

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, May 24, 2010
Council Chambers
6:30 pm

Call to Order

Mayor Bryan Hough called the meeting to order at 6:30 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	David Belk, Chief of Police
Councilman Jim Hope	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilman Perry Toomey	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman Bennie Brookshire	Greg Beal, Senior Planner
Councilman David Moore	Mark Jusko, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation
Kemp Michael, City Attorney	Mike Santmire, Streets & Solid Waste Director

Invocation

Councilman Moore led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

Set the Agenda

Mayor Hough asked Council for any changes to the May 24, 2010 work session agenda. With no changes to the agenda, Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion. With all Council members present, all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- Request from the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission for the use of the Council Chambers for their June Meeting
 Ms. Danzi came before the City Council to request the use of the Council Chambers for the upcoming Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission Meeting. She advised that the Commission will be holding a public hearing at the meeting and feels that with the space and the sound equipment in the Council Chambers would serve them much better than the Training Room for the meeting that is scheduled for June 2nd. It was emphasized to Ms. Danzi that when the Citizens Center opened to the public the Council Chambers use would be limited to that of the Planning Commission and City Council. Therefore the City Council offered the use of the Tuck Building since there was concern regarding the space in the Training Room. Ms. Danzi responded that notices for the Public Hearing has already been published therefore it is too late to move the meeting to the Tuck Center. Mayor Hough asked for direction from Council regarding the request from Ms. Danzi. No one made a motion to approve the request.

2. Discussion of Breed Specific Legislation

Mr. Beal reported that under a separate cover with the Council packet was a detailed report outlining the steps of adopting Breed Specific Legislation (BSL). He advised that the Town of Edenton is the only town in North Carolina that has adopted BSL and after talking to staff it is a nightmare to enforce. Mr. Beal added that there would also be start up costs associated with BSL. He advised that the startup costs would be approximately \$150,000 and that would not include the cost of a kennel. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare commented that she had an experience with a neighbors pit bull and a Rottweiler and called the police six (6) times in that regard. She added that the Police cannot do anything unless they catch the dogs in the act. Councilman Toomey suggested setting guidelines that would increase the responsibility of the owner. Councilman Bishop commented that when he was the Chief of Police the Animal Control Officer would come through town a couple of time a month. He suggested contacting the Animal Control Office and request that they start doing this again. Councilman Hope commented that he does not believe the City should get into the dog business and therefore should put more emphasis on the owners. It was the consensus of Council to encourage Mr. Young to go to the County Commissioners with his request for Breed Specific Legislation.

3. Discussion of an Ordinance to Ban Tobacco Use in City Parks

Mr. Jusko came before Council looking for additional direction regarding smoking regulations in the City Parks. There was discussion regarding how other Cities and Towns handle this problem. The Council's main concern was to keep smoking away from the areas where children play or participate in sports activities. Mayor Hough added that smokeless tobacco should be included in the regulations. After further discussion, Council agreed to limit the use of tobacco to the parking areas of City Parks. Mr. Jusko will bring something back to Council at the June business meeting for approval.

4. Discussion of a Graffiti Ordinance

Chief Belk advised that he was asked to bring a graffiti ordinance to Council that would be easy for the City to enforce. He presented the proposed ordinance and also advised Council that graffiti can also be considered under the City nuisance ordinance. Council discussed the proposed graffiti ordinance and the possibility of community service workers being used to remove graffiti. It was established that community service workers could only be used on City property. After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to add fine amounts to the proposed ordinance for failure to remove graffiti and the lien process if the City conducts the abatement. The changes will come back before Council at the July meeting.

5. Discussion of Speed Humps on City Streets

Mr. Beal advised that he and Mr. DuPont were scheduled to attend a webinar regarding speed humps. However due to some computer problems the webinar was postponed. He further advised that he would bring a full report back to Council at the next work session.

6. Discussion of Uses for the former City Hall

Mr. Jackson advised that at the last work session the uses for the old city hall came as a future discussion item. He commented that he is looking for Council direction as to how Council would like to move forward with the use of the old city hall. Mayor

Hough commented that he would like to see the building used as a Downtown Center with different city organizations located in the building. It was the consensus of the Council to look to the Economic Development Committee for further direction.

7. Discussion of the Training Room Policy

Councilman Hope brought before Council a revision to the Training Room Policy that would divide the Training Room into separate spaces (A and B) as intended when the room was designed. He added that he feels the Council should encourage unity within the City and therefore should not charge the groups that benefit the City to use the Training Rooms. Mayor Hough agreed with Councilman Hope and Mayor Pro Tem Breyare suggested that the recommendations go back before the Facilities Committee for additional review. Council agreed.

8. Continued Discussion of the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget

Mr. Guffey reported that the Council agreed to continue their budget discussion tonight. He reviewed items that included the 911 budget, the Engineer position, debt service and water and sewer rates. Council agreed to not increase the water and sewer rates as first intended. There was also discussion regarding the Engineers position and the amount of funds the City currently puts toward contracting with an engineer. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare and Councilmen Toomey and Brookshire voiced their concerns regarding employee raises. They agreed with the 2% COLA but were uncertain about the merit raises. Council agreed to leave 2% COLA and 3% merit in the budget for employee raises.

At this time Mayor Hough commented that staff had done an excellent job preparing the budget but would like page numbers put on the budget work book next year. This would make it easier for Council to keep up. Mr. Jackson thanked Mr. Guffey, Ms. Otis and the Department Heads for the all the hard work and effort they put forth in regard to a balanced budget.

9. Closed Session (*pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3)*)

Councilman Hope made a motion to enter into closed session. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Councilman Moore 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.

At this time, Mayor Hough asked if there were any additional items for discussion. Councilman Toomey asked staff to look into a couple of problem areas on Walnut Avenue. He advised that there is a house that is falling in and then a neighbor with a blue vinyl tarp that covers up junk.

10. Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Moore made the motion to adjourn the May 24, 2010 Council work session meeting. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.