufficient, advertise a Public Hearing to be held during the February 19 meeting. **Approved and voted 3-2.**
My comments: This is the standard first step in the process to validate the document and schedule a public hearing for the citizens. Two council members voted "no" to have a sufficiency investigation and to hold a public hearing. Members of the council commented on the annexation issues on both sides.
 - e2. Authorize the Town Manager to Work with the other Towns (4 neighboring towns) to create a Set of Bylaws for the Sound to Sea Partnership to Present in February for Adoption. Also Include Identifying a Member of the Town's Board to serve as the Town's Representative for any initial informal collaboration efforts - **Approved and voted 5-0. Councilman Misciagno volunteered to serve as the Town's representative.**
 - e3. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Holly Ridge and the Town of Topsail Beach for the Purpose of Conducting Inspections. **Approved and voted 5-0. My Comment:** The plan is to share resources to conduct inspections in accordance with standard guidelines.
 - e4. Approval of officially forming a Beautification Committee to establish membership and authorize the Town Manager to advertise the creation of the Committee and accept applications from the public. **Approved voted 5-0. My Comment:** The announcement on this matter will go out, and citizens

will be able to apply for membership in accordance with the defined laws.

- f. Persons wishing to address the Council- There were additional comments regarding annexation and environmental issues.
- g. Town Council Comments: Town council members and I provide our comments to the audience. **My Comment:** I have asked the Public Information Officer to post the 2024 environmental study by Southern Environmental Group (Phase 1 Study) on towns website for the citizens' review. I invite the citizens to at least review the executive summary and the conclusions stated as displayed below.

A regulatory database search report was provided by EDR. The database search involves researching a series of Federal, State, Local, and other databases for facilities and properties that are located within specified minimum search distances from the Subject Property. The EDR report did not identify the Subject Property on the databases researched. The EDR report identified five (5) off-site properties within the minimum ASTM search distances. Based on our review of available public records, the distances from the Subject Property and/or groundwater flow direction inferred from surface topography, these reported facilities do not represent a REC for the site. The EDR report did not identify the Subject Property on any of the listed databases.

- h. Announcements:
 - Monday, January 19, 2026 – Administrative Offices Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - Tuesday, January 20, 2026 – Planning Board Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall.
 - Thursday, January 22, 2026 – Town Council Work Session beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall.
 - Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – Town Council Regular Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center.
 - **Wednesday, February 11, 2026 – Community Discussion & Information Meeting about this project with the Developer and Representatives of the Town. This meeting will take place at the Community Center and begin at 6:00 p.m.**
 - Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – Planning Board Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall.
 - Thursday, February 19, 2026 –Town Council will hold a potential Special Meeting to receive public comments. This meeting will take place at the Community Center and begin at 6:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center.
 - Friday, April 3, 2026 & Monday, April 6, 2026 – Town Administrative Offices Closed for the Easter Holiday.
- i. Closed Session - We entered closed session based on the following statements by the town attorney.
 - I1. 1. Attorney/Client Privilege per North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3)
 - I2. 2. To Discuss Matters Relating to the Location or Expansion of Industries or Other Businesses in the Area Served by the Public Body per North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(4)
 - I3 3.To establish or instruct the Public Body's Staff or Negotiating Agents Concerning the Position to be Taken by or On Behalf of the Public Body by Negotiating the Price and Other Material Terms of a Contract or Proposed Contract for the Acquisition of Real Property by

Purchase, Option, Exchange, or Lease per North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(5)

My comment: We have received comments regarding the closed session and whether the content should have been public. As you can see from the items above, there are legal matters that are not ready for public discussion.

My Comments regarding the request for annexation: We are following the standard process to hold a public hearing regarding this matter and encourage citizens to participate. Additionally, we have invited the developer, who is considering annexation, to hold a public meeting and answer any questions citizens may have.

3. The town manager and I met with the representative of Congressman Murphy to discuss continued support for various strategic initiatives, community center funding, and coordination among them.
4. The town manager and I met with county officials to discuss joint projects and initiatives aligned with our strategic plan goals.
5. This week, we will continue our discussion with ONWASA and the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Office, on grants to install a water tower in the Camp Davis Industrial Park.
6. This week, we will also have an additional conversation with Senator Budd's representative to discuss Congressional Direct Funding for our projects.
7. This week, we will also hold our first-quarter Council Work Session to discuss in more detail various topics that may come up during the Monthly council meeting. **There will be no voting or public comments during the work session.**
8. As I mentioned previously, we are restarting some committees and forming new ones, as listed below. Please consider getting actively involved as a member or as an interested party in our plans. Some members of the committee who have been inactive will resume activities and work in 2026. These are:
 - a. Political Connection Committee
 - b. Marketing and Branding Committee
 - c. Friends of the Park Committee
 - d. Bee City USA Committee
 - e. Beautification committee
9. I will have office hours this week on Tuesday and Thursday, 1–4 p.m. I am available to discuss any subjects by appointment, by phone at 336-865-0884, or by message. We do appreciate citizens' interest in the management of our great town. We may disagree on issues, but we are open to discussing and hearing from you. You are all a critical part of the process. You elected the members of this Council and the Mayor based on the goals and ideas we presented to you. We appreciate your confidence and support. God Bless you, and God Bless our Town, County, State, and our great country.

Mayor Pete Parnian