CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The following were present:

Mayor David Moore	Jonathan Blanton, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Shoemaker	Brian DuPont, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Ivory Craig	Alexis Hines, Human Resources Director
Councilman Jeff Meadows	Brian Reagan, Police Chief
Councilman Bryan Hough	Greg Beal, Planning Director
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Ryan Baker, Fire Chief - Absent
Councilman Kenneth Reeves	Robert Stewart, Deputy Utilities Director
Marie M. Anders, City Attorney	Eric Smallwood, Parks and Recreation Director
Tara Douglas, City Clerk	Michelle Wood, Finance Director
	Matt Black, Economic Development Director
	Jason Green, Public Works Director

INVOCATION

Councilman Hough led the Council, Staff, and attendees in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Meadows led the Council, Staff, and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SET THE AGENDA

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to set the agenda as presented.

Motion: Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Budget Amendment to pave West Glendale at Ransom Hunter Park
2. Budget Amendment for parking lot paving at 128 South Main Street, Mount Holly NC

3. Approval to award contract to Carolina Wetland Services for storm water project.
4. Approval for staff to apply for the North Carolina chapter of the American Planning Association's Great Places-Great Place for Public Art Award.
5. Approval to appoint Greg Blackwood to the ABC Commission.
6. Resolution of support to amend the Gaston County Blueway Masterplan to include Dutchman's Creek.
7. Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Tax Collection.
8. Approval of Minutes – Council Meeting April 14, 2025

Mayor Moore entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

<u>Motion:</u> Councilman Meadows made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

<u>PRESENTATIONS</u>

1. Update on Veterans Park Expansion and Redevelopment ***Brian DuPont***

Mr. DuPont gave an update on the Veterans Park Expansion and Redevelopment. Mr. DuPont gave a brief history of the project stating that the property acquisitions have been completed, residential properties have been cleared or are in the process, the environmental review has been conducted, and we hope to partner with MECA Commercial to manage tenants as well as some short-term leases for up to two years if approved by Council. Mr. DuPont reviewed an outline of steps and important benchmarks that are required for any kind of public partnership. Mr. DuPont stated that staff has been active in completing some of these benchmarks while others are in the process. Mr. DuPont explained that this list is intended to provide a general understanding of the process. Mr. DuPont reviewed next steps stating that there are two components which are the Park Land Management, and the Redevelopment Partnership based on the checklist. Mr. DuPont stated that staff has been compiling information to include reaching out to McAdams to get updated estimates for any kind of park concept design, looking into soil borings on the property, looking into grading options, and looking into what it would take to pipe the stream. Mr. DuPont stated that staff is looking to Council for direction on next steps.

Councilman Meadows asked about the intent behind looking at the underbrush and the grading. Mr. DuPont stated that this process would allow for an analysis of the area and general beautification. Councilman Meadows asked if the property would be usable at that point. Mr. DuPont answered yes, the property would be usable. Mr. DuPont stated that if Council wished, the City could turn it into a passive park or promote it as certain types of uses. Councilman Meadows commented on the ditch asking had the City not worked with the Army Corps in the past and determined that it is not a wetland and that you can put the pipe in place. Mr. DuPont confirmed that this statement is correct. Councilman Meadows inquired about the status of our potential development partner North State. Mr. DuPont stated that he and City Manager Blanton have been meeting with North State and their representatives and, out of the last meeting, supplied the letter of commitment and interest that is in the Council's agenda packet. Mr. DuPont stated that representatives from North State Development are here tonight if there are any questions. Councilman Meadows asked to hear from the representative of North State to give a status update. Councilman Meadows asked about the next step from North State.

Shane Seagle from North State Development and Rachel Krenz from Lagniappe Group approached the podium to answer questions from the Council. Rachel Krenz stated that their letter was to reinstate their interest in this project. Ms. Krenz stated that there are some challenges financially that were mentioned a few months ago, but that they are still interested and have put together a proposal just to show their commitment of interest for continuing the conversation. Ms. Krenz stated that they appreciate all that the staff is doing from a due diligence standpoint since a lot of this work would have to be done by the development partner, and this helps them to have some knowledge ahead of time.

