mattresses. Information was provided by Mike Santmire on other cities and their additional charges to citizens. Councilwoman Pat Hubbard asked how you would keep up with the payment, on the bill. Mike Santmire responded by saying an upfront charge would have to be paid prior to pick up.

The leaf collection program is going on the agenda for the next meeting per Mayor Robert Whitt.

Discussion of Special Events and the need for man hours for clean up. Councilman Jerry Bishop stated that if it is not a city sponsored event, the organization should be responsible. Mayor Pro Tem, Phyllis Harris stated that if it is a city sponsored event, it will come to the Council through her committee. Mayor Robert Whitt confirmed that events need to come through Council.

**THE ANNUAL RETREAT**

Mayor Pro Tem Phyllis Harris stated that she has reserved the board room for 8 pm on Thursday evening. Mayor Robert Whitt stated they would start on Friday morning at 9 am with an Agenda Draft, but that other matters can be added. Interim City Manager Ed Munn requested that if there was something in particular that needed to be discussed that he would like to know in advance.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Assistant City Manager Danny Jackson present the Council with information at the instruction of the City Attorney in regards to property in Catawba Heights. There are a total of 4 properties to consider on Maple Circle and Forney Avenue that are paying taxes and receiving city benefits but are not annexed into the city.

Motion: Councilman Frank McLean made a motion that the city request a voluntary annexation by the residents. Councilwoman Pat Hubbard seconded the motion. Pass is unanimous.

Assistant City Manager Jamie Guffey received and email stating the financing for the Citizens Center is approved.

Councilman Jerry Bishop inquired about the status of the streetscape traffic light. Danny Jackson responded that there is no concrete answer.

Motion: Councilwoman Pat Hubbard made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Councilman David Moore, with all in favor.

Clerk

Mayor

# City of Mount Holly

## MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL
## REGULAR MEETING

### Monday, February 12, 2007
### City Hall

**CALL TO ORDER**
The regular meeting of the City Council of Mount Holly was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Robert Whitt. The following were present:

Mayor Robert Whitt
Mayor Pro-Tem Phyllis Harris
Councilman David Moore
Councilman Jerry Bishop
Councilman Jim Hope
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard
Councilman Frank McLean
City Attorney Kemp Michael
Interim City Manager Ed Munn
Assistant City Manager Jamie Guffey
Planner Greg Beal
Police Chief David Belk
Fire Chief Dale Oplinger
Utilities Director James Friday
Storm Water Ray Clemmer

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**INNVOCATION**
The invocation was led by Reverend Bill Baulding of the Mt. Holly Pentecostal Holiness Church.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Boy Scout Troup #59 from the First Methodist Church in Mount Holly led the Council and audience in the ceremony of the Pledge of Allegiance. Rick Connell, Scout Master spoke words of wisdom.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
The agenda was approved with the removal of the presentation of the Bike Trail Issues, upon motion by Councilperson Pat Hubbard, seconded by councilperson David Moore, with all in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA**
Councilperson Pat Hubbard **MOVED** that the consent agenda be accepted, seconded by Jim Hope, with all in favor.

**PRESENTATIONS**
PR #1 Resolutions for Eagle Scouts Hough and Steven Whitener. A Resolution from the City Council of Mt. Holly was presented to Michael Hough and Steven Whitener on their achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

PR # 2 Mr. Scott Griffin and Mr. Bob Suttenfield presentation on F.R.O.G.S. Mr. Scott

Griffin presented information on the justification for selecting Greenways Incorporated as the designer for Mount Holly's Model Greenway and Greenprint Masterplan. Vice Chairs Bob Suttenfield and Joel Lineberger distributed an Action Item document to be placed in the minutes. The Action Item is a Resolution of Support that The Mount Holly City Council supports the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation and the Mount Holly Friends of the Greenways (FROGS) in their collaborative effort to establish greenways for the greater Mount Holly Community.

