**CITY COUNCIL**
**REGULAR MEETING**
**December 12 , 2005**

**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 Hough. The following were present:
Mayor Bryan Hough
Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Helms
Councilman Jim Hope
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris
Councilman Frank McLean
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard
Councilman David Moore
City Manager David Kraus
City Attorney Kemp Michael
Jamie Guffey, Assistant to City Manager
Danny Jackson, Assistant to City Manager
Benson Hoyle, Police Chief
Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Mike Santmire, Street and Solid Waste Director
Greg Beal, Community Development Officer
Ryan Baker, Fire Inspector

**INVOCATION**
The invocation was led by Reverend Jeff Bost.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Boy Scout Troop 59 led the Council and audience in the ceremony of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
The agenda was approved with public comments to be done under unfinished business, upon motion by Councilperson Hope, seconded by Councilperson Harris , with all in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA**
Councilperson Hope **MOVED** to approve the Consent Agenda with the following items, seconded by Councilperson Harris, with all in favor. The items approved were:

CA#1. <u>To Accept and Approve the Minutes</u>.
CA#2. <u>Appointments</u>

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| a. Mayor Pro Tem | Phyllis B. Harris |
| b. City Clerk | David Kraus |
| c. City Attorney | Kemp Michael |
| d. City Auditors | Cherry Bekaert & Holland, L.L.P. |

e. City Tax Collector Kim Sturgis

CA#3. Final Plat for Rhyne Trace Subdivision.

CA#4. Call for Public Hearing to Amend Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.

**AWARDS / RECOGNITIONS**

Employee Service Awards / Announcement of Employee of the Year. Mayor Hough asked Council to join him on the floor for presentation of employee service awards. Mayor Hough stated one of the most wonderful parts of our job is being able to present these service awards. Five year certificates were given to Eric Lowe, Mike Moretz, James Guffey, Timothy Jones, Mark Jusco, Phillip Loftin, Ernest Stevens, Melinda Ellis, Jerry Sweetin, Travis Collier, Mark Almond, Robert Walker II, Joseph Jones, Fred Tindall, Ryan Baker, and Michael Rollins. A ten year pin was awarded to Mark Miller.. Fifteen year awards were given to John Hope, Todd Calhoun, and Ray Clemmer. Next, Mayor Hough awarded the Employee of the Year Award to David Clark.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Hough introduced the Honorable Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Jesse Caldwell. Judge Caldwell stated it is a personal pleasure to be invited here to administer the oath of office to newly elected Mount Holly officials. It has been an honor to have sworn in two previous incumbents It is a personal honor to swear in my friend, Jerry Bishop. It is a real special honor to swear in Robert Whitt as well. I have many close ties with Mount Holly and this is a true privilege.

First to be sworn in was Councilperson Frank McLean. Mr. McLean was accompanied by his wife.

Next, Councilperson David Moore was sworn in. Mr. Moore was accompanied by his wife.

Newly elected Councilperson Jerry Bishop was then sworn in. Mr. Bishop was accompanied by his wife and several additional family members.

Newly elected Mayor Robert Whitt was sworn in by Judge Jesse Caldwell who stated they have been personal fiends for over 30 years. He stated during his travels as a judge all over the state, he has had the opportunity to notice in our government bodies, and court rooms that in recent years there has been a lack of civility at all levels. He additionally stated he was proud to know that Mr. Whitt will be one who will be not only a strong leader and effective communicator, but a gentleman as well and one who believes in civility and respect for everyone even during disagreements. Next, Judge Caldwell stated this is the key to a good public servant. His father, JC Whitt was a wonderful public servant as well. Mayor Whitt was accompanied by his wife while taking the oath of office.

Mayor Whitt stated he is very humbled to be here tonight. I promise to try to bring consensus for the board. I will work very hard for everyone even if we disagree.

At this time, Mayor Whitt asked Councilperson Michael Helms to step forward. He presented Mr. Helms with a resolution honoring him upon his departure from Councilman from 1993 until 2005, having also served as mayor pro-tem. Mr. Helms is well known for compassion to elderly citizens and his work diligently to protect Mountain Island Lake and Catawba River, in addition to his knowledge in planning and zoning matters. He has been an important part of the vision process and current revitalization of downtown and city greenway systems. The City Council honors Mr. Helms for the lasting contributions he has made. Mrs. Harris additionally presented Mr. Helms with a gift certificate to the Wood Shed as a token of Council appreciation.

