

CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 9, 2009
Council Chambers
7:00 pm

Call to Order

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

Mayor Robert Whitt	Eric Davis, City Manager
Mayor Pro-Tem David Moore	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	Danny Jackson, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Frank McLean	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman Bennie Brookshire	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilman Perry Toomey	David Belk, Chief of Police
Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare	Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director
Brooke Lopez, Attorney, Kemp Michaels' office	

Call to Order by Mayor Whitt

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

Invocation

Reverend Brian Childers pastor of the First Baptist Church led 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 Whitt asked for changes to the February 9, 2009 meeting agenda. Councilman Brookshire asked that item number four (4), Approval of a Resolution to Codify the Mount Holly Policy Prohibiting Stormwater Drainage Improvements by City Personnel upon Private Property (#020909C) be moved to Old Business. Mr. Michael asked that a resolution changing the public hearing date on the annexation request for the property located at Highway 273 and Lucia-Riverbend Road to the March 9th meeting be added to the Consent Agenda. Mayor Whitt added under New Business an appointment to the Planning Commission and an update on the Economic Development Committee. Being no other changes to the agenda, Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to accept the agenda with the stated changes. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of a Resolution in Support of the Centralina COG CONNECT Program (#020909A)
2. Approval of \$1500 in Support of the Springfest Senior Dinner
3. Approval of a Resolution Honoring the Accomplishments of Mount Holly Citizen Galen Cassada (#020909B)
4. Approval of a Resolution to Change the Date of the Public Hearing on the Annexation Request for the Property Located at Highway 273 and Lucia-Riverbend Road (#020909D)

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

MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes for the January 12, 2009 business meeting.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 business meeting.

Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

2. Approval of the minutes for the January 15-17, 2009 Council Retreat.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15-17, 2009 Council Retreat.

Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

3. Approval of the minutes for the January 26, 2009 work session meeting.

Councilwoman Breyare made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 Council work

session. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Resolution to Galen Cassada

Mr. Cassada was unable to attend; therefore the presentation was postponed until the March meeting.

2. Presentation on the Adoption of the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Gaston County Communities

Mr. Beal reviewed the Carolina Thread Trail process and detailed the areas/counties of which the Thread Trail would extend. He asked Council to adopt the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Gaston County.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to adopt the resolution. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

3. Presentation on the Linear Park

Mr. Davis explained that this presentation was brought before Council at the January Council Retreat. He advised that Council directed him to make the same presentation at the monthly Council meeting. Mr. Davis reported that the project area consists of the areas first implemented by the City a few years ago. Mr. Davis further explained that staff took on the development of the conceptual plan using an outside resource for the landscape design portion of the plan. Mr. Davis further explained the landscape design and gave examples of suggested vegetation. He advised that the next step of the Linear Park process would be meeting with CSX to discuss right of way issues. At this time Mr. Davis asked Council to accept the Linear Park Implementation Plan as presented so Staff could move forward with setting up meetings with CSX. Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to accept the Linear Park Implementation Plan with the understanding that the plan would be implemented in different phases. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing on the Amendment to Section 16 of the Zoning Ordinance to Adopt the Revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM's) as required by FEMA—*The public hearing will be postponed until the February 23, 2009 work session at 6:00 p.m.*

2. Public Hearing on the Annexation Request for the Property Located at Highway 273 and Lucia-Riverbend Road—*The public hearing will be postponed until the March 9, 2009 Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.*

PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit

There was no one signed up to speak.

At this time, Mayor Whitt called a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:14 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on the Tuckaseege Park

Ms. Pritchard reported that the contractor is working very well with the City in regard to the repairs of Tuck Park Phase I. She advised that there are currently several issues that are being resolved. She further advised that the City is going to withhold funds to WK Dickson until all repairs are made. Ms. Pritchard also reported that the City is in the process of contacting PARTIF to ask for an extension of the grant for Phase II of Tuck Park.

2. Discussion of the Postal Service Letter

Mayor Whitt advised that the postal service has agreed to contact the citizens of Catawba Heights regarding changing the zip codes in the area. He further advised that to succeed in this venture the City would need to seek help from State and Federal level officials. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with setting up meetings with elected officials to discuss this issue.

