

Regular Meeting
Mount Holly City Council
January 8, 1990

The Council met for its regular monthly meeting beginning with the call to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mayor Charles B. Black, Jr. Councilwomen Faye Little and Lib Nichols, Councilmen Myles Biggerstaff, Archie Small, Bob Jessen, and R. L. Duke were all present, as were City Manager Greg Young, Director of Public Works Eddie Nichols, and other interested persons.

The invocation was led by Reverend Burrell Brooks.

The minutes of December 11, 1989 were approved as written upon motion by Councilwoman Little, seconded by Councilman Small, and unanimously carried.

Awards were given to city employees for service. Councilwoman Little presented a plaque to Donna Abernathy for twenty years of service to Catawba Heights and Mount Holly. Councilman Jessen presented a plaque to Albert Burris for twenty-five years of service to Mount Holly. Mayor Black presented a plaque to Frank McLean for seventeen years of service to Catawba Heights and Mount Holly, and one to Joe Mauney for fifteen years of service to Mount Holly. Mayor Black presented lapel pins for ten years of service to Mount Holly to the following persons: Richard Davis, Andy Godfrey, Greg Miller, Eddie Nichols, Bobby Setzer, James Haas, Nan Oakes, Dewey Hager, and Greg Young. Mayor Black presented lapel pins for fifteen years of service to the following persons: Frank McLean, Joe Mauney, Randy Franks, and Margie Wilson. The Board expressed thanks to the long-standing work of these persons to the City and Catawba Heights.

The floor was opened to complaints and petitions not on the agenda. First recognized was David A. Berg, 711 N. Main Street. He said he had to quit the Fire Department, Scott Griffin had quit, and a third person quit that day. He gave to the Mayor a written notice of his concerns about the Mount Holly Fire Department, and mentioned the following items contained therein: 1. a water line not repaired in truck #1 since 1988; 2. a water line in truck #3; 3. a hole in tank in truck #1; 4. the building is an eyesore to the public and has a broken screen door and doorknobs missing. He also claimed that some records to the State and Federal agencies have been falsified as to the formal training of some of the men, including himself; that the readiness and training of the men is below standards. He further claimed that some air pack bottles are not repaired, the generator is unacceptable, the cords that should connect do not allow interchange, a gauge is missing in the truck, some lights do not work, and a glass door has not been repaired although

the glass is here. He recommended that the City Manager be reprimanded or terminated for allowing the paid fire captain to let the department get in this condition; that the paid captain be asked to retire and a new one be hired; that all repairs be made or contracted to be done since the City does not have enough personnel to do the repairs. He admitted he has a personal "vendetta," as he always worried if he would come out alive from fires at which he served. If nothing is done by the City within one month, he stated he will send a copy of his letter to the Insurance Commissioner. Mayor Black said he did not feel it would be appropriate for the Council to respond to these allegations in public. The Mayor stated he has written assurances that the repairs have been made or are being made or the parts have been ordered for each item named, and has been assured in writing that the trucks are all safe.

Next, a man from Carolina Water Systems showed the Council a proposed map for an addition to Holly Acres Subdivision, and their plan to develop the water lines. They will petition the City for water. Director of Public Works Nichols said he has researched and found the City does have the capacity to serve there, but he needs more information about the lines which they have agreed to supply. Mayor Black said the City was ready to give water there years ago, but one owner dissented from the annexation, so it did not happen. They will return later after all information is compiled.

A proposed contract with Frank Cockinos & Associates for engineering of the new water and sewer lines in the Freightliner annexation area was discussed. They did the work for the City's Services Plan; the annexation is effective June 30, 1990. The estimated construction cost is \$158,000.00. Councilwoman Little moved to approve the contract with Cockinos for \$18,700 for engineering the Highway 273 annexation are 6" water and 8" sewer lines. Councilman Biggerstaff seconded the motion. Councilman Biggerstaff then asked why it is not a percentage fee. City Manager Young said the normal fee is more than 10% when the project is under 1/2 million dollars. Councilman Biggerstaff disapproved of the out of town expenses and other extras. This was the only bid received. Councilwoman Little withdrew the motion, and the second was withdrawn. Councilman Jessen asked if our own personnel could oversee the installation of the lines; Mr. Young said they are able, but do not have the time, and that the engineer would be liable to be sure it is done per the design. The City Attorney agreed that the City has always used a consulting engineer in the past. Director of Public Works Nichols says the State required a certification by an engineer. The City Manager was asked to negotiate a lower price or include the expenses. Councilwoman Little moved that competitive bids be sought, which was seconded by Councilman Duke, and unanimously carried.

The City of Gastonia and Gaston County have proposed to change to an 800 megahertz frequency for police communications. They had hired a consultant who made this recommendation, and now are asking other towns' input. It has been suggested that a bond referendum be held to fund the setting up of the system. Discussion followed by the Council, in which the following things are highlighted: It will probably be a couple of years before the change is made, but they need an answer to the proposal by January 15th. It was agreed that our police experience frequent "dead" spots. The Council concurred that a final commitment is impossible without figures. The bond referendum payback would be 18 to 20 year, and some fear that the equipment would be obsolete before it is paid for. A satellite would be needed, but the information given did not tell if this is included. There is still no communication between the Fire Department and the Police Station inside the fire truck, even though the garbage department was taken off the emergency frequency. The radios are estimated at \$3,500, but Mr. Young thought this was high; the City itself has eight mobiles in the police alone. The Council said the city should pursue this, but must make sure it will be usable by Mount Holly.

Councilwoman Little moved to approve tax releases, seconded by Councilman Biggerstaff, and unanimously carried.