Motion: Councilman Jim Hope made a motion that the Council hire Greenways Incorporated, Chuck Flink as the designer for Mount Holly's Model Greenway and Greenprint Masterplan.
The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Phyllis Harris.
Discussion: Interim City Manager Ed Munn stated that the public information that will be needed by the consultant is information that the City has and that the City will be happy to work with the consultant. He stated that Gaston County has a great GIS system that can be used and he welcomes the opportunity to work with the consultant, FROGS and the Foundation.
Motion Amended: Councilman Jim Hope amended his Motion by assigning the Resolution #21207-A. The amendment was accepted by Mayor Pro Tem Harris.
Vote: Unanimous

PR #3 Ms. Edna Chirico - MHCDF - Economic Development Committee - Ann Dancy spoke on behalf of Ms. Edna Chirico in her absence due to being sick. She spoke about accomplishments from this past year and the goals for 2007. She presented a blow up of the map that was accepted by the Tourist Centers and is in all 9 of the visitor centers throughout NC on our state highways to be placed in visitors centers for display in City Hall.

PR #4 Ms. Carol Featherstone - Mount Hollidays - Special Event Ms. Featherstone addressed the Council with a list of proposed ideas for the 2007 Mount Hollidays. In addition, she brought a proposal to the table for an ice skating rink project to be part of Mount Hollidays this year. The cost would be $94,500 and she presented that half of this expense has been donated by an anonymous donor. She stated that 3 properties had been discussed for possible use for housing the ice skating rink. The ice skating rink idea came from a rink she had visited in Georgia.

Questions: Councilman David Moore asked Ms. Featherstone to name the 3 locations that had been discussed. Ms. Featherstone stated that she would prefer to decline naming the locations until receiving permission from the property owners to release the information. She stated that they were all centrally located in town and added that there may be additional locations that would be available that the committee had not considered. The park was considered but ruled out because not suitable for the set up requirements.
Councilman David Moore asked if liability insurance had been considered? Ms. Featherstone stated that it had been considered and Bobby Black was checking into it but uncertain of the cost at this time. Not specifying anything at this time.

Ms. Featherstone stated that the Council may ask what do we want? Well, we want everything the Council is willing to give.
Mayor Pro Tem Phyllis Harris added that Mount Hollidays has grown tremendously since last year. The budget that she had for the City's portion last year was $889.00 and the rest of the money spent was collected by Ms. Featherstone and Mimi Gwen as donations from individuals.
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard asked what the admission price would be for the ice skating rink. Ms. Featherstone answered that it is still TBD but the one she visited was $8.00 for adults and children and would include the rental of the ice skates. She added that 150 pair of ice skates are included with the rink cost and that the rink would be in operation for 2 ½ months. The company that they are working with has 28 years experience and they also did the rink in Charlotte this past year.
Mayor Robert Whitt asked if the $94,500 cost was for the 2 ½ months. Ms. Featherstone confirmed.
Mayor Pro Tem Phyllis Harris suggested that this committee may want to consider pulling away from the Special Events committee and form a separate committee like Springfest with the support of the City. Ms. Featherstone said that this had been considered and that the committee had discussed going under the Foundation because it is a non-profit organization and it would help with individual donations because they could be used as a tax write off.
Councilman Jim Hope suggested that the committee consider the locations and get with Greg Beal in regards to zoning issues.
Mayor Robert Whitt thanked Ms. Featherstone for being a part of the other groups like the Foundation and the Economic Development that are working to make Mount Holly a destination city.

**PUBLIC HEARING**
Motion: Councilman Frank McLean made a motion that the Council go out of regular session and into a Public Hearing, seconded by Ms. Harris, all in favor.

PH #1 To consider revision for calculating storm water fees. Wendy Foster, the Chair for the Storm Water Advisory Committee comes before the Council on behalf of the Committee to recommend a change in the storm water fee for commercial and industrial only - change the fee to $2.50 per lot or $30 annually for each equivalent residential unit of 2000 sq feet of impervious surface (primary source of storm water run off and storm water pollution). Of course, large industries that have filed a MPDES will get a 50% credit and pay only $1.25 instead of $2.50.

No Questions from Council.

Mr. Rodney Eppes, 107 South Hawthorne Street, fees. Mr. Eppes expressed his concern with the increase in residential storm water fees as he read it in the media. He stated that he understands this is a Government mandated storm water fee. He commented that businesses bearing the brunt of the increase can pass it on to consumers but individual residents have no way to pass it on. He requests that the increase only be applied to commercial and industry.