Councilman Meadows asked what do the next steps look like and what kind of timing are we looking at? Ms. Krenz stated that the next steps would be to figure out the terms of the agreement with the end goal to have a development agreement. Ms. Krenz stated that the first steps to this would be to negotiate and create a term sheet of the things that are important to the City as well as the developer. Councilman Meadows suggested scheduled meetings between staff and North State. Mayor Moore stated that Council could talk about those options. Mayor Moore asked if the developer is still considering putting in 250 townhomes. Ms. Krenz stated that they want the agreement to be flexible so that it can move with the market, but that the hope is that it is residential and retail. Councilman Hough stated that he would like to see the Council move forward once there is more information. Mayor Moore stated that he feels as though the City needs to open this opportunity up for other developers to ensure the best outcome.

Councilman Craig expressed that he would like to see scheduled meetings every two to four weeks between City staff and North State as Councilman Meadows suggested in order to continue the pace of the discussions. Ms. Krenz stated that they slowed down their process because they knew that the Council was taking time to determine their direction. Ms. Krenz stated that they are hesitant to spend time and money if this is not something that the Council is committed to proceeding with. Ms. Krenz stated that they are ready to work with an identified staff member or team to work towards achieving a term sheet. Mayor Moore stated that there was consensus of the Council to move forward with scheduled staff meetings with North State.

Councilman Craig thanked the team at North State and hopes to work with them.

2. Baker Tilly Classification and Compensation Study Update

Sarah Towne

Ms. Towne from Baker Tilly came forward to provide a project overview of the compensation study. Ms. Towne noted that there was extensive engagement with leadership as well as staff. Ms. Towne stated that the evaluation was a five-phase methodology. Ms. Towne listed the five phases to include data collection, position review, market assessment, pay plan development, and project completion. Ms. Towne stated that the majority of the information that will be discussed tonight will be from phase four as this will be new information.

Ms. Towne explained that the largest portion of the project initiation phase comes from the position analysis questionnaire (PAQ) where all employees had the opportunity to tell them in their own words about the work that they are performing. Ms. Towne stated that those PAQ's were then routed to a supervisor for review, additional information, and comments. Ms. Towne stated that using these PAQ's formed the basis of the study. Ms. Towne explained that using those PAQ's and some updated job descriptions, they reviewed all 93 titles in the organization and made recommendations for adjustment so that the job title is appropriate and reflective of the work that is being performed. Ms. Towne discussed the Baker Tilly job evaluations using their point factor tool called SAFE® and that this is what the City will use moving forward to evaluate positions. Ms. Towne listed the 9 compensable factors as: 1. Education 2. Experience 3. Level of Work 4. Human Interaction 5. Physical Demand 6. Working Conditions 7. Independence of Action 8. Impact on Organization 9. Supervision Exercised. Ms. Towne stated that this is a measurement of the position, not the person in the position which makes this process compatible with the federal Equal Pay Act.

Ms. Towne stated that Baker Tilly partnered with the City's staff to identify comparable and competitive peer organizations to be included in the study. Ms. Towne stated that this list of competitive peer organizations got narrowed down to 10 organizations who look like us, work like us and are similar in size and are included in the data representing the private sector in the comparisons. Ms. Towne stated that Baker Tilly included 76% of the positions in the market as benchmark positions and this data is appropriately adjusted to Mount Holly. Ms. Towne stated Baker Tilly also conducted a benefits comparison analysis for information purposes only. Ms. Towne listed the 10 public peer organizations to be included in the study as: 1. Belmont, NC 2. Charlotte, NC 3. Matthews, NC 4. Gastonia, NC 5. Harrisburg, NC 6. Huntersville, NC 7. Kings Mountain, NC 8. Lincolnton, NC 9. Pineville, NC 10. Gaston County, NC. Ms. Towne listed the 2 private sector organizations to be included in the study as: 1. Comp Analyst 2. Economic Research Institute. Ms. Towne discussed terms such as cost of living and cost of labor with cost of labor being the focus of Baker Tilly. Ms. Towne stated that Mount Holly is approximately 2% less than the United States national average for cost of labor.

Ms. Towne reported that in total, 72 positions were included in the market survey as benchmark positions and of those, 1 position had insufficient data (less than 3 matches). Ms. Towne reported that the study yielded market values for 98.6 % of the City's benchmark positions. Ms. Towne reported that the average minimum, midpoint, and maximum results were prepared for the 72 benchmarks with sufficient data having 6.8 matches on average. Ms. Towne stated that 33% of the benchmarks had 8 or more matches each. Ms. Towne stated that a comparison of current midpoints versus the market average midpoint was also prepared. Ms. Towne reported that the City of Mount Holly is 4.0% below the market at the minimum, 5.5% below the market at the midpoint, and 6.3% below the market at the maximum. Ms. Towne stated that the City is more competitive at the minimums but is losing ground and not as competitive at the midpoints and the maximum salary ranges.

