CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 12, 2001

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The regular meeting of the City Council of Mount Holly was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor McLean. The following were present:

Mayor Frank McLean
Mayor Pro-Tem Bobby Black
Councilman Michael Helms
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris
Councilman Jim Hope

Councilwoman Pat Hubbard
Councilman Hough was out of town.

Adm. Services Officer Jamie Guffey
Public Works Director Eddie Nichols
Planning & Zoning Dir. Danny Jackson
City Attorney Kemp Michael
Police Chief Davis
Fire Chief Ekiatis

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Rev. Todd Wright.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troup 59 led the Council and audience in the ceremony of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved upon motion by Councilman Helms, seconded by Councilwoman Harris, with all in favor.

MINUTES

Councilman Black **MOVED** to approve the minutes of January 2 and 8, 2001, as written, seconded by Councilwoman Hubbard, with all in favor.

PRESENTATIONS

PR#1 Annual Mid-Year Report

City Manager Kraus said that $171,000 this year will be lost as a result of Governor Easley's recent action in connection with the State budget. He said that there are capital expenditures that have not been done so we can use that money, but we would have to find funds for those projects for next year, or in the worst case, we would have to use funds from our fund balance. Mr. Kraus said that there were 180 residential permits, including 16 commercial, were granted by the zoning department, up to December. In code enforcement, the City had 59 violations issued, 28 have been completed. The GIS person has been hired. The annexation study has been completed. We are in the process of working on the land use plan. We plan to hire a zoning officer. Jamie Guffey helped present to Council the mid year report and had prepared a video screen presentation. In the police department, they established seniority positions and have all cars with videos. The grant was obtained to put resource officers in the schools. The explorers program was begun. There are now five investigators. The crime scene unit is operating. They have seized large amounts of drugs and property crimes have fallen. In the next six months, they will increase the evidence room, and plan the districts for the new annexation areas, and meet the requirements for FAA. The land has been purchased for the fire station and the architect is working on the plans. In the fire department, the code enforcement officer has been hired, and they are obtaining an air compressor. All paid firemen will have EMT-D certification. They will complete the merger with the life saving crew. The Catawba Heights fire station will be remodeled. In the street and sanitation department, absenteeism has dropped to almost nothing as a result of the incentive program. The paving has been done at Tuckaseege, sidewalk repairs are done. They have the storm water drains inventoried. The new floor has been installed at the community center. There are Nextels for employees communication. The new park will be begun. In water and sewer, the developer has completed the water and sewer for the StoneWater Subdivision and we have a contract with the County to provide services to East Gaston.

For Finances, Mr. Guffey said that we are at 83% collection on taxes, and they are at 50% on most items. In the water and sewer fund, the formula has not been finalized so that item has a zero. 58.12% of the budget has been spent, mostly on one time expenditures. In administration, there is new carpet and air-conditioning in the City Hall building. In Planning and Zoning, 31 % of the budget is spent, and they expect it to be under budget. In Police Department, 52.52% is spent, and they are $60,000 deficit in salaries so they are looking for funds to balance, perhaps in the camera line item that has money remaining. In the Fire Department, we started a quarter early on hiring firemen, so over 60% of the budget is spent. In Streets & Sanitation, 34.0% of the budget is spent. In Parks & Recreation, we have spent 51.35% of the budget, but that figure is off because of the floor and is actually under budget. The Water Department has only spent 35%, and the Sewer Department has spent 24% of budget. Mr. Kraus said that overages were due to decisions made after the budget was adopted, and the funds will be moved from one line to another to cover the expenditures.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UFB#1 To Consider Awarding Bid on Thermal Imaging Devices
TABLED

UFB#2 To Consider Resolution Supporting Personnel Policy
Jamie Guffey said that upon discussion with the city attorney, staff felt that a resolution would set a date that the amended personnel policy is effective. Mr. Kraus said that "standby" has been defined more carefully, so it is more than just having a pager. Jamie Guffey said they will give a copy of the policy to each employee, and will sit down with employees to go over the personnel policy.
Motion: Councilman Black **MOVED** to adopt the amended personnel policy as amended, effective 2-12-01, seconded by Councilwoman Hubbard.
Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

UFB#3 To Consider Resolution of Intent to Merge with Mount Holly Life Saving Crew, Inc.
City Manager Kraus said that the County has passed a resolution endorsing the merger and guaranteeing funding and providing ambulances in the future as they provide for all other crews. The Fire Chief and Life Saving Crew Chief were present to answer questions. A Resolution had been prepared by the City Attorney for the merger, which is in a similar format as the Catawba Heights VFD merger. Councilman Black asked how binding the resolution of the Commissioners is with regard to funding; can it be easily changed? City Attorney Michael said that it could be changed at any time. City Manager Kraus said it is not now mandated, but has been a choice of the County that they fund life saving crews.
Motion: Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to approve Res. 2-12-01(a), seconded by Councilman Helms.
Vote: unanimous. CARRIED.

The chiefs invited the Council and Mayor to a farewell dinner on the 24th at 6:00 PM.

City Attorney Michael presented a proposal for changes in the ordinance at Sections 7-9 and 7-11 to reflect the changes above.
Motion: Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to adopt amended Sections 7-9 and 7-11, seconded by Councilman Black.
Vote: Unanimous. CARRIED.

UFB#4 To Consider Adoption of Mutual Aid Policy
Chief Davis presented an agreement which allows us to assist other law enforcement agencies or vice versa.
Motion: Councilman Black **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2-12-01(b), seconded by Councilman Hope.
Vote: unanimous. CARRIED.