Next, Newly elected Mayor Whitt honored Mayor Bryan Hough on his departure as Mayor of the City of Mount Holly. His service spans serving from 1997 until 2003 as a Council member and 2003 to 2005 as Mayor. Mr. Hough has brought to our city exuberance and dynamic leadership though his determination that Mount Holly should have a plan for the future. Though his leadership, we have begun to carry forward the planning for our city including downtown revitalization and greenways, and shoreline purchase from Dutchman's Creek to Mountain Island Lake. The Council honors Mayor Hough as a great contributor to the future of our city and a person who will continue to make contributions to his city. Mayor Whitt then presented him with the gavel that he has used to keep these meetings in order. He stated Bryan Hough has represented all of you well. He has gone to meetings and influenced people that you don't know about but I have met some of them and I am sure I will meet even more. He has been a flagship and I hope I can emulate what he has started.

Mayor Hough stated it has been my pleasure to be your Mayor and to work with you. What I tell people is that by being Mayor, I get to meet everybody, not just people at Charlie's, etc; I get to meet people all the time that I would not get to meet. I got to work with the Council for eight years. It takes a lot to get up here and serve and these people are wonderful. I have enjoyed this more than you will ever know. My family means a lot to me and the support I have gotten from them has been great. Because of that, the passion I have for this can't rival the time I need to spend with my family. I appreciate your support. I look forward to watching Mount Holly grow. We have not even begun to feel the potential this city has and we won't see it in our lifetime but we will start it now. I just thank you for letting me serve. Mrs. Harris presented Mr. Hough with a scrapbook of the things that have happened since he has been Mayor. Mayor Hough thanked Ms. Harris and Council.

At this time, a 15 minute recess was called by Mayor Robert Whitt

**PRESENTATIONS**

PR#1 Update on ABC Store by Carlton Broome. Carlton Broome, ABC Board Representative, thanked Council and staff for help in the startup of the ABC store. Our job was made a lot easier by your help. The service agreement with

Gaston ABC board is going very smoothly. We have been in business since Oct 1. We have one full time manager, four part time employees. Our hours are from 11 am to 9 pm. Sales are running about 40% ahead of projections. Right now, we are only $8600 in the red from opening. We have a working capital account we have to fill. We are required to have about 130,000 in working capital. I am happy with our results so far. We pay 2000 dollars per month rent right now, and from calculations we figure we can afford 4000 dollars as rent for new ABC Store. We would like for you to keep that in mind. Mayor Whitt asked if Mr. Broome has seen new store plans and if they are satisfactory. Mr. Broome stated yes.

PR#2 Presentation by Friends of the Greenway System (FROGS) by Scott Griffin. Mr. Griffin presented Council with a summary and recommendations (attached). He said thank you to those who have worked with us previously. As a foundation, we were birthed under Mayor Black, grew up under Mayor Hough, and under Mayor Whitt we will come into full adulthood as a foundation. We desire a partnership with this Council. As FROGS, we come in a formal way to make a presentation to you. He stated we are not politically involved but we can be advocates of the city. As chair of FROGS, I am pleased to present our findings and recommendations. 50+ citizens have established this in order to provide assistance building a greenway for our city. Why greenways? Our research and visits to other communities suggests they can change America, NC, and will change any community that supports it. Research states 90% of people want this in community. Positive effects of a Greenway system include public health (childhood obesity), better water quality - a 50 to 100 ft wooded buffer will filter out 50 to 60% of sediment before they reach water, air quality, reduce traffic, transportation, we are evolving to an interconnectivity, economic development. Businesses go where people want to live. The number 1 request for neighborhoods is sidewalks and trails, not swimming pools. The #1 thing industry looks for is happy, dedicated workers. You will never see anyone frowning on a greenway. We must be committed to six steps, as listed in outline. There has to be a starting point. The FROGS added step 6 themselves. Our end product begins with a model. Once our people can touch, feel and see – they will demand that you build more. We recommend approval of location of first greenway along Catawba river, that City Council apply part F to redevelopment of Tuck park as destination point for new greenway. We also recommend that Council immediately begin process of land acquisition for establishment for this greenway, and that you all agree to partner with FROGS and Mt Holly Development Committee. All of these plans / recommendations are listed in outline as attached. Two members of the Council, Mr. Hope and Mrs. Harris along with Mr. Kraus have been active and contributing members of our committee. You will not be left alone. We have worked hard on our journey to assist you in visioning. We believe now is the time for action and ask that you make this dream come true for the City Of Mount Holly citizens. We represent a small fraction of support that we believe resides in our community. We ask that you move forward and you approve our actions requested and if at all possible that you approve this tonight. Mayor Whitt stated I applaud the work FROGS has completed to date. I had the pleasure of going up to Mountain Island Park this weekend for the first time. It is beautiful.