Ms. Towne defined the meaning of the term "Market" as the base pay information of the City's determined peer organizations. Ms. Towne stated that an average is calculated from this information which is termed the Market Midpoint. Ms. Towne discussed the terms Market Midpoint, Match Market and Lag Market Midpoint. Ms. Towne stated that this is a key component in an organization's pay philosophy. Ms. Towne stated that given that the City is currently 5.5% behind the Market at the Midpoints, Match is certainly within our realm of possibility. Ms. Towne stated that Baker Tilly initially started with a Match Market compensation philosophy adjustment, but also that they also prepared Lag Market philosophy as a potential for a temporary time frame.

Ms. Towne discussed the next phase of the study, which is the pay plan development. Ms. Towne discussed the three components of this phase including determining a pay plan, grade assignments, and the implementation cost. Ms. Towne noted that up until this point, she has not talked about individual people at all, stating that this is not the goal of a class and compensation study. Ms. Towne stated that the goal is position specific and not individual specific. Ms. Towne stated that once the positions are determined, then the people can be plugged back into the conversation. Ms. Towne stated that they looked at a couple of different implementation options for the Council's consideration. Ms. Towne reviewed the City's current pay structure and stated that it is what is called an open-pay range pay plan, meaning that it is open from minimum to maximum with no defined steps. Ms. Towne stated that there are 13 grades numbered 51 through 62. Ms. Towne discussed the range spread, which is the distance from minimum to maximum stating that ideally range spreads are tailored to the nature and learning curve of the position. Ms. Towne stated that the City currently has a couple of grades that have narrow range spreads, but they would like to see more tailored range spreads. Ms. Towne stated that the City's current starting minimum wage is $15.47 per hour or $32,167.20 annually.

Ms. Towne discussed a proposed general pay plan that would utilize the Match Market philosophy with an open range pay system. Ms. Towne stated that the range spreads would be narrowed to 36-50%. Ms. Towne stated that this proposed general pay plan would be tailored to market midpoint differentials and aligned to 98% of market midpoints. Ms. Towne stated that this proposal would have minimum wage start at $18.33 per hour or $38,136 annually.

Ms. Towne discussed a second proposed general pay plan using a slight Lag Market philosophy. Ms. Towne stated that it since it could potentially be too costly currently to implement a market match philosophy, Baker Tilly is proposing a temporary lag to eventually catch up to market. Ms. Towne explained that this proposed plan aligns to 98% of market instead of 100% in the previous plan proposal. Ms. Towne stated that the starting minimum wage would be $17.87 per hour or $37,172 annually.

Ms. Towne stated that once the pay structure is determined, then they determine where the positions themselves need to go. Ms. Towne stated that Baker Tilly went line by line for pay grade assignments. Ms. Towne stated that an internal equity or internal system is needed to evaluate career progressions and supervisor subordinate separation. Ms. Towne reiterated that this is about the position and not the person in the role. Ms. Towne stated that they are not looking at their performance, their length of service, or their existing salary. Ms. Towne stated that none of the previous factors were considered when assigning positions to grades. Ms. Towne stated that the goal is the value of the position.

Ms. Towne discussed implementation scenarios and stated that no employee will receive a pay decrease as a result of the study. Ms. Towne stated that the implementation cost reflects base pay in US dollars with benefits and pay differentials are not included.

Councilman Hough asked about how employees are or should be addressed who had the experience elsewhere and were hired here because of that experience even though they had not worked for the City of Mount Holly but had worked in the same department at another township. Ms. Towne stated that as we look at the implementation option, an employee's current salary is the key indicator. Ms. Towne clarified that where an employee enters into the salary range is a function of your existing pay policy and practices. Ms. Towne stated that it is Baker Tilly's recommendation that no employee should be hired in at higher than the midpoint of the salary range.

Council Hough asked what the inflation rate on salaries is and what is the wage growth over the last two years. Ms. Towne stated that she could speak more broadly about the State of North

Carolina which has a cost of labor adjustment of approximately 3.5% over the last couple of years. Councilman Meadows asked if the City's internal promotion policy was considered as part of this study. Ms. Towne explained that looking at the City's existing pay policies and practices was not in the scope of their study stating that their goal is to establish the system for where the positions need to go and then your existing pay policies and practices could be a function of that. Ms. Towne stated that the City's current pay structure is what is probably the cause of some of those compression issues where employees are having to promote and the distance that you have in your current pay structure of 15% in very wide range spreads is what is causing some of those compression challenges.

