

**City of Mount Holly  
Mount Holly City Council Meeting  
Monday, February 13, 2012  
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 David Moore    | Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager            |
| Councilman Jerry Bishop      | Greg Beal, Senior Planner                       |
| Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare | James Friday, Director of Utilities             |
| Councilman J. Jason Gowen    | Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief                       |
| Councilman Jim Hope          | David Belk, Chief of Police                     |
| Councilman Perry Toomey      | Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director |
| Kemp Michael, City Attorney  | Ed Smith, Recreation Director                   |

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**Call to Order by Mayor Hough**

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

**Invocation**

Reverend Peggy Thorne 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 asked for any changes to the agenda. With no changes Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of 2012 Paving Projects
2. Approval of Surplus Property
3. Approval of Budget Amendment to move Funds for the Police Department
4. Approval of the minutes for the January 9, 2012 regular meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Gowen seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation of Resolution Honoring Wanda McElveen

Mayor Hough and the City Council presented Ms. Wanda McElveen with a proclamation honoring her for her participation of the organization of the annual Christmas Parade. She was recognized as a valuable asset to the City.

2. Introduction of New Employee in Dispatch

Chief Belk introduced Michelle Bone. She was selected for last vacancy in telecommunications.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit**

Dan Brantley  
501 Nivens Cove Road  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Brantley advised that he is before Council on behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veteran to request permission to maintain the grave sites of the confederate soldiers. He explained that the group takes care of the stones and cleans and replaces the broken stones. He gave the Council pictures of the work his organization has done.

Joe Harris  
434 Ginny Street  
Gastonia, NC

Mr. Harris came before Council on behalf of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. He explained that the organization is nonracial and has no religious bigotry. He advised that some of the symbols used is believed to represent a racist organization however people are expelled from their group for any racial activity.

Shelia Baldwin  
108 Village Glen Way  
Mount Holly, NC

Ms. Baldwin came before Council to share her concerns regarding the proposed Mountain Island Charter School. Her concerns stem from one way in and one way out of the proposed property. Emergency response ingress and egress is also a concern especially during high traffic times.

Chris Lutz  
101 Buffalo Court  
Mount Holly, NC

Chris asked everyone in attendance that is opposed to the proposed charter school to please stand.

Kerry Hutton  
314 Horseshoe Lake  
Mount Holly, NC

Mr. Hutton advised that his main concern is about traffic. He advised that he is not opposed to the school but the traffic problems it could produce.

Charles Held  
405 Beech Bluff Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Held thanked the members of the Mountain Island Charter School Board of Directors for their interest in moving the school to Mount Holly. He advised that it would be an asset for Mount Holly. However he is concerned about the traffic issue that it will cause in the Stonewater area.

Angie Kukinski  
304 Brookridge Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Kukinski commented that she is not against the Charter School but is worried about the safety concerns and the high volume of traffic it will cause on Horse Shoe Bend Road. She hopes there will be a secondary road put into place that will help deter traffic.

David Kukinski  
304 Brookridge Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Kukinski shared his concerns regarding the Charter School and the proximity of the nuclear plant. He added that if there were to be a disaster with the nuclear plant the entire area would be closed down and passage to the school would be impossible.

Patty Brown  
313 Stonewater Bay  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Brown commented on concerns regarding the significant increase in traffic on Horse Shoe Bend Road.

Ken Miles  
300 Beech Bluff Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Miles commented that the Charter School is a good idea but the concern is with traffic and safety for the children.

Carol Sue Warns

Ms. Warns is concerned that Stonewater Bay will become a cut through community because of the traffic issue that the location of the Charter School will cause.

Stephanie Steiger  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Steiger commented that she is not against the school just against safety and traffic issues.

Debbie, Emily and Gabby Coble  
228 Woodward Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Coble advised that she was on the founding board of directors for the Charter School. She advised that the school will definitely have an impact on the traffic in that area but like herself many of the families that attend the school have more than one child so it is not like there will be a car on the highway for every student that attends the school. She added that several of the families carpool as well. Ms. Coble further advised that being a charter school they are given flexibility with their hours of operation, therefore start times and dismissal times can set at times to reduce the impact on rush hour traffic.

Jodi Hill  
325 Silver Cliff Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Hill asked everyone in support of the Charter School to stand. She advised that as a resident of Mount Holly she would like to see a place of learning in Mount Holly.

Lauren Newton  
508 Brookridge Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Newton advised that Stonewater Bay residents experienced firsthand on Friday what it was like to have one way in and out as traffic was impacted by an accident. She echoed the traffic concerns of the Stonewater Bay residents and asked Council to table the discussion until a traffic study is done.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Discussion of the Mountain Island Charter School**

Ms. Pledger with the Mountain Island Charter School advised that the school would like to petition the City of Mount Holly for utility services. Mr. Michael advised that the City Clerk has not certified the sufficiency therefore that would be the next step and the school can petition for annexation. It was the consensus of Council that they need more information before making a decision regarding the Charter school. Councilman Gowen made a motion to table the Mountain Island Charter School annexation discussion until additional information can be provided to the Council. Councilman Hope seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Consideration and Approval of the Bids for Grass Cutting**

Mr. Santmire came before Council seeking approval/direction regarding the bids and contract for grass cutting. With only one qualified bid for approval Mr. Santmire advised that Council can accept the bid or reject all the bids and start over with the bidding process. After the City Attorney clarified that it is not required that these services be bid out, it was the consensus of Council that Staff negotiate the price with the current contractor and continue their services.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

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

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

## **REPORTS**

Councilman Bishop commented that with all the improvements that have been made and are being made in Central Avenue he would like to see the City put up a sign for not thru truck traffic.

Councilman Hope thanked the Fire Department for the banquet on Saturday night. He advised commented on the leadership of the department.

Councilman Toomey apologized for missing the Fire Department Banquet on Saturday night but he came down with a bug and couldn't make it.

## **ADJOURN**

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Moore made the motion to adjourn the February 13, 2012 Council meeting. Councilman Gowen seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.