

**CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY**  
**MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, January 9, 2023**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**7:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

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

|                                |                                               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Mayor Bryan Hough              | Miles Braswell, City Manager                  |
| Mayor Pro Tem Phyllis Harris   | Brian DuPont, Assistant City Manager          |
| Councilman Ivory Craig         | Brian Reagan, Police Chief                    |
| Councilman Jeff Meadows        | Ryan Baker, Fire Chief                        |
| Councilman David Moore         | Greg Beal, Planning Director                  |
| Councilwoman Christina Pawlish | Tony Walker, Streets and Solid Waste Director |
| Councilwoman Lauren Shoemaker  | Jonathan Wilson, Director of Utilities        |
| Marie M. Anders, City Attorney | Mark Jusko, Recreation Supervisor             |
|                                | Michelle Wood, Finance Director               |

**Invocation**

Reverend and former Councilman Charles McCorkle led the Council, staff and attendees in prayer.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Boy Scout Troop 59 led the Council, staff and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Set the Agenda**

Mayor Hough advised that there will be a proclamation added to the consent agenda to recognize January 9<sup>th</sup> as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. With no other changes to the agenda, Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Liens for Trash, Junk and Debris
  - 204 Beaty Road
  - 132 Farm Springs Drive
2. Certifications of Municipal Ordinance to repeal speed limit concurrences on NC 273 inside the corporate limits of Mount Holly
3. Approval for the Release of the Letter of Credit for Kendrick Farms Phase IV
4. Approval of the Gaston County Healthy Community Mini-Grant Application
5. Approval of Minutes of the December 12, 2022 Council Meeting
6. Approval of the December 12, 2022 Closed Session Minutes
7. Approval of Proclamation recognizing January 9, 2023 as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation of a Resolution Honoring Sheriff Cloninger

Mayor Hough and the City Council presented former Gaston County Sheriff Cloninger with a resolution. Sheriff Cloninger thanked the Mayor and Council. He advised that he has always loved Mount Holly and it has been an honor to serve as sheriff for the past 18 years. He added that Mount Holly is a special law enforcement agency lead by Chief Reagan. He added that his motto of “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

2. Presentation of a check from the Community Development Foundation

Ms. Stephanie McLaughlin, the 2023 Chair of the Community Development Foundation came before the City Council to present a check in the amount of \$13,000. She continued by saying that Mount Holly is a great place to Live, Work and Play and therefore the check is designated for greenway amenities such as 3 bike fix-it stations and permanent trail markers on the greenways.

3. Swearing In of Fire Fighter Ethan Adler

Chief Baker presented Mr. Adler with his badge. Chief Baker explained that the badge # (50) will always be Ethan's number. Mayor Hough preformed the swearing in ceremony for Fire Fighter Ethan Adler. His mom was present to pin his badge.

4. Presentation from the Glendale Property Advisory Committee

Mayor Hough thanked the committee for the work they have done to come up with the recommendation to honor Ransom Hunter's legacy. Mr. Braswell advised that the goal of the committee was to have this recommendation as a retreat item but due to the leadership of Mrs. Conner the recommendation is coming earlier than anticipated. He also advised that the family has not been contacted at this time. Mrs. Connor introduced that committee and advised that this all this came about to honor Ransom Hunter. She advised that Mr. Hunter was the first freed slave to own property in Gaston County. Mrs. Connor provided some additional history of the property. She reviewed the plan that the committee compiled stating that the first steps would be to reach out to an archeologist to explore the historical significance of the site and then hire a design firm to help develop the property with amenities such as walkways through the property with educational signage about Mr. Hunter, art installments such as statues to include a horse near freedom rock and maybe some children playing along the walkways, playground and shelter area for gathering and a parking area. The Mayor and Council thanked Mrs. Connor for the work that she and the committee has done and agreed that staff would take this plan to the family and then discuss how to move forward at a future meeting.

5. Presentation by the owners of the Holland Building (DuPont)

Mr. DuPont introduced Mr. Steve Engelhard with Scope Architectural Firm to present future plans for the Holland Building. Mr. Engelhard advised that he was hired by Plumeria Group to bring the Holland Building to its next life. The intent is to make it a destination point for both pedestrian and street traffic and connect both North and South Main Streets. Contact has been made with the Holland family in regard to keeping their family name incorporated into the building. He advised that the main floor would be a restaurant and wine bar while the second floor would be business offices. The approximate renovations cost for the project is \$2.1 million. Mr. Engelhard shared some ideas for the aesthetics for the outside of the building as well as quieting measures to help shelter traffic noise. The challenge that the Plumeria Group faces is parking, delivery options and dumpster locations. The owner of the property spoke and advised that they are committed to the City and the project; however, they are asking for help from the city with facing these challenges. Councilman Meadows encouraged them to talk with their neighbors and maybe form some partnerships with parking and dumpster locations. Mayor Hough offered to help with the introductions with their neighboring properties.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Public hearing regarding a proposed text amendment, as submitted by City staff with the advice of the Utilities Department, to Section 3.21 of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance-which regulates grading permit reviews. The proposed update would ensure that the Section aligns with current review procedures

