City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2010
Council Chambers
6:30 pm

Call to Order
Mayor Bryan Hough called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The following were present:

Mayor Bryan Hough	Eric Davis, City Manager
Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn Breyare	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	Danny Jackson, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jim Hope	David Belk, Chief of Police
Councilman Perry Toomey	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman Bennie Brookshire	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilman David Moore	Mark Jusko, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation
Kemp Michael, City Attorney	Mike Santmire, Streets & Solid Waste Director
Brooke Lopez, Attorney, Kemp Michaels' office	

Invocation
Councilman Moore led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

Set the Agenda
Mayor Hough asked for any changes to the January 25, 2010 work session agenda. With no changes to the agenda, Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. With all Council members present, all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Presentation from the Charter School

Ms. Pledger came before Council to present the information regarding the Charter School that potentially will be located in Mount Holly. She advised that the application has been submitted to the State and final approval is expected around the first of March. Ms. Pledger introduced her colleagues for the project and gave the reasons as to why they feel a Charter School would be beneficial to the area. She advised that the average class size will be approximately 20 students and will include grades K-7 at this time. She is hopeful that in years to come, additional grades will be added. She further advised that students will be responsible for their own transportation to and from school and a formulated lunch will not be provided at this time. Ms. Pledger reported that a definite location has not been determined as of yet but they are currently looking at two (2) locations, one off of Highway 273 and the other in the Lucia Riverbend area.

2. Presentation from Duke Energy

Steve Swaim and Tim Gause with Duke Energy came before Council to discuss the recent changes to the Mount Holly Tree Ordinance. Mr. Swaim presented details as to the process of Duke Energy's trimming of the power lines. After the presentation, Mr. Swaim asked Council if they would consider a stay of the revisions to the ordinance while they work with City Staff on a solution. Council advised the representatives that Mr. Davis would be in touch with them tomorrow in that regard.

3. Discussion of the Occupancy Tax Levy and TDA

Mr. Guffey came before Council for direction in regard to the administration of the Occupancy Tax levy. One of the requirements is the appointment of a Tourism Development Authority. Before Staff brings a resolution before Council at the next business meeting Council needs to decide the number members and the make up of the TDA. After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to appoint a three (3) member board that would be paid $100 per member a month. Furthermore, Council will seek nominations in the near future. The resolution will appear on the Consent Agenda at the February business meeting.

4. Discussion of Raw Water Interconnect with Gastonia

Mr. Michael reported on the details of the contract with the City of Gastonia for raw water interconnect. He advised that this project would cost Council approximately $100,000. Councilman Brookshire asked where the money would come from to pay for this project. Mr. Davis advised that the funds would come from System Development Fees. There was further discussion as to the advantage of doing the raw water interconnect now instead of when the City needs it. Council agreed to add this item to the Consent Agenda at the February business meeting.

5. Discussion of System Development Fees

Mr. Friday reported that at the last meeting Council had requested clarification as to Staffs request for one System Development Fee per household. He advised that currently a System Development Fee is charged per tap/meter on to the water system. Meaning that if one household has two meters, one for household use and one for irrigation that household would be required to pay two fees. Staff is recommending the policy be changed and only charge one fee per household. Council agreed and asked to place this item as part of the Consent Agenda at the February meeting.

6. Update on Catawba Heights Fire Station

Mr. Oplinger provided Council will a price list of the proposed improvement to the Catawba Heights Fire Station. He advised that he only received the asbestos report late in the afternoon and has not had time to look into the report recommendations. Council agreed that Mr. Oplinger should come up with a prioritized list of items that should be completed immediately and report to them as part of the next weekly update.

7. Update on Mid-Year Financial Status

Mr. Guffey presented Council with the mid-year financial statements. He advised that at this time the revenues are considerably higher than the expenditures. This is because a large part of the City's revenue is tax collections and the majority of the taxes are paid during the month of December. He advised that he would like to turn the Council's attention to the sales tax line item. He advised that the City has not suffered from the bad economy as far as sales tax is concerned. Mr. Guffey concurred that the City is exactly where it needs to be budget wise for this time of year.

8. Discussion of Table of Permitted Uses/Zoning Map

Mr. Beal presented Council with a zoning map detailing the districts and the permitted uses in each district as Council requested at the last meeting. He advised that Council's question at the last meeting was in regard to the O&I district. He explained that basically the O&I district is used as a type of catch all. The example Mr. Beal gave was an establishment that would offer two separate services like teen pregnancy and mother counseling. After further discussion among Council, they agreed to place this item for approval on the Consent Agenda at the February business meeting.

9. Discussion of an Ordinance Amendment to include the City Collection Policy (in regard to dumpsters) to the City Code of Ordinances

Mr. Beal reported that at the last meeting the issue of the City Collection Policy in regard to dumpsters came up during the round table discussion. Mr. Beal suggested rewriting the ordinance to require businesses to enclose their dumpsters with fencing to help with the appearance. Council discussed this issue and decided that they did not want to add extra burden and expense to the local businesses. Mr. Jackson suggested that this be addressed as a zoning violation and handled in that regard. If the enforcement does not work at that time staff will come back to Council for changes to the ordinance. Council agreed.

Councilman Moore reported that there has been trash dumped in Meadow Brook Estates off of Old Hickory Grove Road.

Councilman Moore advised that he has had several favorable comments in regard to the City's recycling program. Councilman Moore asked when the local churches would receive recycling containers. Mr. Davis reported that the City plans to phase the businesses in next year. Councilman Brookshire suggested that some of the businesses are being charged for recycling and asked Staff to look into it. Mr. Santmire was asked to give a brief report on the first week of recycling pick up. Mr. Santmire advised that there have been some complaints from citizens but he and Mr. Davis has a meeting scheduled tomorrow to address these issues.

Councilman Bishop addressed the City website and the link to the City Code. He advised when the link is clicked on nothing happens. Mr. Davis replied that the City is working with Mr. Jordan on a daily basis to make corrections to the website.

Mayor Pro Tem Breyare asked about the status of the customer complaint software. Mr. Guffey replied that Staff would be going through some final training exercises this week then it would go live internally and to the public a couple of weeks later. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare then asked if the start up of the monthly newsletter and paper water billing is still on schedule. Mr. Davis replied that it will start in either March or April. She then asked if the City would consider a one time forgiveness clause for those citizens that are normally not late on paying their water bills. Mr. Guffey replied that the City currently does that to a certain extent. Mayor Pro Tem Breyare asked the status of the Commercial Real Estate Broker. Mr. Jackson responded that the City is moving forward and will be ready to report at the February business meeting.

10. Adjourn

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Moore made the motion to adjourn the January 25, 2010 Work Session Meeting. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.