Councilman Meadows requested that staff review the current pay policies to address what is and has happened to the employees that are currently here. Councilman Meadows asked if certifications and education have been taken into consideration in this study. Ms. Towne stated that Baker Tilly is not looking at the credentials of the individual employees as part of these implementation scenarios. Ms. Towne reiterated that this entire process is position specific with the value of the position being the focus. Ms. Towne stated that employees should absolutely be rewarded and compensated for additional education, experience, and certification requirements, which is a function of your existing pay policies and practices. Ms. Towne noted that the City offers 2.5% for additional certifications, which is falling behind in the benefits market standard of 5%. Councilman Meadows expressed concern for those employees who may have been impacted from previous studies and the desire to take care of those situations. Ms. Towe stated that a class and compensation study is not going to be a silver bullet that is going to right all of the historical wrongs of how people have been compensated previously. Ms. Towne stated that the goal is to have a clean slate of being able to say how do we recalibrate this system and where do the positions are going to be market competitive, and then what employees bring to the role absolutely should be considered.

Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker inquired about the tenured adjustment rate and why it is capped at 8 years. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker stated that she would think that we would want to encourage tenured employees that may not be promoted. Ms. Towne stated that this is a function of the average time in positions across the City and that less than a quarter of the employees have 8 years in their position. Ms. Towne explained that this is an overall ceiling to be able to implement the overall recommendations.

Councilman Reeves confirmed that this study is to get the City to the area standards and that the items that Councilman Meadows discussed could be added. Ms. Towne stated that he was correct.

Councilman Meadows stated that his concern is always what impact do these studies have on the City's budget. Councilman Meadows asked if these numbers have been adjusted as a percentage of our budget. Ms. Town stated that Baker Tilly worked hand in hand with leadership to determine what is the possibility for implementation scenarios. Ms. Towne stated that while we had our standard three scenarios, we then developed the 3B which is a bit more customized and then we also have these four scenarios which are currently at the match market.

Councilman Reeves inquired of City Manager Blanton if this proposed plan could be implemented without a tax increase. Mr. Blanton stated that staff has worked closely with Ms. Towne and the Finance team to look at these options comparing those to what a potential cost of living adjustment (COLA) and/or merit increase would look like for fiscal year 2026. Mr. Blanton stated that he feels confident that based on the direction from Council, we can adjust any of these scenarios to fit into the upcoming budget without any adjustment to the tax. Mr. Blanton stated that staff is not recommending a tax increase in the upcoming fiscal year.

Councilman Meadows asked staff to bring back what percentage would a potential operating expense increase have on the City's capital projects. Mayor Moore asked the Council if there is an option that they prefer to look at for the budget. Councilman Reeves stated that option 3 would be the most advantageous for all employees in some way. Ms. Towne clarified by stating that option 3 would specifically look at the 182 full-time staff and approximately 10 vacancies noting that part-time employees would be considered on a separate funding mechanism, and that not every employee would receive an increase as part of option 3. Ms. Towne stated that option 3 would provide a recalibration. Ms. Towne recommended that the City's goal should be to address where employees are currently falling within these ranges. Ms. Towne stated that having new employees that have been in their role for one year or less so far within their ranges is a problem and is likely a function of your existing pay system or that the positions are placed just out of alignment with market. Ms. Towne noted that there are several long-term employees that are not yet at market value. Ms. Towne stated that option 3 gives the City the best option to recalibrate all of the employees to where they should be.

Councilman Meadows stated his concerns that the study seems to be lacking some of the individual adjustments and some of the issues on the ground that we still have. Councilman Meadows reiterated that the City knew from the last compensation study that there was still more work that needed to be done and issues that still need to be addressed. Councilman Meadows would like for staff to bring back a strategy for the existing employees on the ground where it is a one-off. Ms. Towne stated that the tailored approach of option 3 is considering a fair amount of this tailoring to where people currently are, we just still have to use the standard metric of time in position to recalibrate. Ms. Towne stated that there may still need to be equity adjustments for where people are at. Ms. Towne stated that option 3b is even further tailored to those situations.