Mrs. Hubbard stated at our workshop last week, we pretty much took care of the first issue, we got a consensus from Council that the first greenway should be between river town and tuck park. I think we directed Danny to apply for the Part F grant – that takes care of first two items. I would like to ask if Council has a consensus or wants to make it in form of a motion, whichever necessary to direct staff to look into land acquisition for model greenway, etc. I personally don't know how many different parcels are involved. We as Council need information to move forward.

Mr. Hope **moves** that Council approve location of first model greenway (as stated in outline), **seconded** by Mrs. Harris. All in favor.

Mr. Hope **moves** that Council apply for trust fund to redevelop park, **seconded** by Mr. Bishop. All in favor.

Mr. Hope stated he would like to get a consensus to bring back information we need on land acquisition of first greenway. Mr. Kraus asked that staff meet with representatives of FROGS regarding correct land acquisition. Mr. Hope stated I want this started now, rather than pushed out over the next few meetings.

Mrs. Harris **moves** to partner with FROGS, **seconded** by Mr. Moore. All in favor.

Mayor Whitt asked about details of grant. Mr. Jackson stated it is a million dollar total, $500,000 given, matched by $500,000 of city. The decision of approval / denial will be made in April. Application is due in January. Mayor Whitt asked about total estimate of park, Mr. Jackson stated right now at 1.3 million. Mrs. Harris stated at last meeting, we were asked where our portion was coming from. Mr. Kraus it would come from next years budget.

Mr. Hope stated he wanted a progress report by work session. Mayor Whitt asked does a land acquisition have to happen before application could be written? Mr. Griffin stated yes. We can immediately begin helping with this. Mr. Kraus stated since we voted to move forward, I ask that Council make contingency fund available to allow us to get legal work done, etc.

Mr. Hope **moved** to allow contingency fund to be available for this, seconded by Mrs. Harris. All in favor.

Mr. Whitt stated land acquisition is going to be very important to your grant and I am not certain what land you will have to obtain. Mr. Kraus stated the grant is not for the greenway itself, it is for the park which we already have ownership for.

This will not constrict us from our grant. Mr. Griffin stated we have four owners involved. The first acquisition is from Tuck Park to the river town green.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
UFB#1 To Consider Moratorium – Resolution 121205 by Mr. Hope. This establishes a moratorium on annexation. (attached).

Motion: **Motion** by Mr. Hope, **seconded** by Mr. McLean.
Vote: unanimous. CARRIED.

UFB#2 To Consider Awarding Smith Street Contract. Mr. Kraus stated Smith Street is the street that we had decided we would put in sidewalks as part of the bond process. Mr. Kraus provide quotes to Council (attached). Sealand is currently doing our downtown landscape. We broke Smith Street down into chunks. What we are recommending is to do Blanche Street #3 block of Smith street, #4 block of Smith Street from Blanche Street on. This will allow kids to get to park without walking into streets. Lee Skidmore came in lower and we recommend awarding this project to Lee Skidmore. On Blanche Street, we will be addressing on the beauty shop side, which will alleviate storm water issues. Mrs. Hubbard asked if are working with 200,000 can we not add in block 2 as well. Mr. Hope asked if there is a reason for your recommendation like you had it? Mr. Hope asked can we do this as an alternate, adding block 2. Mr. Kraus stated this was a formal quote. WK Dickson followed the prescribed laws. Mr. Hope I asked this for the press' benefit.

Motion: **Motion** by Mr. Hope to accept with alternate of Smith Street, totaling a little over 247,000 dollars. , **seconded** by Mr. Moore.
Vote: unanimous. CARRIED.