UFB#5 To Consider an Ordinance to Establish No Parking on Highland Street (NC 273) between Charlotte Avenue and North Main Street
City Manager Kraus said this has been approved by NC DOT. We are required to post signs and send a copy to DOT.
Motion: Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to approve Resolution #02-12-01C for no parking on a portion of NC 273, seconded by Councilwoman Harris.
Vote: unanimous. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS
NB#1 To Consider Street Name Change for Public Safety
City Manager Kraus asked for this to be tabled for 30 days to clarify this matter with the property owner.

NB #2 To Consider Awarding Bid on Tail Race Park

Recreation Dir. Stowe presented the bids for the first trail in the new park. The low bid was from Woodrow Moore. Councilman Hope asked about the bids, because there was a large difference between the high and the low. Councilman Hope asked if they met with the contractors to go over the specs; he replied yes. He inquired about whether or not they had been given construction drawings. Mr. Stowe said there had been placed on the site stakes at 50 foot intervals which they viewed in person. They had a site plan. Councilman Hope asked who would be doing the inspections? Mr. Stowe said he would be, along with the consultant who helped with the plans. Councilman Hope said the bid tabulation needs to have the additional alternative as a separate column for Council's consideration. Councilman Hope said this size project should not be done without construction drawings. He said the inspections need to be done by someone who can check the materials, compaction, etc. Councilwoman Hubbard said she wants to see the full tabulations with the add alternatives separated out. She also asked if this is for the whole thing to be paved or just the first part. City Manager Kraus said the base bid was stone on the whole thing, with pavement on the first part.

The City Attorney asked if they are approving this bid tonight or want it to be brought back. Council agreed to table action and bring it back later for approval. They want it handled like a public works project would be.

NB#3 <u>To Consider Engineering Contract with US Infrastructure for East Gaston Sewer Lines</u>
Public Works Director Nichols said we requested a construction estimate which came in well above the amount that was in the agreement for the County to pay; they asked us to delay approval on the agreement until they can work out the funding discrepancy.
Tabled.

CONSENT AGENDA
Councilman Helms **MOVED** to accept and approve all 6 items on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Harris; and unanimously carried. They are:

CA#1. <u>To Accept External Water Line for Dutchman's Meadow.</u> The water line along Sandy Ford Road from NC 273 to Dutchman's Creek has been completed and inspected. This approves the line and takes it for city maintenance, and begins the one year warranty period.

CA#2. <u>To Accept Both Phase II and Phase I, Map 3, Improvements for Riverfront Subdivision</u>. The infrastructure is accepted by the City for maintenance and the one year warranty period begins, contingent upon receiving the appropriate financial guarantees.

CA#3. <u>To Declare Broken Computer Equipment as Surplus.</u> Two computers declared surplus so they can be disposed of.

CA#4. <u>Resolution for COG to Receive State Funds.</u> This resolution authorizes Mount Holly's share of state funding for CCOG to be paid to it.

CA#5. <u>Approval of Architect Contract for Police Department Renovations</u>. Contract with C. L. Helt for design services.

CA#6. To Adopt Supplemental Appropriations and Budget Changes to the General Fund. Adjustments to the budget resulting from mid-year financial report.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mayor McLean opened the floor for public comment.
None.

ROUND TABLE
Councilwoman Hubbard noted an air conditioner for CRO was purchased, and asked when they are moving into their new building they purchased on Central Avenue. Mayor McLean said they are doing a lot of improvements to it before they move in.

Councilwoman Hubbard asked Council to vote on a set name for the building that the City purchased from the Optimists. There were several choices, but no action was taken.

Councilman Helms stated that the sign directing attention to the City of Mount Holly on Highway 16 needs to be painted.

Councilman Hope thanked Kemp and Cindy Michael for the use of their home for the Council retreat, and he felt it was very successful. He also thanked Reeves McGlohon for his assistance as moderator; he felt the City Council should do something for him, because he took a vacation day to do this. City Manager Kraus said he attempted to do something for Mr. McGlohon, but he returned it.

Councilman Black said he talked with the Fire Chief and City Manager about recently the fire siren went off and got stuck for 10 minutes in the middle of the night. He was asked if they have to have it go off. The Chief said it was a tradition. Councilwoman Harris & Councilman Hope said they never heard it; Councilman Helms heard it but it does not bother him. Council agreed to leave it alone.

Councilman Kraus said that there is a grant available for erosion control, with the application being due April 1st; it is a 60% local funds, 40% state match. Council agreed for him to apply.

City Manager Kraus received a fax from the architect, and gave the Council a copy, and said he has set a meeting with him on Friday. They will discuss how to lower the cost for the fire station. On the police department, they will proceed with the basic improvements and not the extras.

Police Chief Davis stated that he had the information on the police dept. dispatch. Combining the 911 calls, there are 16,000 calls per year. 2,300 are 911 calls that are transferred to the County; the rest we keep and handle ourselves.

City Manager Kraus inquired regarding the Kendrick property if Council wants him to schedule the planning commission public hearing on the zoning request on April 2^{nd}.
Motion Councilman Black **MOVED** to set the planning commission hearing on the zoning request for the Kendrick property on April 2nd, seconded by Councilman Hope.
Vote unanimous. CARRIED.

City Manager Kraus said that the City restored the curb cut for Mr. Summey in front of this property. His neighbor is complaining that by putting in the curb, we have reduced her driveway to a point that it cannot be used. Mr. Summey contends that what we did was not adequate. Councilman Black said it is hard to talk about this unless you go out and see it. Mr. Summey was present and recognized by the Mayor; he said that it was not done as he hoped for, but he likes it better now than the way it was, and he can live with it, and wanted to thank the Council for addressing his concern. Councilman Helms said since the neighbor does not have a driveway on that side of her house at this time, we should wait until she puts in a driveway and we will address her section at that time. No action.

ADJOURN
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried.
8:30 PM

Clerk

Frank E. McLean
Mayor

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cpm