

**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 10, 2000**

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 Phyllis Harris

Councilman Michael Helms

Councilwoman Pat Hubbard

Councilman Jim Hope

Councilman Bryan Hough

Councilman Bobby Black

Public Works Director Eddie Nichols

Planning & Zoning Dir. Danny Jackson

City Attorney Kemp Michael

Police Officer

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Councilman Jim Hope.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Bryan Hough led the Council and audience in the ceremony of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** that #1 on the Consent Agenda has to be deleted so that the contract can be amended to show the recent changes in the negotiations with the VFD, and also to add a new item #7 for approval of Final plat for Map 2, Phase II, Runneymeade SD; and that the agenda be approved with the two said changes. Motion seconded by Councilman Black.

Vote: All in favor. **CARRIED**.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to approve the minutes of December 13, 1999, with the following changes:

- a. In the swearing in ceremony, add "Garren" for son attending with Councilwoman Harris, and add "Ginger" for daughter attending with the Mayor;
- b. Correct the Resolution adopted for awarding of the badge and service weapon to read Jerry Bishop.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Harris.

Vote: all in favor. **CARRIED**.

PRESENTATIONS

PH#1 Resolution for Gaston County Night at the Hornets

Bill Lineberger appeared to ask the Council to adopt February 18, 2000 as Hornets Day. On November 23, 1999, a group of citizens gathered by request of Mike Sumner. Mr. Sumner developed the idea to work on the image of Gaston County by putting together

objectives. There was a list of five, namely, (1) Showcase Gaston County positive attributes in front of Hornets home game crowd and Charlotte/Mecklenburg decision makers; (2) During the week of the event, Blitz Charlotte Media outlets with positive stories concerning Gaston County and our people; (3) Providing 5,000 school children with tickets to the Hornets/Clippers game on February 18, 2000; (4) Provide extraordinary half-time and pre-game entertainment promoting a positive Gaston County image; (5) Plan other events to be coordinated to assist in promoting a positive county image. Councilman Hubbard asked how the tickets for the children would be distributed, by reward system, or what. Mr. Lineberger said at this time they plan to contact the schools and obtain a list of students and possibly families who normally would not be able to attend a professional basketball game. Mayor McLean asked how the group will obtain the tickets. He said a representative from the Hornets is working with them for very low price, and they will go into the business community to get donations to pay for them. They are still working out transportation. Also, at half-time they plan to have squads from the YMCA and the all county chorus to perform.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #1-20-2000(a), seconded by Helms. (copy attached)

Vote: all in favor. CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Helms **MOVED** to accept and approve items two through seven on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Helms; and unanimously carried. They are:

CA#2. Tax Releases. For December of 1999, taxes in the amount of \$15.64 for 1995, and \$14.65 for 1996; also privilege license of \$67.50 for 1997.

CA#3. To Call for a Public Hearing on Rezoning Request for R8-CU on Sandy Ford Road. The public hearing on the request by Henry Rhyne will be held at the regular February meeting.

CA#4. To Consider Amendment to Street Layout for Riverfront Phase III. The preliminary plat for Phase III in Riverfront has been amended to change the location of some of the streets; approved by Planning Director Jackson; approved by Council.

CA#5. To Consider Signalization of First Street Railroad Crossing. DOT prefers the crossing be closed, but recognized the local sentiment to that proposal, and so recommends signalization to improve safety. The cost would be \$90,000, with the City having a \$9,000 grant match, plus 50% of the annual maintenance fee, which is currently \$1,058.50 per year. This item authorizes execution of an agreement with DOT by the Mayor and Clerk. (copy of resolution attached)

CA#6. Call for Public Hearing for Housing Authority Five Year Plan. The public hearing will be held at the February regular meeting.

CA#7. Approval of Final Plat for Map 2, Phase II, Runnymede Subdivision. Final plat for Map 2, Phase II, Runnymede Subdivision is approved, provided appropriate financial assurances are provided by the developer pursuant to the subdivision ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

NB #1 To Consider Once a Week Garbage Collection

Public Works Director Eddie Nichols said that once a week or roll-out collection has been brought back up again for consideration. He said that he has done research and consideration of the once a week collection and has found that we would not have a significant savings. The number of tons collected would be the same. You could save technically by calculations on paper amounting to a portion of a truck or a portion of a person, but that cannot really be done, and therefore, there would be no savings.

