

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, January 13, 2011
Council Chambers
7:00 pm

Call to Order

Mayor Bryan Hough called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present:

Mayor Bryan Hough	Danny Jackson, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Breyare	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	Greg Beal, Senior Planner
Councilman Brookshire	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman Jim Hope	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilman David Moore	David Belk, Chief of Police
Councilman Perry Toomey	Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director
Kemp Michael, City Attorney	Ed Smith, Recreation Director

Call to Order by Mayor Hough

Mayor Hough called the Mount Holly City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation

In the absence of Reverend Angela Hollar, Pastor of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Councilman Toomey, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Boy Scout Troop 59 of the First United Methodist Church in Mount Holly led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Set Agenda

Mayor Hough advised that due to the inclement weather, the Council meeting was postponed from Monday night until tonight, January 13, 2011. Therefore the public hearing will that was originally scheduled will be postponed until the February so staff will have the appropriate amount of time to re-advertise. He further advised that Consent Agenda Item 5 regarding the smart cars would be moved to item 1 under New Business and add an Old Business item 2 Alive After 5. With no additional changes to the agenda Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Right of Way Agreement with NCDOT for Mountain Island Road
2. Approval of Re-Appointments to the Planning Commission
3. Approval of a Budget Amendment Appropriating Drug Money to the Local School System
4. Approval of a Budget Amendment Appropriating Funds for the Repairs for Damage to a Police Vehicle
5. Approval of the minutes for the November 22, 2010 work session meeting
6. Approval of the minutes for the December 1, 2010 special meeting
7. Approval of the minutes for the December 13, business meeting

Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit

No one was signed up to speak.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the Council Retreat

Mayor Hough advised that he put this item back on the agenda to discuss any concerns that the Council may have in regard to going out of town for the Council Retreat. Councilman Hope advised that he wants to discuss the article that appeared in the Gaston Gazette. He commented that the picture that appeared on the front page of the paper was very upsetting. He advised that he wanted to stay in town for the Retreat but by consensus, the Council thought it would be more productive to go away this year. Councilman Hope then commented that he suggested each Council person pay his own way. He further advised that after researching the past few Council Retreats there is only about \$1300 difference between staying in town and going away. Councilman Hope emphasized that he is very appreciative of what this Council does an even though he doesn't always agree with the final decisions they are decisions made by Council and he will support them. Councilman Hope then asked staff to look into audio visual equipment so Council meetings can be posted on the website so the citizens of Mount Holly can see for themselves what goes on within the city. Councilman Bishop then spoke up about Mr. Burkett, a Gastonia City Councilman commenting on Mount Holly going out of town for the Retreat. He advised that Mr. Burkett seemed to forget that he voted to receive three years of retroactive pay for insurance premiums. Councilman Bishop further commented that he did not understand why the Gazette would ask a City of Gastonia Councilman to comment on the Mount Holly retreat but his advice for Mr. Burkett was to clean up your own back yard before worrying about mine. Council agreed to stand by their original decision to have the Council Retreat at the Grandover Resort. Mayor Hough commented that Councilman Bishop was right on with his comments and he is proud of the Council and proud to be the Mayor.

2. Discussion of Alive After 5

Ms. Featherstone and Mr. Young were present on behalf of Mount Hollydays to further explain the plans for the 2011 Alive After 5 events. First they advised that the name is going to be changed to Mount Holly Nights. They continued their presentation advising that they are working closely with Belmont this year and planning one joint event to be held at the end of the season. Ms. Featherstone advised that there are plans for a VIP tent and the Presbyterian Church has volunteered for the Kids Zone. Ms. Featherstone advised that she has met with staff and discussed some of the particulars and is hoping that Council will agree to co-sponsor the events. Councilman Hope asked if they anticipated anywhere close to the number of people that has been predicted to come to these events. Mr. Young commented that it is hard to tell because Mount Holly has never had anything to this magnitude before. Councilman Bishop commented that he has concerns with the City co-sponsoring this event. He advised that the funds for this event was not part of the budget therefore will have to be appropriated. Ms. Featherstone asked if TDA funds can be used toward co-sponsorship of the events. Mr. Jackson replied that legally it has to be an event for people to stay overnight for the TDA funds to be used. Mayor Hough advised that the main questions is “does the City Council want this to happen” if so the logistics can be worked out later. Mr. Young and Ms. Featherstone emphasized that they need a final answer for the City Council before the end of January so they can move forward with securing the bands for the events. Council agreed to continue the discussion at the January work session and be prepared at that time to make a decision in regard to the Mount Holly Nights events.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Surplus Property for the Utility Department (Smart Cars)

Mayor Pro Tem Breyare commented that she asked this item be moved off of the consent agenda so Council could discuss this matter. Mr. Friday explained that the smart cars do not meet the needs of his department. He advised that they work out great for one week out of the month while water meters are being read but the rest of

the month they are not feasible. Mr. Friday advised that he would like to surplus both smart cars and trade them in on a utility truck. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare asked if there was somewhere within one of the City Departments that they could be used. Mr. Jackson advised that there has been talk about the Streets Department using one. Council directed staff to move forward with looking into other Department that can use the Smart Car and report back to Council.

CLOSED SESSION

At this time, Councilman Moore made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3 and 5)). Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

Councilman Bishop made a motion to come out of closed session. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Mayor Hough advised that no action was taken during closed session.

REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Breyare brought up the issue of using the old gym for recreation during the winter months. She advised that a few years ago Council agreed to move the fitness center to Tuck Park and not use the old gym due to heating costs. Mr. Smith came forward and advised that if the Recreation Department does not use the old gym then they will have to cut programs or have games on Sunday's and Wednesday's. Mr. Smith advised that he is trying to keep the expenditures as low as possible by keeping the heat on low and the door shut. Council directed Mr. Smith to look into the costs of other heating options at the old gums and report back to Council.

Councilman Toomey asked if the Utility Committee is going to be at the Special Meeting to discuss the waste water options. Mr Jackson advised that he plans on having them there.

Councilman Toomey reported that there is a loose man hole cover at 309 Highland and asked if anything had been done in regard to the petition about the Huitt Street water pressure. Mr. Jackson advised that the Utility Department is currently investigating the water pressure issue and the issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Councilman Bishop asked about the Catawba Heights Fire Station renovations. Councilman Hope advised that they are scheduled to start next week.

Councilman Hope advised that some of the the panels in council chambers have started to warp and the Construction Committee will be looking into it. Councilman Hope then asked Mr. Smith when the new recreation equipment will be up and running. Mr. Smith advised that he is looking at a few different options as to where to put the new equipment, one is at the old gym where the fitness center used to be. He advised that there is no place at the Tuck Center for the equipment.

Councilman Moore reported that there is a loose man hole cover in front of Leigh Brinkley house on Oakland Street.

Mr. Jackson reported that he will be sending out a weekly update this week via email and would also like to commend staff for their work during the recent winter storm.

Mayor Hough advised that the recycling in Deerfield did not get picked up once again. He stated his displeasure with Waste Management.

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Hope made the motion to adjourn the January 13, 2011 Council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