UFB#3 To Consider Strategic Plan. Mayor Whitt stated he noticed Council wants land use plan as well. Mr. Lawrimore stated the point we want to make after reviewing this situation is there is no necessity to narrow it as an economic development plan / land use plan, as we are welling to bring in land use specialists for this first phase. For allocated funds, you will not get a completed land use plan drawn out in detail, but we can provide guidance to Council. We should start with what is most important to you to guide the strategic planning process. After we get very clear of what you want, then we come back with very specific scope of work. What is important is that this address key concerns of Council as we go forward. Mrs. Hubbard asked when you talk about action strategy development, you said all of these four steps, and I only saw three steps. He stated this is a typo. There are only three steps. Frank Warren stated last week we had a frank discussion with him about what we could do with and for you all. Sometimes North Meck towns are held up as a model. In response to that, focus on land use exclusively in North Meck went overboard and industrial markets passed them by. As a result, they have had to back pedal and have gone in together to develop the new business park in Huntersville. The whole point is that it is really important to address thing strategically up front. If those cities had this opportunity they would have done it. Mr. Whitt stated we may have a lot of talent right here in this community and we might just need you to help direct and put the pieces together. Mr. Warren stated in terms of your vision, from a high level, we would like to take that vision and come up with some real strategic action plans for you guys. Our purpose is that. It would be good for you to see the vision. Mr. Lawrimore stated that vision is a vision of the physical future of Mount Holly and I would expect Council members have concerns about future of Mount Holly that are not included in that vision. Some things have happened since that vision was done. We want to build on it but not necessarily be limited by it. Mrs. Harris stated what our recommendation is, is to let them come to us and talk to us about this at our retreat. I think that would be a good starting point so they know what is on our minds. Mr. Hope stated the key word is what is important to us, and we don't have all our information. The 50,000 figure that we have – is it a figure that we told you we have 50,000 in budget or did you come up with that figure even though you did not know what the limit was for us. Mr. Lawrimore stated that was the limit and we will work incrementally according to steps that you approve.

UFB# 4. To Consider Update on A & E Building. Mr. Kraus stated we have been getting updates from demolishment of some features. They need to do this to get accurate measurements of the actual space to proceed with finalization of schematic plans presented to Council last week. The mill is divided into three sections, one part build in late 1800s, one in early 1900 and then in 1988 the new part. They have removed enough brick to know what shape it is in, etc. The façade does not appear to be attached to the building itself, so removing it should be fairly inexpensive and easy. They should be done with the demolition with cooperative weather next week. What you see on the flip chart is what we have spent to date, about $150,000 so far. The demolition will be $232,000, architect fees/ survey fees about $30,000. If we borrow 4 million dollars, the debt service on that will be $250,000 per year. If we rent out 20000 sq feet of retail space, we will get $100,000 per year in revenue. We figure impact on budget will be approximately $100,000 per year. Had we built a new police station it would have been a larger impact on budget. In our look, phase 1 has got to be the police station and the retail space so we can use revenue to help offset the cost. Realistically, phase one will be exterior work, retail space and police department. Phase 2 would be the grand hall and phase 3 would be all administrative functions. Phase 1 will include elevator installation. Mr. Hope asked about rough numbers for phase 1. Mr. Kraus stated phase 1 will be 4 million dollars. Mr. Whitt asked if this included the whole outside façade. Mr. Kraus stated the whole outside, plus police department. Mr. Whitt asked if we were banking on retail to pay for this, is that not somewhat speculative? Mr. Kraus stated there has been much positive input for this project. Mr. Bishop asked if this will be the most expensive. Mr. Kraus stated yes. Mr. Whitt asked could we just do police station first and how much would that be. Mr. Kraus stated that would be 2 million, but inspections will require that we have to make structural changes / façade improvements to keep building up to code. Mr. Whitt asked is the $800,000 already spent included in 4 million. Mr. Kraus replied no. Ms. Harris stated I remember during visioning process, this was a very important part of the visioning process and one of the main reasons why we purchased the building so that we could do these things and to move all of our city services there. Mr. Kraus stated this number does not reflect existing police department, selling it or leasing it out? Mr. Whitt asked how we are going to pay for this. Mr. Kraus stated we will have to borrow the money, figuring a 20 year loan at 4.25%, which would be $250,000 per year in interest and principal. Mr. Guffey stated when the city borrows money, it requires principal payments. Mr. Whitt asked how much has the architect designed? Mr. Kraus stated last week Council approved schematic drawings and now is working on specific construction drawings. Mr. Whitt stated he thought they were only to do design elements that were approved. Mr. Hope stated I am going to ask the city attorney, is it contracted that we only design phases that we have approved? Mr. Michael stated it is acknowledged in the contact that this building has a lot of different phases and he will design phases as Council requests that he designs. If it is never completed, he gets paid incrementally as that phase progresses. He is to do phases as you ask him to. He should design to the budget for each phase. When he brings schematic and you approve that, then he does construction drawings. He is paid progressively as specific direction is given so he does not get ahead of where you would be. Mr. Hope asked do we know when he may have a preliminary number on phase one? Mr. Kraus stated we will meet with him on Thursday. Mr. Whitt stated he still does not understand how we will pay that. Mrs. Harris stated when we asked about buying this building, I asked these same questions and I was told it would not cost that much to get the police department moved right in there. 4 million dollars later, I am finding out. Mr. Moore stated Belmont just build a police department, 14000 sq feet, and they spent 2 million for theirs. We will have somewhere between 16000 and 20000 sq feet.