NB#2 To Consider Voluntary Curbside Roll-out Program

Public Works Director Eddie Nichols said that a large percentage of the residences in the new developments put their garbage at the curb already. Some of the negatives are the confusion the crew may have about who gets backyard collection, especially if they have forgotten to roll it out. He found he cannot estimate the savings from this suggestion because he does not have any idea how many would volunteer. If half the residences volunteered there would be a substantial savings.

Mr. Nichols stated that a combination of roll-out and once a week would save about \$100,000 a year. We have about 1,000 new homes anticipated from the subdivisions already approved. Councilman Hough asked if those figures are actual from today's costs. Mr. Nichols said some is from actual and some is from projected; most of the savings would be from delay of purchasing more equipment. Mr. Nichols said that 700 homes is max per crew; and we are at 800 now. We have budgeted to add a small crew this year, but the truck has not arrived yet. Mr. Nichols said the personnel issue is the most critical in this matter. We are short six people right now even with the incentives the Council adopted. Councilman Hope said he believes we are looking for a starting point, because it appears it is inevitable that it will come to that. He said we should require new subdivisions to have roll-out. Mr. Nichols said he gets requests from new residents about when the roll-out can be delivered; he believed it would be no problem to have them do that. Mayor McLean asked if they have determined how to figure out better use of other crews. Mr. Nichols said he could see using the yard waste crews a couple weeks around holidays. Councilman Hough said that he thought we could not make only the new subdivisions do roll-out because it is not legal unless was for the whole City. City Attorney Michael said the annexation laws require that you provide the same services to the annexed area as you provide the rest of the City. Any citizen in the new area would have the right to start a court action to force the City to provide the same service. Councilman Hough said he likes Councilman Hope's idea and it may be worth the risk to try it. Councilman Black asked if we know how many might volunteer. Mr. Nichols said Raleigh had it and got about 20%, but their situation is not the same as ours where we are going to increase by a third due to new construction. He believes the new developments would be almost 100% volunteer. Councilman Black said he feels the big concern is about elderly or handicapped who need assistance; and we have always said that we would make concessions for them. Mr. Nichols said that in summer we always have more employment problems. Mayor McLean asked Mr. Nichols opinion if the Council started out with new developments having roll-out would that be a good start? Mr. Nichols said it would help staff to have the requirement by whole developments. City Manager Kraus said staff would need time for public notice and to order the containers if the Council chooses roll-out collection. Councilman Helms asked

what criteria would we use for those who cannot roll it out. City Manager Kraus suggested anyone over 65, and others if state they are disabled. Councilman Helms asked if a long driveway like Dr. Rankin would be an exception. Councilman Black asked about steep driveways. Councilwoman Hubbard asked how you would keep up with the route if you have seven with roll-out and three not on a street; or what if their disability is only temporary. City Manager Kraus said some cities mark the mailbox or the cans, but you have to be careful that the elderly are not identified by it for criminals. City Attorney Michael said Council may want staff to develop criteria for the exemptions. Public Works Director Nichols said he has a proposal for an ordinance but it can be amended as Council wishes. There are also rules included about when the containers are allowed to be on the street. It includes service for physically disabled persons. Councilwoman Hubbard said that at the February meeting she would like an answer for the citizen who says they like it how it is; what would it cost to keep backyard collection. Councilman Hough said we need to also point out the money that could be saved and used for building a fire department, or road improvements, if we make a change. Councilman Hough is in favor of mandatory roll-out and once a week collection. Councilman Black agreed. Councilmen Hope and Helms, and Councilwomen Harris and Hubbard said they are not in favor of that.

Councilman Black asked as an alternative how they feel about voluntary roll-out. Councilman Hough said that we still have a problem to be addressed in being short staffed and funding equipment purchases. Attorney Michael said that someone had proposed a survey, and that may be a good idea because it would show how many people would be willing to voluntarily roll-out. Councilwoman Hubbard said she does not feel that voluntary roll-out automatically means going to mandatory roll-out, as someone had suggested. Councilman Hough said people who are voluntary now roll out their cans and we would be just buying them new cans. Four of the Council were in favor of doing a survey, two were against. Mayor McLean instructed the City Manager to do a survey on voluntary roll-out.

NB#3 To Consider Amendment to Personnel Policy Concerning Insurance Coverage

City Manager Kraus said we have employees who have worked for us over ten years and have become disabled or are terminally ill. They come to the end of their benefits after a certain point of time. This proposal would give them an opportunity to continue benefits at their expense. If this is approved, we presently have one employee disabled and one terminally ill.