Councilman Hough stated that the employment and compensation administration piece of this must be addressed because that is not what is going to address the issues that we had the previous time. Councilman Hough suggested that City Manager Blanton and staff bring back a recommendation that works best to address these concerns.

Councilman Craig stated that he appreciates that we are having these conversations and agrees that staff should have the freedom to bring back recommendations. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker agrees that staff should be able to bring back recommendations but expressed that she is in favor of option 3. Councilman Reeves agrees with staff bringing back recommendations and thanked Ms. Towne for her presentation.

Councilman Meadows asked about the frequency recommended for compensation studies. Ms. Towne stated that when a full recalibration exists and the yearly maintenance is kept up, the City should not have to do a full comprehensive classification and compensation study like this for another 5-7 years or 3-5 years if you are taking tabs on the market. Councilman Meadows suggested that staff look into a continued consulting contract to ensure this maintenance.

The consensus of the Council is for staff to bring back recommendations on the options presented by Baker Tilly as well as looking at the pay philosophy.

3. Joint Use Agreement between Gaston County Schools and park and Recreation for the use of school ballfields. ***Eric Smallwood***

Mr. Smallwood stated that the Mount Holly Parks and Recreation staff have been working in collaboration with the Gaston County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department and Gaston County Schools Administration to establish a Joint Use Agreement. Mr. Smallwood stated that this agreement would grant the City of Mount Holly exclusive access to the ballfields at Pinewood Elementary and Catawba Heights Elementary in exchange for the City taking on routine maintenance responsibilities for the fields. Mr. Smallwood stated that effective July 1, 2025, Gaston County PR&T will discontinue maintenance of these ballfields. Mr. Smallwood stated that we have formally requested permission to assume maintenance responsibilities in order to secure exclusive use of the fields during non-school hours. Mr. Smallwood stated that this would significantly reduce the burden on Tuckaseege Park as our youth athletic programs continue to grow. Mr. Smallwood stated that this partnership is expected to reduce weekly usage of our soccer fields at Tuckaseege park by approximately 8-12 hours and decrease daily traffic at the park by 20-40 vehicles directly related to programming. Mr. Smallwood stated that the impact to our department's budget is expected to be minimal. Ms. Smallwood stated that the City has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gaston County Schools right now for the use of the Old Gym and this would be very similar to that MOU.

Motion: Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve the Joint Use Agreement between Gaton County Schools and Parks and Recreation for the use of school ballfields. Councilman Hough seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

Mayor Moore announced that there would be a five (5) minute break

4. Disposal of Real Property Using Economic Development Statute

Matt Black

Mr. Black presented information on N.C.G.S 158-7.1 as it pertains to the disposal of real property using economic development. Mr. Black stated that this process is effective, efficient and fair. Mr. Black discussed the use of this statute as well as the timeline. Mr. Black stated that this process is a very common practice. Mr. Black stated that by using N.C.G.S 158-7.1, this process must create jobs, must increase the tax base and come with performance measures. Mr. Black noted that using N.C.G.S 158-7.1 could be pointed out in the Strategic Vison plan by promoting opportunities for additional retail and restaurant establishments, continue to facilitate downtown growth and development as well as encourage the development of distinct mixed-use districts. Mr. Black discussed the possible justifications for selling buildings below appraised value. Mr. Black discussed the included resolution for the Council's consideration as well as the potential Request for Proposals (RFP). Mr. Black reviewed the process for using N.C.G.S 158-7.1. Mr. Black opened the floor to questions from the Council.

Councilman Reeves asked if this process takes into consideration the City's control of the price. Mr. Black stated yes that it is usually based on the type of project and that this is negotiable. Councilman Craig confirmed that if approved, the City would move forward with an RFP.

Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker confirmed that this RFP will not be as cumbersome as previous RFPs. Mr. Black confirmed that it will require them to have the financial backing to support this type of project which is in the scoring mechanism.

Mayor Moore stated that Mrs. Anders had another option that she would like to make the Council aware of. Councilman Hough stated that he was going to make a motion but that he would defer to Mrs. Anders.

Mrs. Anders stated that after speaking with the City Manager, this particular building is listed on the national historic register and that there is one additional option which would be a sale through a historic preservation commission. Mrs. Anders stated that this could be a private sale to any party subject to covenants that would secure appropriate rights of public access and promote the preservation of the property. Mrs. Anders stated that there is no historic preservation piece in the economic development statute. Mrs. Anders stated that if the Council chooses the economic development sale process, then the Council still has the option to negotiate the purchase of a historic preservation easement over this building.