TAX RELEASES
January 8, 1990

Emmett, Michael	R#1192	5570 val.	25.62
		1 tag	1.00
Buchanan, James	R#3636	43000 val.	197.80
Sowell, James			
Waters, Tamara M.	R#4028	5320 val.	26.92
A & E Mills	R#76	68100 val.	313.26
Walls, Eugene & Mary J.	R#3998	112100 val.	515.66
Walls, Eugene & Mary J.	R#3996	40700 val.	187.54
Bolding, Oliver & Dean	R#435	11600 val.	53.36
Harper, Lonnie & Irene	R#D-129	12000 val.	<u>35.70</u>
Total Taxes Released			\$1,355.86
1 Tag Released			1.00

The Council took a five minute recess.

The bids for a new garbage truck were reviewed. They were all Ford F-710, except the Adams International is a Model 4600 diesel engine, which the City Manager felt might be better even though it is the second lowest. The Council was concerned about a possible parts availability problem still being as it had been in the past, and wondered if the extra cost was warranted. Councilwoman Little moved to accept the low bid of Southco for \$22,150 for a new garbage truck, Ford

F-710, which was seconded by Councilman Jessen, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Black asked if the volunteer fire department has responded about the new fire truck; they were having a meeting that night.

Mayor Black said he had a call by a man who wants to put up a 24' x 24' garage on his property, but it is in the flood plain, and was told he has to get an engineer. City Attorney Michael said the City adopted an ordinance about flood plains, and it must be followed in order to get flood insurance. City Manager Young said it also has procedures for applying for a variance.

Mayor Black said an inquiry has been made about the City spending extra money to use additives for fuels. Public Works Director Nichols said they started using diesel fuel additives because of problems with fuel injectors, and they were told they needed to use them for that. Also, the City went to unleaded fuel (there are at least six). Councilman Small said he saw in Consumer Reports recently that there are only three fuels that need additives for lead, and that should be checked. It costs \$7 to \$10 a gallon for additives, which treats so many gallons of fuel per gallon (no one recalled the figure). Mr. Nichols said he has not kept a comparison record, so he does not have statistics to show whether or not these have saved down time or repairs.

Councilwoman Little said there have been more wrecks at Highway 27 and Hawthorne, and wondered if a flashing light might help.

Mayor Black announced that he and some of the Council would meet with Representative Dickson Wednesday at 7:30 A.M.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jessen suggested asking for a left turn lane on Highway 27 and more street lights at Creekside Shopping Center.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jessen said many of the storm drains are clogged up; the cleanup of those has already started.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jessen asked if all Civic Clubs pay a garbage pickup assessment; they do, and it is a flat fee. He noted that the Rotary Club meets at the VFW Building and both clubs pay the fee.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jessen said the Corridor Study Committee would report at the next meeting.

Councilman Duke said Jack Drum still has a problem with drainage and asked each council member to go look at his

place, and see if anything can be done; he did the work previously discussed already.

Councilman Small asked the Council to consider closing the Catawba Heights office, so Donna will not be alone, and because some bill payment have been lost when paid at City Hall. The City Manager is compiling figures of percentages of use, and will bring them back.

Councilman Small asked that the police make notes of the dim street lights, so they can be repaired.

Councilwoman Nichols asked that the police patrol on Highway 273 more as people are passing in the turn lane, especially at peak hours of traffic.

Councilman Biggerstaff said the contractor laying water line in Catawba Heights is leaving potholes, and digging things up over and over. Director of Public Works Nichols said they are required by the specifications to put in a temporary patch, and then after testing the line if it leaks, they must dig it up; if it does not leak, they put on a permanent patch. Some of the patches have come up due to the weather. He has notified the engineers of this problem, and the City Manager will follow up on it.

City Attorney Michael said he and the City Manager attended the seminar on city personnel law, and talked with Jake Wicker as well.

City Manager Young said Jim Hope has requested the City accept and maintain Stoneyridge and Woodstone Drives. He wants decorative street lights, but has been advised of city policy and what was done in Deerfield Subdivision. The streets are approved, except for a sinkhole on Woodstone which they know they must have fixed first. Councilwoman Little moved to accept the City Manager's recommendation and accept the two streets contingent upon the repair of Woodstone to Mr. Young's satisfaction, which motion was seconded by Councilman Jessen, and unanimously carried.

City Manager Young said persons on Cherry Street Extension have petitioned under the new policy for street paving in Catawba Heights and paid the fee. They want the 30 foot right-of-way paved. Copies were given to the Council; the procedures are being followed.

The COG meeting was announced for the next Wednesday.

Councilman Biggerstaff asked the Council to discuss the memo received from the Cablevision company; he felt a letter of disapproval should be sent by the Mayor stating that the Council is unhappy about the increase in rates. The basic has been raised \$2.25 to \$15.75, and it started at about

\$9.00. After discussion, Councilwoman Little moved that the Mayor write a letter to the cable company and express their unhappiness with the rate increase, and get clarification on the number of channels for the basic rate. This motion was seconded by Councilman Biggerstaff, and carried with five ayes, and one nay (Jessen).

The Council went into executive session for personnel matters upon motion by Councilwoman Little, seconded by Councilman Biggerstaff, and unanimously carried. They returned to regular session upon motion by Councilwoman Little, seconded by Councilman Duke, and unanimously carried.

City Manager Young recommended that the request by TranState for a 60 day time extension with the contract price being the same be approved. Councilman Biggerstaff moved that his recommendation be accepted and the extension granted, which was seconded by Councilman Jessen, and carried by unanimous vote.

Councilwoman Little moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Councilman Duke, and unanimously carried.

 _____ City Clerk	*****	 _____ Mayor
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