



Town of Holly Ridge

Mayor's Message



FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Happy Monday, everyone. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy some of the warmer weather. I wish you all a great week ahead. God bless you and your family, our Town, our County, our State, and our great Country.

1. On behalf of our Town, I attended the Onslow County Commissioners' meeting on Monday, February 16, 2026. Here is a summary.
 - The modified consent agenda was approved, and two items were moved to the regular agenda.
 - Budget amendment – **several items**
 - Consistent naming of County facilities
 - Multi-purpose building renamed to Onslow Enrichment Center
 - Moved: Onslow Opioid Spending authority changed – **This is a great service that is available to Holly Ridge citizens**
 - Airport land acquisition project ordinance change
 - Additional funding for the Division of Child and Family Well-Being
 - Health department fee schedule update
 - NC Wise Women Program Agreement
 - Changes to the school bus garage and educational support
 - Accepted Home and Community Care Grant
 - Moved: Parks and Recreation fee schedule
 - Appointments to the Board of Equalization, Juvenile Crime Prevention, Community Chile Protection, Board of Adjustment for Holly Ridge, and Swansboro Planning Board members.
 - Presented Budget Report
 - Approved Tax Lien on Real properties
 - Approved Fire Commission Bylaws – **This will impact the Town – I will post a copy.**
 - Approved the Jacksonville creation of an uptown indoor sports complex
 - Approved David Smitterman, county manager termination – Mr. Steve Eaton is now the interim manager
 - Approved: Increase the fire protection contribution from 3 to 5 cents – **This will increase the county contribution of the county tax to the Town – we will adjust accordingly during our budget development**
 - Approved Surplus land offer and sale consideration
2. On Tuesday, we had our Planning Board meeting covering 3 topics of discussion.
 - a. Discussion and recommendation for a request to amend the Town's Zoning Map by rezoning property from R-15A to Commercial - **approved 5-0**

- b. Discussion and recommendation to assign Town of Holly Ridge zoning to potentially annexed parcels along NC Hwy 50 to accommodate the Planned Unit Development Overlay and Camp Davis Industrial Park Overlay – **approved 5-0**
 - c. Discussion and recommendation on the submitted Concept Plan for a Planned Unit Development on potentially annexed parcels along NC Hwy 50 – **approved 5-0**
3. On Wednesday, Mayor Pro-Tem and I took part in the Strategic Planning training offered by the North Carolina League of Municipalities. We were there to offer advice on developing a strategic municipal plan. Our plan was used as an example of a successful Strategic Plan. The training was attended by more than 70 student officials across North Carolina.
4. On Thursday, the Town Council held its Special Meeting to consider the annexation, zoning, concept plan, and the development agreement for the proposed Annexation (project Ajax).
 - a. Approval of the Voluntary Satellite Annexation of Onslow County Parcel Numbers 027857, 001971, 011593, & Pender County Parcel Number 4227-56-5933-0000, consisting of approximately 1,226 Acres. **Passed 3-2**
 - b. Approval of the Request by Holly Ridge Development Group, LLC, to Rezone Onslow County Parcel Numbers: Numbers 027857, 001971, 011593, & Pender County Parcel Number 4227-56-5933-0000 to a PUD Overlay & Light Industrial with the Camp Davis Industrial Park Overlay. The parcels consist of approximately 1,2226 Acres. **Passed 3-2**
 - c. Approval of the Request by Holly Ridge Development Group, LLC, for a Concept Map for the proposed Planned Unit Development for Onslow County Parcel Numbers 027857, 001971, 011593, & Pender County Parcel Number 4227-56-5933-0000. **Passed 3-2**
 - d. Approval of the Proposed Developers Agreement submitted by Holly Ridge Development Group, LLC. **Passed 3-2 with the change from 50 to 30 years' time frame**
5. Next week, we will continue discussing the plan for a Holly Ridge water tower with ONWASA and the application to the Department of Commerce's Economic Development office. ONWASA is the lead on this application and is conducting engineering and infrastructure analyses. We support whatever they need to complete the application and hope for the best in receiving the grant.
6. We are evaluating the site plan and will soon receive the construction plan for the building of the ABC store off Highway 17 in Holly Ridge. The ABC commission, led by Commissioner Paul Buchanan, is working with us to support the organization. Having an in-town ABC store will increase the tax revenue on ABC sales.
7. I will have office hours this week on Tuesday and Thursday, 1–4 p.m. I am available to discuss any subject by appointment, by phone at 336-865-0884, or by email. We do appreciate citizens' interest, and I have had many great discussions with our citizens. I invite anyone interested to meet with me and discuss your ideas and concerns. We may disagree on issues, but we are open to discussing and hearing from you. We appreciate your confidence and support. God bless you.

Mayor Pete Parnian