

**CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY**  
**MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, January 12, 2009**  
**Council Chambers**  
**7:00 pm**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Robert Whitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present:

|                                               |                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Mayor Robert Whitt                            | Eric Davis, City Manager                        |
| Mayor Pro-Tem David Moore                     | Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager            |
| Councilman Jerry Bishop                       | David Belk, Chief of Police                     |
| Councilman Frank McLean                       | James Friday, Director of Utilities             |
| Councilman Bennie Brookshire                  | Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief                       |
| Councilman Perry Toomey                       | Greg Beal, Senior Planner                       |
| Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare                  | Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director |
| Brooke Lopez, Attorney, Kemp Michaels' office |                                                 |

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**Call to Order by Mayor Whitt**

Mayor Whitt called the Mount Holly City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Invocation**

Reverend Scott Whitener pastor of the Catawba Heights Wesleyan Church led the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Boy Scout Troop 59 of the First United Methodist Church in Mount Holly led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Set Agenda**

Mayor Whitt asked for changes to the January 12, 2009 meeting agenda. Being no proposed changes to the agenda, Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All council members present voted in favor. (Motion carried)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Certify Annexation Petition/ Hwy 273 and Lucia-Riverbend Road (#011209A)
2. An Ordinance by the City of Mount Holly Establishing a Lien on Certain Real Property (628 Noles Drive) for Clearing of Grass and Weeds (#011209B)
3. An Ordinance by the City of Mount Holly Establishing a Lien on Certain Real Property (112 Globe Street) for Clearing of Grass and Weeds (#011209C)
4. Approval of Final Plat for Phase 4 of the Stonewater Bay Subdivision
5. Call for Public Hearing to Amend Section 16 of the Zoning Ordinance to Adopt Revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM's) as required by FEMA

Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

**MINUTES**

1. Approval of the minutes for the November 10, 2008 business meeting.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2008 business meeting. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

2. Approval of the minutes for the December 8, 2008 business meeting.

Councilwoman Breyare made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2008 business meeting. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

## **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Audit

*Collis and Associates*

Mr. Robert Collis, President of Collis and Associates, CPA's, P.C. presented the fiscal year 2007-2008 audit. Mr. Collis reported that he sited the City with one (1) significant inefficiency in regard to moneys that were spent that had not been appropriated. This finding is due to expenditures exceeding the budgeted amount. He advised that this process needs to be monitored more closely in the future. Mr. Collis advised that property tax collections have done well while water and sewer revenue were down slightly but is understandable due to the drought restrictions. Mayor Whitt had several questions concerning the areas that were over budget. He also questioned the amount of funds that were spent on stormwater improvements and requested a detailed list of the projects. Mayor Whitt then addressed the time frame for the completion of the audit for next year. Mr. Collis advised that parts of the audit would be done in house by staff next year and therefore would not be delayed. Mayor Whitt emphasized that there was no excuse for the City to be spending money without the appropriate budget amendments.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit**

Carolyn McCarn  
135 Oak Trail  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. McCarn advised that there is a problem with stormwater run off on her street. She advised that there are only four (4) houses on her street and her property seems to get all of the runoff. She further advised that there has been damage to her house and her hot water heater has been destroyed due to the runoff. Ms. McCarn reported that the culvert is in need of repair before she can make any repairs to the ditch, and the culvert is City property. Therefore, she cannot make repairs to the ditch until the City does their part and takes care of the culvert. Ms. McCarn reported that her house is beginning to mold and would like the City to assist with the stormwater problem. Mayor Whitt asked that this matter be placed on the January work session agenda.

Faye McCarn  
133 Oak Trail  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. McCarn advised that she would like to reiterate the comments that were just stated in regard to the stormwater runoff problem on Oak Trail. She advised that her back yard frequently floods and she also has a mess from the road quite often.

Wendy Foster  
108 Antelope Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Foster commented as the new Chairperson of the Community Foundation that she is looking forward to working with the City in the upcoming year. She advised that in spite of the slump in the current economy hopefully this year can be called the year of the Greenway.

Ann Danzi  
513 Stonewater Drive  
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Danzi commented on behalf of the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission that she has received several complaints in regard to stormwater issues in the Stonewater Subdivision. She advised that she walked the area and found several issues that need to be in compliance with the stormwater regulations.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Call for Public Hearing on Annexation Request for property located at  
Hwy 273 and Lucia-Riverbend Road

*Greg Beal*

Mayor Whitt advised that the next step after certifying the sufficiency of the above stated annexation request, is to call for a public hearing. Mayor Whitt advised that the Developer has agreed to develop this property slowly due to the current sewer issues, Council may wish to hold off on the public hearing. After a short discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to call for a public hearing at the February Council meeting. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consideration and Approval of the Budget Preparation Calendar  
for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

*Eric Davis*

Mr. Davis presented the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Calendar. He advised that the public hearings are scheduled for May and June. He further advised that the goal will be to adopt the budget after the public hearing at the June meeting. Councilman McLean made a motion to approve the proposed calendar. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

2. Consideration and Approval of a Request to Apply for a Safe Routes to  
School Sidewalk Grant and the Proposed Sidewalk Maps

