

City of Mount Holly
Mount Holly City Council Work Session Meeting
Monday, January 24, 2022
Council Chambers
6:30 pm

Call to Order

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

Mayor Bryan Hough	Brian DuPont, Asst City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Phyllis Harris	Don Roper, Police Chief
Councilman Ivory Craig	Brian Reagan, Deputy Police Chief
Councilman Jeff Meadows	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief
Councilman David Moore	Mark Jusko, Recreation Supervisor
Councilwoman Christina Pawlish	Tony Walker, Street and Solid Waste Director
Councilwoman Lauren Shoemaker	David Johnson, City Engineer/ Director of Utilities
Miles Braswell, City Manager	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Marie Anders, City Attorney	Michelle Wood, Finance Director

Invocation

Mayor Hough led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Hough asked for any changes to the agenda. Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. (Motion carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Safer Grant Application

2. Approval of Minutes from the January 10, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

AGENDA

1. Discussion of Traffic Control Device on North Hawthorne Avenue

Mr. Walker advised that at the January 10th meeting Council asked staff to come back with a recommendation in regard to a traffic controlling device on North Hawthorne. He advised that staff recommends lowering the speed limit to 25mph. This would help slow down the traffic at a minimal expense to the City. Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to reduce the speed limit on North Hawthorne Avenue to 25mph as petitioned by the citizens in the area.

Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of Mid-Year Financial Update

Michelle Wood

Mrs. Wood came before the City Council to present her Mid-Year Financial Update. She advised that the General Fund Revenue collected is a little over the \$10 million. This is 61% of the budgeted amount. The General Fund Expenditures are at 51.46% of the budget. She further advised that the Enterprise Fund Revenues are at \$5.6 million which is 58% of the budgeted amount and Enterprise Fund Expenditures are at 64% of the budgeted amount. As of December 31st the Fund Balance amount is \$6,231,271 which is 42.603%.

3. Discussion of potential amendments to the Mount Holly Noise Ordinance

Mrs. Neal advised that the dogs in the city has been reported as one of the biggest noise complaints. To deal with these complaints we need to put some teeth in the current ordinance that deals with animal noise. Mayor Hough added that we have a specific situation but under normal neighborhood conditions the City would work Gaston County Animal Control. In this circumstance it becomes an issue for the Police Department. Chief Roper advised that in situations pertaining to animals it is hard for his Department to enforce because by the time the Police arrives at the scene the complaint is under control. There was continued discussion in regard to the enforcement and a suggestion made to possibly look into the dog ordinance versus the noise ordinance. It was the consensus of Council for the Police Department and the City Attorney to look into this further and bring back to the Council at a future meeting with a recommendation and further discussion.

4. Discussion of an Ordinance would Allow for a Social District in the Downtown Area

Ms. Anders advised that she has been meeting with staff to discuss new legislation that would allow each municipality to pass an ordinance to develop a designated social district. The Social District Ordinance would allow people to carry their alcoholic beverage out of the bars and onto the sidewalks in the designated areas. She advised that there are certain stipulations that the local bars would have to abide by too be recognized as part of the social district. One of which each bar would have cups that identify themselves. Individuals would not be allowed to go into a different bar with the same drink. The drink and cup would need to be disposed of before entering. She further advised that staff is working to develop an application process. The proposed Social District map was presented and an explanation given as to why certain areas was left out of the proposed district.

Council discussed the proposed Social District Ordinance and the opportunity that would allow our downtown businesses to grow. There were questions in regard to the nonprofits that sell beer and wine during the downtown events and the effect on them. It was determined that the nonprofits would still be allowed to sell and individuals could carry their beverage away from the previously designated garden area. There was continued discussion in regard to the days and times that the social district would be permitted. Mrs. Anders added that the social district would have to be clearly marked with signage with the information related to timing included on the signage. Chief Roper commented that there would be no additional Police staff patrolling during the social district hours if the hours are other than those already scheduled as downtown events. He clarified that during the downtown events the Police Department is staffed with three (3) additional officers to work the particular event. During regular patrol hours there

are four (4) patrol officers on duty to patrol the entire City and therefore not enough officers to keep one in the downtown area at all times. Council directed staff to look further into the timing of the Social District hours and expand the map to include the downtown on the other side of the railroad tracks. Council also suggested that staff visit the businesses that would be effected by the Social District and get a feel from them as to how they feel about the ordinance and come back with a recommendation at the next Council Meeting.

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to adjourn the January 24, 2022 Council Work Session Meeting. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.