Ms. Foster stated that there is no request for residential increase in storm water fees at this time. The request is for business and industry, which is the smallest change that they can recommend that will provide for the budget.

Motion: Councilman David Moore MOVED to go out of Public Hearing and back into Regular session, seconded by Councilman Bishop, all in favor.
No action to be taken by the Council at this time. The item will be talked about at the retreat.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
No one signed up for Public Comment

**MANAGERS REPORT**
Mayor Robert Whitt introduced Interim Ed Munn. Mr. Munn is the retired City Manager from Gastonia and is officially on board with the City of Mt. Holly now.

MR#1 Interbasin Transfer Petition for Contested Case Hearing - Mr. Munn stated this it is the interbasin transfer that Concord and Kannapolis had requested and the state has initially approved a portion of their request. This is taking water from Mt. Island Lake and moving it across to the Yadkin Basin. Mount Holly took a position opposing that as well as many other cities in the Catawba Basin. They are asking us do we want to now formally appeal, petition and participate. Some of the cities have actually gotten in involved in litigation. Mt. Holly currently is not in any legal litigation. We need to decide whether or not we want to get involved with the Interbasin Transfer Petition and take it any further. Mr. Munn recommends discussion of this at the retreat because a response needs to be made by the first week of March.

MR #2 Retreat - Mr. Munn provided a copy of the minutes from last years retreat for the Council and stated they would discuss change at the retreat on Thursday at 8 pm. Fridays session will begin at 9:00 am.

MR #3 Cox and Ship – Mr. Munn reported that there is a meeting tomorrow, February 13, 2007 with Cox and Ship, the Architects. Councilman Jim Hope is going to join the meeting to give his help and expertise. He stated that we are going to have an organization meeting to look at this very important project for the city, the Citizens Center. The Governing Commission has approved the loan and we are moving forward. He wants to get all of the major parties together, then there will be a pre-construction meeting scheduled with the contractors and sub contractors. There will be a need to have a good flow of info from the staff back to the Council almost every meeting.

MR #4 Lighting/Safety Issue - Mr. Munn has been working with the Utilities Director to come up with a resolution ASAP. This has been moved to high priority.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Mayor Robert Whitt states that he needs to appoint people to the Storm Water committee

and would like suggestions to be presented between now and the retreat.

Mayor Robert Whitt has received a volunteer that would like to serve on the Recreational Committee. He would like to know if there is room for another volunteer on that committee.

Mayor Robert Whitt called for a short break.

Meeting resumed at 8:15 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

NB #1 To consider accepting $2,800 donation from Clariant Corporation - Fire Chief Dale Oplinger made a request for the Council to accept a $2,800 donation from Clariant Corporation that they would like to earmark to Mt. Holly Fire and Rescue for vehicle stabilization kit and to make appropriations to put it in the budget.
Motion: Councilman Moore made a motion that the Council accepts the $2,800 donation from Clariant for the Mount Holly Fire and Rescue, seconded by Mr. Bishop, all in favor.

NB #2 - To consider Police Department report regarding coyotes - Police Chief David Belk gathered information at the request of the City Manager in regards to the coyote issue. He contacted the Wildlife Commission and found out that there is open season on coyotes which means they can be hunted year round, but a city ordinance prohibits hunting. There are several options to deal with the coyotes. The Wildlife Commission recommended Damage Control Agents that can set traps to catch and dispose of the coyotes. Another option would be to hire a private company to trap and dispose of the coyotes. Mr. Belk also reports that he contacted Gaston County Animal Control and recommends the opportunity to work with them on this issue.
Questions: Ms. Harris asked what is the charge for trapping? Mr. Belk responded that it depends on the company that is hired but one company quoted $60.00 per day to check the traps and another $15.00 disposal fee. A continuous program could cost $2K to $4K per year. Mayor Robert Whitt stated he looks forward to what the Chief finds out from the Gaston County Animal Control because the coyotes do present a danger.