Motion: Councilman Hough made a motion to approve the resolution number 04282025A declaring 131 S. Main Street, City owned property, for economic development purposes and authorizing its disposal pursuant to N.C.G.S 158-7.1. Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker seconded the motion.

Vote:
Ayes- Councilman Meadows, Councilman Craig, Mayor Pro Tem Shoemaker, Councilman Hough
Nays- Councilman Reeves, Councilwoman Harris

The Council members presents and voting, voted 4-2 (Motion Passes).

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Property Management for East Central Avenue ***Jonathan Blanton***

Mr. Blanton updated the Council regarding property management options for the tenants that the City inherited upon the purchases of buildings on East Central Avenue. Mr. Blanton stated that Council requested that staff look at an option provided by MECA Commercial Real Estate. Mr. Blanton stated that it was originally a two-year property management agreement that provided for the management of those properties with a fee of $1250.00 per month that would come from the rents themselves for these services. Mr. Blanton stated that Council also discussed utilizing MECA for soliciting offers and tenants for the vacant properties that are on East Central Avenue. Mr. Blanton stated that MECA is willing to do a 1-year agreement based on the comments that Council previously gave. Mr. Blanton stated that before Council tonight is a revised agreement for the Council's consideration. Mr. Blanton confirmed that this agreement would include maintenance.

Motion: Councilman Meadows made a motion to approve the property management agreement with MECA Commercial Real Estate. Councilman Hough seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

2. Discussion and approval of process for Planning Commission appointments
Greg Beal

Mr. Beal stated that at the March 28, 2025 Council Work Session, staff presented a process that has been followed for the selection of the Planning Commission appointments, due to vacancies on this nine-seat board. Mr. Beal stated that the Planning Commission differs from the other commissions and committees in the City in that it is required by NC General Statutes as a land-use recommendation board. Mr. Beal explained that other committees and commissions are not required under State law. Mr. Beal stated that five members of the Planning Commission serve on the Board of Adjustment, with the four remaining members serving as alternates in case of absences. Mr. Beal explained that his research on other commissions' rules and procedures found that there are very little rules in the region regarding this process in terms of filling voids and vacancies. Mr. Beal explained the process that has been used for the past 10 years and that the process should be formalized in the adopted Rules and Procedures for the Planning Commission. Councilman Reeves confirmed with Mr. Beal that this process has served the City well so far.

Motion: Councilman Craig made a motion to approve the Process for Planning Commission Appointments. Councilman Meadows seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

1. City Manager Report ***Jonathan Blanton***

Mr. Blanton discussed the progress that has been made at Ransom Hunter Park and that the City is looking forward to scheduling a ribbon cutting soon. Mr. Blanton stated that there will be some paving done on Glendale Road being done based on the tonight's consent agenda vote. Mr. Blanton reviewed the multiple paving projects that are happening soon. Mr. Blanton stated that the Army Corps continues to be very busy cleaning out the debris from the river. Mr. Blanton discussed the Dutchman's Creek Bridge project and its progress. Mr. Blanton discussed the many complaints regarding Mountain Island Lake and the numerous citations for DUI's, traffic citations, and boating while impaired. Mr. Blanton thanked our friends over at the Community Development Foundation for a very successful 5K/10K run on Saturday morning. Mr. Blanton stated that the Senior Dinner will be here at the Grand Hall tomorrow. Mr. Blanton mentioned that the Community Dinner will also be here at the Grand Hall on Thursday. Mr. Blanton stated that SpringFest will be on Saturday. Mr. Blanton stated that the first Mount Holly Nights will be on May 9, 2025 and that he encourages everyone to attend. Mr. Blanton stated that the Mount Holly Historical Society will be hosting an event remembering the fallen at 2:00 PM on May 10, 2025 at the Veterans Healing Garden. Mr. Blanton stated that the Farmers Market is open.

Councilman Meadows requested that staff begin to look at what the other side of the bridge could look like. Mr. Blanton stated that staff would evaluate that and come back to Council.

Councilman Hough stated that the Council has spent a lot of money on this sound system so he encourages everyone to be mindful of the placement of the microphones so that everyone could be heard.

Motion: Councilman Hough made a motion to adjourn the April 28, 2025 City Council Work Session at 8:22 PM. Councilman Reeves seconded the motion.

All Council members present and voting, voted in favor 6-0. (Motion Carried)

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.