UFB#5 <u>To Consider Adoption of Storm Water Management Plan</u>. Mr. Santmire / Mr. Kraus presented the plan. Mr. Kraus stated this is in seven sections. Public education and outreach. We have to start within 12 months to send outreach to disadvantaged/ minority communities with information for storm water. We have got to add and maintain an internet website where we can post newsletter articles, storm water activities, etc. We have a website so we are half-way there. Third item, general materials to give to schools, homeowners, etc. Finally, public information is written, education materials addressing raw audiences, mass distribution versus public education specifically directed to kids, homeowners and businesses. Year one, most of this will be up and running. The second item is public involvement, to try and get volunteers and members of the community involved in storm water activities. We need to adopt a plan, hold public meetings and volunteer committees – who will help go out and implement storm water projects. The “meat and potatoes” is illicit discharge and determination. We have to have a reporting mechanism so people can report to us. We have to remediate illicit discharges and have ways to fine and fix problems. We have to have an amnesty day, which we already do. We have to maintain a data base of businesses that may have illicit discharge so we can monitor them. In order to be ale to do this, we have to adopt a storm water ordinance. We have to have a system map and constantly update and keep it is correct as possible. Discharge detection is included as well – we have to go out in the field and look for illicit discharges. Employee cross-training is required to handle this as well. Public education component in the end that differs in that it specifically targets illicit discharge. Finally, a reporting system is required, that will report to the state. Construction erosion control and sedimentation needs addressing as well. This we have already done. Post construction ordinance will have to be adopted in year two and how are we going to maintain those. We have to have a BMP (best management practice) in place as well for developers. Wastewater treatment plan in year three cannot go during storm events without power that has to control fecal chloroform from going out into the river. Year three, four, and five will be good housekeeping – maintenance plan, finish inventory, permanent way of training and review every year how city functions etc. I have to emphasize the storm water plan is to prevent pollution from the EPA. It is not about drainage, it is about getting pollution out of storm water before it hits our rivers. I need you to adopt this tonight. Mr. Kraus passed out re-organization plan to try to avoid making another position / salary. Bo Eller will head up this program if this re-organization plan meets Council approval. In addition to that, Mr. Kraus passed out analyses done about change needed at waste water treatment plant; specifically we have an operator / lab tech that is retiring in February. They want to change and contract that out. They believe based on this salary, the city will save close to $10,000 per year. We will eventually have to hire for this. Realistically, storm water will be a lot of paper work and we will have to have clerical support in that area, probably sooner than later.

Motion: **Motion** by Mr. Moore to adopt storm water management plan, **seconded** by Mrs. Harris.
Vote: unanimous. CARRIED.

UFB#5 To consider Interlocal Agreement for Utility Extension. This is to get raw water to National Gypsum. The county will have to have ownership for one year and then they will turn it over to the city. We will ultimately own the infrastructure and it will be built to our specifications. Mr. Whitt stated there is no expense to the city in this process? Mrs. Hubbard stated she has a few questions. Some of the places where they have deleted stuff does not make sense to me. Mr. Michael stated it is okay as written. I made these changes, but I did not know my word processing system made these notations. It does address the changes as I can tell. Ms. Hubbard asked about #11 – the first sentence is not a sentence. Mr. Michael stated it should be a comma, not a period. On top of page 3, should it not say negligence? Mr. Michael stated yes. Mr. Bishop stated in next paragraph, stated it should be against, not again. Mr. Michael stated some of this came to me this way.

