

**CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL**

**Work Session
January 26, 2009
6:00 pm**

Members present: Mayor Robert Whitt, Councilmen David Moore, Jerry Bishop, Bennie Brookshire, Frank McLean, Perry Toomey, and Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare.

Staff present: Eric Davis, City Manager, Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager, Danny Jackson, Assistant City Manager, Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director, Chief Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief, and Chief David Belk, Chief of Police, James Friday, Utilities Director, Tina Pritchard, Parks and Recreation Director and Kemp Michael, City Attorney

Others present: Brooke Lopez, Attorney, Kemp Michael's office

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Whitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

INVOCATION

Councilman McLean led the Council, staff members and attendees in prayer.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Whitt asked for any changes to the work session agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

At this time Mayor Whitt asked for Mr. Duston from the COG to come forward. Mr. Duston had not yet arrived therefore, Council agreed to enter into closed session while waiting on Mr. Duston.

At this time Councilman McLean made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3). Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

A motion to leave closed session was made, seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Whitt declared that we were no longer in closed session.

1. Presentation of the Centralina COG CONNECT Program

Mayor Whitt introduced Bill Duston from the Centralina COG. Mr. Duston talked briefly regarding the CONNECT Program. He explained that the CONNECT Program is designed for the local areas in North and South Carolina to work together to sustain growth, increase collaboration, create a diverse economy, create a safe and healthy environment, provide a higher quality of education and enhance social equity throughout the community. He asked Council to pass a resolution in support of the CONNECT program. It was the consensus of the Council to hold off on adopting the resolution until the COG reported the number of municipalities that have already passed the resolution.

2. Discussion of the Highway 27 Gateway Corridor

Mr. Jackson reported that Staff is going to review the highway 27 gateway corridor by going back through the presentation and hitting the highlights that have been brought before Council in the past. He advised that the intent is to call for a public hearing for the March business meeting. One of the main topics of discussion regarding the proposed corridor regulations was the 2 story requirement. Mayor Pro Tem Moore questioned the 2 story factor if a stand alone restaurant would like to come into the highway 27 corridor area. Mr. Jackson explained that staffs recommendation would be that the façade look like a 2 story building. After further discussion, Councilman Bishop made a motion to call for a public hearing at the March 9, 2009 Council meeting on the highway 27 gateway corridor. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. ***(Motion carried)***

3. Committee Reports

Councilman Toomey reported that there will be a TAC meeting in Gastonia tomorrow night at 5:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Breyare reported that there is a Parks and Recreation meeting here tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m.

Councilman Toomey asked the status of Phase I of Tuck Park. Ms. Pritchard reported that we are waiting on all of the repairs to be made. One of the main repairs is the replacement of the sidewalks. Ms. Pritchard then explained that she has contacted the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to ask for an extension on the grant for Phase II.

Mayor Whitt reported that NCDOT is holding a meeting on February 10th in Gastonia and on February 16th at Catawba Heights School. He asked that anyone who plans to attend please let him know.

Councilman Bishop commented that due to the passing of Mr. Miller, there is a vacancy on the Planning Board. He also asked if the City could pass a resolution in Mr. Miller's honor for the service he provided the city.

5. Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Whitt entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman McLean made the motion to adjourn the January 26, 2009 work session meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. ***(Motion carried)***

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.