Mr. Lowe advised that the proposed recommendation is to clean up some things and make sure that policies are matching practices. He advised that the Planning Commission recommends approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Harris made a motion to open the public hearing regarding a proposed text amendment, as submitted by City staff with the advice of the Utilities Department, to Section 3.21 of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried. With no one signed up to speak, Councilwoman Pawlish made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the proposed text amendment, as submitted by City staff with the advice of the Utilities Department, to Section 3.21 of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

2. Public hearing regarding a proposed text amendment, as submitted by City staff, to the Emergency Response Requirements for Trail Systems found in Section 3.12 of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.

Mr. Lowe advised that the proposed recommendation would update how future trails are named and clean up some things and make sure that policies are matching practices. He advised that the Planning Commission recommends approval.

Councilwoman Shoemaker made a motion to open the public hearing regarding a proposed text amendment, as submitted by City staff, to the Emergency Response Requirements for Trail Systems found in Section 3.12 of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance. Councilman Craig seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried. With no one signed up to speak, Councilman Moore made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the proposed text amendment, as submitted by City staff, to the Emergency Response Requirements for Trail Systems found in Section 3.12 of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance. Councilwoman Pawlish seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. Motion carried.

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

Wanda Halloway-Ms. Halloway advised that she is Ransom Hunter's granddaughter and loves the plan presented for her grandfather's property.

Ayla Summitt, 504 Cherry Street, Mount Holly, NC 28120, Ms. Summitt came before the City Council with her mother to request sidewalks on Cherry Street. She advised that it is dangerous for people to be out jogging and walking their dogs without sidewalks.

Kissi Summitt, 504 Cherry Street, Mount Holly, NC 28120, Ms. Summitt advised that she lives on Cherry Street in the Catawba Heights neighborhood and as part of the annexation agreement back years ago was to provide sidewalks. Cherry Street is a narrow road is not safe to walk and therefore is in need of the sidewalks to connect community with nature. She commented that she picks up neighborhood kids from school and walks them home, for safety reasons she would cut through neighbors' yards. Due to complaints, she can no longer cut through yards and it's just not safe to walk the kids home.

Dr. Eric Van Wilson-Dr. Wilson advised that he is the great grandson of Ransom Hunter. He was born and raised across the street from the Glendale property. He advised that it has been a dream of the family that the city would develop the property into a park since the purchase in 2014. Being just past the holiday season, Dr. Wilson commented that he sang the song "Mary Did You Know" but it came to him and he replaced the words with Julia did you know and recited his own rendition.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion of new Legislation in regard to creating a Downtown Social District

Ms. Miller advised that effective today there are some changes in the social district regulations. Ms. Miller defined a social district and added that as of today nonprofit organizations are incorporated into the legislation for social districts. Councilman Meadows added that when social districts came up several months ago the businesses were not on board. Mayor Hough commented that he would like BOOMA's input. Councilwoman Shoemaker advised that she would discuss it at the next BOOMA meeting.

2. Presentation of Mid-Year Financial Review

Ms. Wood presented the mid-year financial report as requested by Council during the budget process. She advised that revenues are coming in at a higher rate than was anticipated during budget time. She commented that the city is in good financial shape. Ms. Wood further advised that when budgeting salaries the city used the CPI average for budgeting COLA at 5.99%. Council agreed to 4% in July and revisit the city's financial situation in January to determine if the additional 1.99% can be given at that time. Councilman Meadows questions the impact 1.99% would have on the salary study in regard to where the employees are in their position grade and step. He also had concerns about what the 1.99% would do to future budgets. Councilman Moore made a motion to increase employees' salary's 1.99% effective July 1, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Harris seconded the motion. All Council Members voted yes with a show of hands with the exception of Councilman Meadows. Councilman Meadows did not raise his hand for yay or nay which is an automatic yes vote. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion to Extend Water to North Belmont Park

Mr. Wilson introduced Ms. Rodriguez with Gaston County. Ms. Rodriguez came before the City Council to ask Council to work with Gaston County in regard to extending water to North Belmont Park. She advised that the County and City would work with the attorneys on the details of an interlocal agreement. Mr. Wilson added that this would fall within the outside city rates. Council agreed that they look forward to working with the County on this project.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

**1. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a) (3, 4 and 6)**

Councilmsn Craig made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11 (a) (3, 4 and 6). Councilwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

The time was 8:39 pm.

Councilwoman Pawlish made a motion to return to open session. Councilman Craig seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

The time was 9:12pm.

Mayor Hough advised there was no action taken during closed session.

### **ADJOURN**

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Hough entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Pawlish made the motion to adjourn the January 9, 2023 Council Meeting. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. (Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.