Motion: **Motion** by Mr. Hope to enter into interlocal agreement needed for National Gypsum Plant, **seconded** by Mr. McLean.
Vote: unanimous. CARRIED.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
Mayor Whitt opened the floor for public comment.

Grover Barfield – 497 Rutledge Road. Welcome to the new members and Mayor. I am part of the Gaston County Concerned Citizens for Integrity in Government. I would like to bring a report to you on Kendrick Farms. I have reported twice and two months later retaining wall is still not there and there is still a problem. He stated in closing, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dr. Lee Beatty –Stoneridge Subdivision, I am saying these words personally not on behalf of a community. This has been a very civil and positive meeting. I want to make a few comments about the process of funding some things. I certainly am not an expert on that as well. I just remember when we started our practice down here eight years ago, it took a long time before we actually broke even on it. I am concerned this will be the same process with ABC Building that is being proposed right now, 1.5 million dollars We are trying to concentrate on the core of Mount Holly– getting a landmark signature. Is it in our best interest to spend that much money on an ABC building that we have already been told can only pay 4000 per month? In my immature financial way, I wonder if it would be better to move money from future ABC Building and direct it over to financing for the new A & E building.

Paisley Payton, 129 Ryan Springs Road stated I am an avid runner and walker and I have noticed big gaps in side walks. Sidewalks and greenways are the key to having safe place for citizens of Mount Holly. Kids don't have a safe environment right now when walking / riding bikes home from school. I am looking for Powell Bill funds to help with this, from Rankin up to Summit. There are no side walks on either side for safety. There are heavy traffic areas with no sidewalks. Mr. Kraus stated the sidewalk on Catawba from Rankin to Hawthorne was the one Mrs. Harris brought up last week. Mr. Whitt asked have we spent our Powell bill funds this year? Mr. Kraus stated each year we receive $319,000 of which we do sidewalks for $100,000 and repaving. Ms. Payton stated the call of action I ask is that you all research and put this back on agenda for the next fiscal year. Mr. Whitt stated we appreciate your attention to this matter and it will be taken into consideration.

**NEW BUSINESS**
NB#1 Appointments were moved to the consent agenda by Mayor Whitt.

**ROUND TABLE**

Councilman Bishop – Mount Holly Newsletter is coming out after events are already done. Mr. Kraus stated we will work on that.

Councilwoman Harris – David Moore and I attended National League of Cities Conference. We talked to a lot of vendors that the City may need their services down the road. We gave this information to Mr. Kraus. We talked to two guys that have talked to WK Dickson about our skate park. They were excited about Mount Holly. We met a lot of people that told us some interesting thing. Hopefully the knowledge we received, we can use for the good of Mount Holly

Councilwoman Hubbard – I mentioned last week about Airborne- are we working with them on a privacy fence? Mr. Kraus stated I will get on this next week.

Mayor Whitt – I have attended with Mr. Bishop, Mr. McLean, and Jamie a meeting at The Agricultural Center and we were told about how they would like for an R8 in Mount Holly, Stanley, etc be the same as Gaston County. Another presentation was made for a feasibility study for regionalization and the county wanted there to be a coming together of municipalities to provide water / sewer services for the whole county but what I got out of it was they did not want to spend any money. Also at Belmont Abbey, I went to a forum with the city manager which was great. The Belmont mayor and I do not have a "plan to work together" as so stated in the press. I went to Mayor School in Raleigh and it was great. I did ride with the Belmont mayor to that. When we had 40 very political people in there, it took a long time but it was enjoyable. I am going to one more school in February in Asheville. I am tickled to be here. Thank you very much.

Mr. Michael- I appreciate the opportunity to serve again as city attorney. It is an honor.

**CLOSED SESSION**
Councilperson Hope moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, seconded by Councilperson Bishop, with all in favor.

Councilperson Harris moved to return to open session, seconded by Councilperson Moore, with all in favor.

**ADJOURN**
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, upon motion duly made by Councilperson Hope , seconded by Councilperson Harris, and carried.

Clerk Mayor

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jmb