*Brian Dupont*

Mr. Dupont reported that Staff continues to research possible grants for the City. He advised that the City qualifies for the Safe Routes to School Grant and staff recommends applying for this grant. He added that the grant will reimburse the City 100% up to \$300,000. Mr. Dupont emphasized that the deadline for this grant is at the end of the month therefore Staff is seeking Council approval to make application for the grant as well as approval of the proposed sidewalk map. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the proposed sidewalk map. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)** In a second motion, Councilman Bishop made a motion to direct staff to move forward with the application process for the Safe Routes to School Grant. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

3. Approval for RDS Linear Park Landscape Design

*Eric Davis*

Mr. Davis explained that Staff is seeking approval for the landscaping design component for the Linear Park. He advised that at a previous meeting a contract from Greenways Inc. came before Council in the amount of \$85,000. At that time Council gave staff the directive to come up with a plan using the qualified personnel that we have on staff. The contract with RDS is for the amount of \$8270 and will cover the landscape part of the design. Mr. Davis advised that the plan for the Linear Park will be presented to Council at the Retreat. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Councilman Toomey asked the status of the AT&T power poles. Mr. Guffey replied that he continues to get the runaround from AT&T. He advised that AT&T will do their own trenching and burying of lines.

Councilman Toomey shared his concerns regarding the manholes and the design of the Linear Park. Mr. Guffey commented that he would keep Council updated on any progress.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Discussion of the Paint Scheme for the Elevated Water Tank on Huitt Street**

*Eric Davis*

Mr. Davis explained that the original bid for the elevated water tank included a decorative paint scheme which included the City Seal. However, the Utility Committee is recommending to Council a paint scheme that is beige, similar to that of Stanley's and will be a cost saving of approximately \$22,000 for the City.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to choose the color scheme similar to that of Stanley's with no logo.

Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis reported that the Drought Management Advisory Group brought the water restrictions down to a Stage II. This means there are no restrictions as far as washing cars and lawn watering is allowed three (3) days per week. Council directed staff to get the new water restriction out to the citizens as soon as possible.

Mr. Davis reported that there is going to be possible stimulus moneys available for municipalities that have projects that are ready to begin. He asked Council to approve moving forward with the engineering phase of some of the projects that are included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) so if the funds become available Mount Holly will have some projects ready to go. There was discussion regarding the amount of money the engineering would cost on some of the proposed projects. Councilman Toomey made a motion that Staff prioritize the list of projects in the CIP and then bring back before Council for further discussion. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor (Motion carried)

Mr. Davis reported that he received a letter from Freightliner regarding the idling of the Mount Holly plant. According to the letter the plant will reopen when conditions improve.

Mr. Davis reported that the City has a new street light policy. He advised that the Police Department is identifying and tagging the street lights that are out and reporting them to June Barker. June will then Contact Duke Energy with the problem.

## **REPORTS**

Councilman Bishop reported that the Utility Committee met and discussed the negotiation with A&E. He advised that the Committee gave the Mayor their voice of confidence for the way he is handling things with A&E.

Mayor Whitt reported that the Council Retreat will be held at the Esmeralda Inn in Chimney Rock on January 15<sup>th</sup> through January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore asked where the drop box is going to be located. Mr. Davis advised that one of the locations that Staff had looked at can be easily seen by the security cameras. It was the consensus of Council to place it to the left of the Police Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore advised that the rest of the Christmas Decorations need to come down and there is also a sign at the elementary school that has fallen down. Mayor Pro Tem Moore also added that there was a big turnout for the ground breaking of the Habitat for Humanity House on East Glendale Avenue on Sunday.

Councilman McLean reported that there is a manhole on Piedmont Avenue that is in need of some attention.

Councilman Bishop commented that it is his understanding that a fire suppression system is required in a habitat house. He further commented that he was told the water pressure in the area of the habitat home on East Glendale Avenue is not strong enough to support the fire suppression system. Chief Oplinger replied the house sprinkler system is not a requirement of the habitat home but the Fire Department got the system for no charge by working with the County. Mr. Davis commented that Glendale Avenue is one of the streets of which the water lines are scheduled to be replaced according to the CIP.

Councilman Toomey asked if the City has any regulations in place that requires empty garbage containers to be moved off the street after pickup. Mr. Santmire replied that the city already has a policy in place therefore it would be a code enforcement issue. Councilman Toomey also added that the Council needs to discuss an ordinance regarding the City going onto private properties for the purpose of making stormwater repairs.

Mayor Whitt asked that the issue of storm sediment and Ms. McCarn's stormwater issue could be placed on the next work session agenda.

Mayor Whitt reported that he received a letter from PC's BBQ regarding skateboarders. Mayor Whitt asked Chief Belk to look into this situation.

Mayor Whitt commented that Jack's barbershop chair has been donated to the Archives Committee. He advised that Council is scheduled to discuss the Archives Committee at the Retreat.

Mayor Whitt commented on the letter that was written asking the federal government for greenway money.

Mayor Whitt commented that he is looking forward to a very productive retreat.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session at this time.

### **ADJOURN**

With no additional items for discussion, Councilman Brookshire made a motion to adjourn the January 12, 2009 Council meeting. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted in favor.

### **(Motion carried)**

The January 12, 2009 Council meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.