Mount Holly City Council
Work Session
January 2, 2001

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The work session 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	City Manager David Kraus
Mayor Pro-Tem Bobby Black	Administrative Services Officer Jamie Guffey
Councilman Michael Helms	Public Works Director Eddie Nichols
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Planning & Zoning Director Danny Jackson
Councilman Jim Hope	Fire Chief John Ekiatis
Councilman Bryan Hough	Parks & Recreation Director Zip Stowe
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard	Police Chief Ricky Davis
City Attorney Kemp Michael	

The Invocation was lead by Councilman Hough.

Before the meeting started, City Manager Kraus said that Council needs to set the dates for the Council retreat. It was decided to have the retreat on Friday, February 9th and Saturday, February 10th. The time on Friday will be 8:00 am thru 5:00 pm and the time for Saturday will be 7:00 am thru 12:00 pm with lunch from 12:00-1:00.

Item # 1 on the Agenda – Local Option Sales Tax Dedicated to Gaston County Schools.

City Attorney Michael told Council that Gaston County has passed a resolution for the cities to enact a 1 cent sales tax to pay for capital for the county schools. The resolution will say that the cities will forgo their portion of the tax so that all can go to the county. He also stated that the county expects the proceeds to be $14-$19 million a year. Councilwoman Hubbard expressed a concern about part of the county's resolution that allows the county to move any excess revenue from this tax to be put into the county's general fund. This concern was echoed by the rest of Council. City Manager Kraus stated that staff would write a resolution for Monday that would address the Council's concerns.

Item #2 on the Agenda – Sewer Line Encroachment .

City Attorney Michael stated that he received a letter from Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP who represent Textum Weaving, Inc. Textum has contracted to buy the Swa-Nit, Inc. property. A current survey shows that a corner of the building encroaches slightly on a sewer easement. The buyers wish to make an amendment to the easement to remove the corner of the building from it. Public Works Director Nichols stated that this amendment would not be detrimental to the easement. City Manager Kraus said this would be on the consent agenda.

Item #3 on the Agenda – Closing Sections of Lee and Piedmont Streets.

City Attorney Michael gave Council a copy of the street closing ordinance with an added paragraph granting easements on existing water and sewer lines.

Councilwoman Hubbard said the only problem that she sees is the same problem that the City has had with other street closings and she does not want to see the same arguments again.

City Manager Kraus stated that the Council could take action on this tonight. Councilman Helms asked for clarification of the area to be closed and City Manager Kraus explained the area to Council.

Councilman Hope **MOVED** that the sections of Lee and Piedmont Streets. The motion was seconded by Councilman Helms and passed with no objections.

Item #5 on the Agenda – Update of YMCA Drive.

City Consultant Mike Simac of Earth Improvement Technologies gave an update of the road leading to the YMCA. Mr. Simac stated that the cracks in the road are spreading more and quicker than before and the pipe has deflected more. This movement requires remediation and Mr. Simac offered two possible ways to fix the situation. One way, and the way the contractor is recommending doing, is to fix the pipe and to fill in around the pipe with grout. The second way, and the way Mr. Simac suggested, is to completely remove and replace the pipe, wall and road.

Councilwoman Hubbard stated that if we are going to accept the road, the city needs to dictate how the work is done.

City Manager Kraus stated that a meeting is scheduled with the YMCA and the Council's concerns would be communicated to them.

Item # 6 on the Agenda – Merger with the Mount Holly Life Saving Crew.

Chief John Caulder of the Mount Holly Life Saving Crew addressed Council about the possibility of the life saving crew with the City's Fire Department. Chief Caulder listed several advantages to the merger and stated that he is not sure if the life saving crew can survive alone another 5 years.

City Manager Kraus stated that it is anticipated that the City would incur a cost of $15,000 to $20,000 a year if the merger happens. Councilman Helms asked about the County's response to the merger. City Manager Kraus stated that the County is in favor of the merger, but we still have not heard back from them about continued funding and the use of the two county ambulances. Councilman Helms directed staff to talk with the County and get back to Council.

Item # 7 on the Agenda – Funding Improvements at the Recreation Center.

City Manager Kraus stated that if Council wants improvements this year, Council needs to appropriate the money to do so, or we can wait and build it into next years budget. The question then becomes, how quick does Council want to proceed. Councilman Hope stated that he would like to see a plan and three quotes before the Council approves anything. Councilwoman Harris stated that to get were we want to be, we need to spend money and would like to see the improvements down now. Councilman Hough asked what would be the harm in waiting. Council instructed staff to gather more information and to bring to Council a complete package of the improvements.

Item # 4 on the Agenda – Future Annexations.

Staff presented two developments that have talked with staff about annexation into the City. One is the Kendrick property to be developed by Squires and Provident and the other is a Golf Course Community to be developed by Gramling Brothers. This was presented for information.

Councilman Hope stated that his problem with the developments is that the houses are too inexpensive; the City has enough development in the same price range and Council would like to see more upscale developments. Council then instructed staff to give feedback to the developers and update Council at a later date.

Item # 8 on the Agenda – Draft Agenda Items.

New Business # 5 – Fence for Holly Hills.

Council was concerned about appropriating $10,000 for a fence at Holly Hills when a fence was just put in at Rollins and did not cost the City any money. City Manager Kraus stated that because both housing developments are under different government agencies, Holly Hills must match U.S. government funding. The item will be discussed more at Monday night's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

******** Frank E. McLean

City Clerk Mayor