Motion: Councilman Hough **MOVED** to amend the personnel policy at Article VI. Employee Benefits/Section 3. Retiree Group Health Insurance, by adding the following:

“3. With at least ten years of continuous service and retirement due to permanent disability, these employees and any eligible dependent may remain on the City’s group plan until age 65 at the employee’s own expense.”

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hubbard.

City Attorney Michael suggested the motion be amended to be retroactive to January 1, 1997.

Amended Motion: Councilman Hough AMENDED his MOTION to make it effective retroactively to January 1, 1997. Amendment to motion accepted by Councilwoman Hubbard.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McLean opened the floor for public comment.

Cindy Broaderick, Deerfield Subdivision. She stated she had previously submitted a petition to remove the stop signs in Deerfield as they are excessive and unnecessary. We had 17 that want them down; only 12 wanted them up, and there were discrepancies in the original petition. Most of them only wanted the four way stop at the first intersection, and not the other two. If you would please remove the two after the four way sign at the first intersection. Councilwoman Harris wondered if there is some way to come up with a policy regarding putting up stop signs or other signs and then not have to deal with this back and forth appearances before Council from neighbors who do not agree. Councilman Hough said there is a speeding problem in the neighborhoods. We looked at speed humps but they are expensive. It was suggested that Council get staff recommendation. Councilwoman Hubbard suggested that we put the Deerfield signs on the next agenda for public hearing, and to have staff make a recommendation.

Motion: Councilwoman Harris **MOVED** to put this matter on the agenda for Feb. 14 to have a public hearing to consider whether to remove or leave stop signs in Deerfield Subdivision; Councilman Helms second.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

Staff is directed to bring a recommendation on stop signs in Deerfield Subdivision.

ROUND TABLE

Councilwoman Hubbard asked when we are going to have Lucy Penegar appear; and get something done on the Lentz Springs House. City Attorney Michael said you can have Danny Jackson do an inspection and issue a citation for violations. You can also draft a resolution and send it to the Board of Directors of the Preservation Society.

Motion: Councilwoman Hubbard **MOVED** to send a resolution #1-10-2000(b) to the NC Preservation Society about what a shame the condition of this house is and a response is required. Councilman Hough seconded.

Vote: All in favor. CARRIED.

Councilwoman Hubbard said she has had a request regarding water lines on Glendale Ave. between Scott Street and Rankin Avenue. She stated there are three houses that have their water line goes through someone else's yard and there is no right of way and it is under the pavement of the other person's driveway. To run the water line down the street is about \$7,500. I would like to ask staff to see what it would actually cost and have the city install the line in the street and move the taps onto that line, if they all agree. Public Works Director Eddie Nichols said these lines were like this when he came to work for the city many years ago. The owner of the property now says if the line breaks, the City cannot come on his property to fix it. Mr. Nichols said this line is a service line that the City never assumed. Councilman Hope said this sounds like a

personal matter and not a City matter to him. Councilman Hough asked if there are other situations in the City like this; if so we would not want to make a precedent that we would have to pay for all over the City. City Manager Kraus said he can prepare a map; Mr. Nichols said he can estimate the cost. Councilman Hope felt that this should not be handled by the City.

Councilwoman Hubbard wants to know if she can have a Springfest Committee meeting on January 20th at 7:00 PM; the Mayor said yes. She encouraged all to come.

Councilman Black asked about the Optimist Club request for the City to accept a donation to it and then to disburse the money, and the status of Trent Wilson's investigation. Councilman Hough said he talked with Vance Furr and they may go through the national organization and will have to pay the administration fee. The Mayor and City Manager did not have anything new to report.

Councilman Hope said he felt the retreat was totally successful and he appreciated Reeves McGlohon's efforts in moderating, and that he had been wrong when he said it was not necessary to have a moderator; he felt Mr. McGlohon did a good job and helped us out. Also we appreciated Kemp and Cindy having us over to their house on Saturday.

Mayor McLean said Lloyd Gann has gotten approval for a sprinkler system from the County on the school ballfield. They are requesting a free two inch meter. Council approved.

Mayor McLean said he talked with Judi Simac about Jerry Arrowood having a business in a residential neighborhood. She is checking on that.

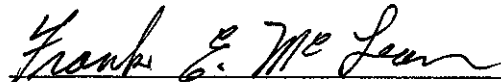
Mayor McLean set the Feb. workshop meeting for Feb. 7 immediately after the joint session with the Planning Commission at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion duly made, by Councilwoman Harris, seconded by Councilman Helms, and carried unanimously. (9:00 p.m.)



Clerk



Mayor

cpm