

**Mount Holly City Council
Work Session
March 5, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The work session meeting of the City Council of Mount Holly was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Black. The following were present:

Mayor Bobby Black	City Manager David Kraus
Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Hope	Administrative Services Officer Jamie Guffey
Councilman Michael Helms	Public Utilities Director Don Price
Councilman Frank McLean	Planning & Zoning Director Danny Jackson
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard	Fire Chief John Ekiatis
Councilman Bryan Hough	Parks & Recreation Director Zip Stowe
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Police Chief Ricky Davis
City Attorney Kemp Michael	Streets and Solid Waste Director Mike Santmire

The Invocation was lead by Mayor Pro-Tem Hope.

Item # 1 on the Agenda -- Lucia-Riverbend Volunteer Fire Department.

Chief David Toomey of the Lucia-Riverbend Volunteer Fire Department spoke to Council about the possibility of the City reconsidering the cancellation of the contract with his department for fire protection in the northern areas of the City. Chief Toomey stated that there was no way for the City to put a truck at the steam station and be able to serve the Stonewater area in a timely manner. He also stated that his department had purchased air packs and had counted on this money to help to pay for this purchase. By breaking the contract, the City has put Lucia-Riverbend in a financial hardship. Because of this, they are requesting that the City reconsider its decision. Mayor Black stated that the Council would take this request for information.

Item # 2 on the Agenda -- Discussion of EDC Proposal.

City Manager Kraus stated that the EDC has approached Mount Holly about a Company that wishes to relocate into our ETJ. The company is rumored to be a grain or flour company and the project would total about \$50,000,000. He also stated that the NCDOT is pushing for this project as the old P & N rail line would be reopened to service this development. The City currently has water and sewer near the property.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hope stated that the Council need more information before they could comment on the proposed project.

Item #3 on the agenda – Draft Agenda Items.

New Business #4 Batting Cages at Tuckasee Center.

Parks and Recreation Director Stowe stated that portable batting cages were being purchased by donations that were made to the Recreation department. He also stated that Council would have to accept the donations.

Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** that the City accept the donation of money to purchase the batting cages. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

New Business #1&2 – Rollins Square

City Manager Kraus stated that Priority One is request that Council approve a full time manager position for Rollins Square Apartments. They are also requesting that the City vote to waive the rent on one apartment so that one of the City's police officers can live there. He stated that this would not cost the City any money. Councilwoman Hubbard asked that these items be moved to the consent agenda.

Unfinished Business #1 – East Gaston Sewer Line

City Manager Kraus stated that the County has requested an amendment to the contract for sewer that states that the City of Mount Holly would borrow the money for the project and the County would pay the debt service. Councilman Hough asked what kind of guarantee would the City have that the County would make the debt payments. City Attorney Michael stated that the contract would bind the County to pay the debt.

Councilman McLean stated that currently we have no way to meter sewer usage if water is not also available. Therefore, water needs to be considered at the same time.

Item #4 on the agenda – Department Reports.

Fire Chief Ekaitis updated Council on the construction of the new station. He stated that building should be finished in late March or early April.

Item #5 on the agenda – Current Budget Update

Administrative Services Officer Guffey updated Council on the current situation of the budget and how state cuts are impacting City spending. Staff is currently trying to make cuts in this year's budget to balance the state cuts and the lagging economy. The plan will be presented at the regular Council Meeting.

Councilman Hough **MOVED** to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues and the City Manager Evaluation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harris and passed with no objections.

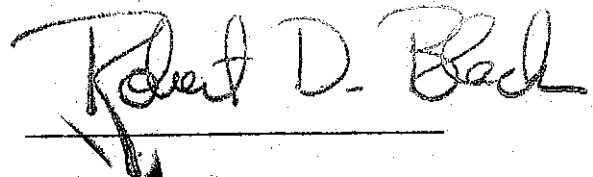
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Councilwoman Harris **MOVED** that the Council come out of executive session and go back into regular Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Helms and passed with no objections.

Councilman Hough **MOVED** for adjournment at 10:00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harris and passed with no objections.



City Clerk



Mayor