NB #3 Runnymeade Subdivision Outfall Project - Ray Clemmer from Storm Water reported that there was an article in the Monitor about some concerns on Sediment in Dutchman's Creek and asking for monitoring on that and this project is on Dutchman's Creek. What I am asking for since there is not money budgeted directly into Storm Water, the money would have to come out of General Fund. The low bid for the repair is $15,235 to repair the hole. Mr. Clemmer requests approval of the repair for this project and that the money come from the contingency budget per Jamie Guffey.
Questions: Mayor Robert Whitt asked Jamie Guffey how much money is in the contingency budget on an annual basis and how much had been spent so far this year? Mr. Guffey responded that $75,000 is budgeted and $3,000 has been used.

Motion: Councilman Bishop made a motion that the Council accept the bid from Transtate for $15,235 to repair the Runneymeade run off and that the money comes from contingency budget to fund the Runnymeade Subdivision Outfall Project, seconded by Ms. Harris, with all I favor.

NB #4 Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant - Letter of Support - A letter of consent is requested by Ray Clemmer in order to support the grant. It will cost the City $480/year for 3 years to receive all of the benefits of this grant. After the initial 3 years, this expenditure can be re-visited by the grant being reapplied for or the cities involved bidding to put the cost in their budgets. A letter of commitment is required by March 1, 2007 to apply for the grant.

Motion: Councilwoman Pat Hubbard MOVES to write a letter of support for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant, seconded by Mr. Bishop, with all in favor.

NB #5 To consider Joint Meeting and Field Trip with the Planning Commission - Mr. Greg Beal reported that he has confirmed a joint meeting between the City Council and the Planning Commission on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Beal spoke with Mr. Bill Gary about planning the field trip. After discussion of available dates, the following two dates were confirmed: Saturday, February 24th at 9:00 am and an alternate date of Monday, February 19th at 1:00 pm. Meet in front of the City Hall to load up for the trip to visit communities. The Planning Commission will call to confirm who will be present for each trip.

**REPORTS**

Mr. Moore - nothing further

Mr. McLean - I received a call about standing water in the road on Costner Street. I also received a call about the trailer on Belton. Mayor Robert Whitt asked why it has not been pulled off. Greg Beal stated that there is a misunderstanding b/w Ryan Baker - he has handled it and has handled it correctly and he has instructed it to be removed for $500.00 by Mr. Stillwell (the contractor). The property has been cleaned up except the one trailer needs to go. Greg does not know why Mr. Stillwell has not moved the trailer. The $500.00 will be a lean on Mr. Murphy's property. Mayor Whitt stated we have had calls as recent as Friday and if Mr. Stillwell can not move it, we need to hire someone else. McLean stated that he does not want to be on TV again for this and recommends a report from Greg in the near future.

Mr. Hope - Jamie and City Attorney have worked very diligently to schedule a meeting with the awning vendor with no success. I would like to ask Jamie to put a little pressure on the awning vendor to get him to come to the table. Jamie Guffey stated that it would be scheduled by the end of the week.

Mr. Bishop - Mr. Carpenter resigned after 26 years on the Planning Committee. A replacement needs to be considered. Greg Beal stated that someone can be appointed or can appoint one alternate. We only have one alternate now b/c Mr. Dimmer resigned as an alternate. Mayor Robert Whitt stated that a resolution needs to be presented to Mr.

Carpenter. Mr. Hope would like for the alternate to be considered to be moved to the board and seek out more alternates. Mr. Bishop stated this is a reminder only.

Ms. Harris - Special Events update - The band has been secured for May 24th from 6 - 9 pm for Alive After 5 and the stage location has been secured with Mike Santmire's assistance. The street will need to be closed some, but not the whole street. Frank Lowe Orchestra will be playing at the Community Dinner on May 4, 2007 at the Tuckasegee Center.

Ms. Hubbard - nothing further

Mr. Whitt - nothing further

Mr. Munn - There is a $41,850 grant available for the cameras. We would have to spend $13,950 for a total of $55, 800 for 9 cameras in police cars. We need to let them know if we want to apply for the grant, we could delay the funding until next year. The Council agrees to move forward with the grant.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion: Ms. Harris moved that the Council go into Attorney/Client closed session, seconded by Mr. McLean, with all in favor.

Motion: Mr. McLean moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bishop, with all in favor.

Clerk

Mayor