3. Approval of a Resolution to Codify the Mount Holly Policy Prohibiting Stormwater Drainage Improvements by City Personnel upon Private Property (#020909C)

Mayor Whitt reported that this item was taken off the consent agenda at the request of Councilman Brookshire. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the Resolution to Codify the Mount Holly Policy Prohibiting Stormwater Drainage Improvements by City Personnel upon Private Property. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. Councilman Brookshire reported that he feels these issues should be dealt with on a case by case basis as they have in the past. Councilman Toomey questioned parts of the resolution as well. Mayor Whitt clarified that the way the resolution is written, it upholds the policy that the City has worked under for the past thirty (30) years. At this time, Mayor Whitt called for a vote. Mayor Pro Tem Moore, Councilwoman Breyare and Councilmen Bishop and McLean all voted in favor of the resolution and Councilman Brookshire and Toomey voted against. (Motion carried)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Amendments

Ms. Scruggs reported that the proposed Budget Amendments are to clean up the items presented in the audit last month. The first amendment is approval of a Capital Project Ordinance for the elevated water tank and booster pump station. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor (Motion carried)

Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the General Fund Capital Projects budget amendments as presented. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor (Motion carried)

Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to close the Greenway Capital Project. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor (Motion carried)

Councilwoman Breyare made a motion to close the Streetscape Capital Project. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor (Motion carried)

Councilman Bishop made a motion to close the Citizens Center Capital Project. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor (Motion carried)

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the Police Department Budget as presented. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor (Motion carried)

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the Utility Department budget as presented. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor (Motion carried)

2. Appointment of Planning Commission Vacancy

Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to appoint Jeff Meadows to the Planning Commission for the remainder of Jerry Miller's term. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

3. Update on the Economic Development Committee
Mayor Whitt advised that the Council agreed at the Retreat to restructure the Economic Development Committee. He further advised that Mr. Jackson will Chair the committee and will be contacting all the members to make them aware of the changes.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Police Department Year End Report

Chief Belk reviewed the Police Department year end report before the Council. He emphasized that there has been a large decrease (23%) for 2008.

2. Presentation of the Law and Order Magazine Article Plaque

Chief Belk reported that Leslie Shiel wrote an article regarding the Police Department moving to the new building. He advised that the article was published in Law and Order Magazine. Chief Belk presented Council with a framed version of the article.

3. Marketing Plan for the Rental of the Grand Hall

Mayor Whitt advised that the City needs to start working on a marketing plan for renting the Grand Hall. Councilman Bishop reported that Mr. Jackson will call a meeting of the Grand Hall Committee and start working on a plan.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Davis reported that the Mayors pictures have been moved as requested and without making any holes in the brick.

Mr. Davis reported that the plaques are displayed in a case located in the Grand Hall. He advised that the Archives Committee agreed to let the case come over to the Grand Hall.

Mr. Davis reported that the Citizens Academy is in the third (3rd) week. He advised that the Clerk is working on setting a date for the tour of facilities. Council will be made aware of the date and invited to attend.

REPORTS

1. Mount Holly Community Foundation

Xavier Miranda

Mr. Miranda reported he serves as Co-Chairman of the Economic Development Division of the Foundation. He reviewed some of the functions that are set to take place in the future and advised that he is looking forward to working with the Economic Development Division of the City. At this time, Wendy Foster reported that the Foundation is in the process of moving into an office space. She advised that they will be moving into the old Angelica Whispers.

Bob Suttentfield reported that the Foundation is very excited about working with the City on the Greenway project. He advised that the funds the Foundation has spent on the Greenway project have all come from donations through the Community. He further advised that there is a meeting scheduled with Greenways Incorporated next week and will be held at the Citizens Center.

Councilman Brookshire reported that there is an Archives Committee scheduled and a topic of discussion will be an update on the panoramic picture for the Administration Lobby.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore reported that there is a Beautification Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Jackson reported that the City has just been notified that we will be receiving the Region of Excellence Award presented by the Centralina COG. He advised that he will be attending the meeting this week to accept the award on the Cities behalf.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session (*pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3)*)

At this time, Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to enter into closed session. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. The time was 9:35 p.m.

Council returned to open session on a motion made by Councilman Bishop and seconded by Councilman McLean. All Council Members voted in favor. Mayor Whitt advised that there was no action taken during closed session.

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Councilman Bishop made a motion to adjourn the February 9, 2009 Council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted in favor.

(Motion carried)

The February 9, 2009 Council meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.