CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 8, 2008
Council Chambers
7:00 pm

Call to Order
Mayor Robert Whitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present:

Mayor Robert Whitt	Eric Davis, City Manager
Mayor Pro-Tem David Moore	Jamie Guffey, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Jerry Bishop	Danny Jackson, Assistant City Manager
Councilman Frank McLean	James Friday, Director of Utilities
Councilman Bennie Brookshire	Dale Oplinger, Fire Chief
Councilman Perry Toomey	Greg Beal, Senior Planner
Councilwoman Carolyn Breyare	Mike Santmire, Streets and Solid Waste Director
Kemp Michael, City Attorney	David Belk, Chief of Police
	Brooke Lopez, Attorney, Kemp Michaels' office

Call to Order by Mayor Whitt

Mayor Whitt called the Mount Holly City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation

Reverend Larry Kimel pastor of the First United Methodist Church led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Boy Scout Troop 59 of the First United Methodist Church in Mount Holly led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Set Agenda

Councilman Bishop asked that Item #5, *Approval of an Amendment to Chapter 13, Section 13-19, Bicycle and Skateboard Restricted, of the City of Mount Holly Code of Laws,* be moved from the **Consent Agenda** to Item #2 under **Other Business**. Mr. Micheal advised that Items 2 and 3 under the **Consent Agenda** are not ready to come before Council therefore needs to be removed from the agenda. Mayor Whitt added Item #2 under **Old Business**, *Discussion on Sewer Options* and #3 under **Other Business**, *Discussion on the Linear Park.* Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the Resolution Extending the Moratorium on the Highway 27 Corridor **(#120808A)**
2. Approval of an Amendment to Chapter 2, Section 2-27, *Clerk and Treasurer*, of the City of Mount Holly Code of Laws **(#120808B)**
3. Planning Commission Re-Appointments
4. Appointment of City Clerk
5. Approval of the 2009 Council Meeting Schedule

Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes for the October 6, 2008 business meeting.

Councilwoman Breyare made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2008 business meeting. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

2. Approval of the minutes for the October 27, 2008 work session meeting. Pt approve-fm 2nd

Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2008 work session meeting. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation from the Springfest Committee

   On behalf of the Springfest Committee, Mr. Hough presented Mr. Kimel a $4000 check to help benefit the CRO.

2. Presentation of Employee Service Awards

   At this time the Mayor and Council presented Service Awards to those employees that have hit the 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 year milestone with the City of Mount Holly.

3. Presentation of Employee of the Year

   At this time, the Mayor and Council presented Mike Gruno and Jimmy Rankin with the Co-Employee of the Year Award.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit

Stanley Brugh
316 Hill Street
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Brugh advised that his issue with the City consists of the speeders racing down his street and dogs that are running loose and unattended. He advised that he would like the City to consider placing speed bumps on his road.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Marketing Firm for City Owned Property

Mr. Jackson advised that Staff was directed to seek proposal for marketing city owned property. He advised that the two (2) proposals, one from L&E Properties and one from Century 21, are included in their packets. The two (2) proposals were very similar therefore staff is looking for direction from Council. Council was not comfortable entering into a 12 month agreement for marketing these properties. After further discussion, Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept L&E Properties proposal, changing the length of the agreement to 6 months instead of 12 months. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Discussion of the Linear Park

Mr. Michael reported that he spoke with a representative from the Department of Transportation Rails Division and they did not feel they could grant an easement for a greenway right of way unless the tract was abandoned or inactive. Mr. Davis advised that Staff is working on an implementation plan that will be presented to Council at the Retreat. He advised that staff's plan is going with the assumption that the City can get the right of way. Mayor Whitt suggested that Staff set up a meeting with the FROGS group before the Retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

County Image Committee Appointments

Mr. Davis reported that the County Image Committee is in need of appointments to their committee. He advised that Council could choose anyone from within the Community. Council agreed to put a notice in the newsletter seeking interested persons and then go from there.

Delegate Appointments to the Centralina COG Board of Delegates

Councilman McLean was appointed to the COG Board of Delegates and Councilman Bishop was appointed as the alternate member.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mount Holly Sidewalk Plan

Mr. Dupont reported that he is here tonight to make Council aware of some grant opportunities that are coming up that the City would like to apply for. One in particular is the Safe Routes to School Grant which would cover all aspect of transportation including sidewalks. He advised that he is also working on a sidewalk map of interconnectivity that he will bring before Council for approval at the December meeting. Mr. Dupont further reported that there is a NCDOT Division 12 Safe Routes to School Grant that funds up to $100,000 that is currently available. Councilman Bishop made a motion for Staff to move forward with applying for the Division 12 Safe Routes to School Grant. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Approval of an Amendment to Chapter 13, Section 13-19, *Bicycle and Skateboard Restricted*, of the City of Mount Holly Code of Laws (#120808D)

Ms. Lopez reported that a few months ago Council directed staff to change the bicycle and skateboard ordinance to include the property at the Citizens Center. Mr. Bishop commented that under Section C., it should read, failure to pay the citation *shall* result instead of *may* result. Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to approve the changes to Chapter 13, Section 13-19, *Bicycle and Skateboard Restricted*, of the City of Mount Holly Code of Laws as stated by Councilman Bishop. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Discussion of Sewer Options

Mr. Davis reported on a meeting that he attended in Raleigh along with representatives from CMUD. He advised that Staff is continuing to work on all the City's options that have been discussed. He further advised that a separate option has been put before staff that will be discussed at the Council Retreat. Councilman Bishop commented that the Utility Committee is scheduled to meet before the Retreat to further discuss the issue.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Davis reported that Tina Pritchard, the new Park and Recreation Director is scheduled to start working on December 15th.

Mr. Davis reported that the Council Retreat is scheduled for January 15th—17th at the Esmeralda Inn in Chimney Rock.

Mr. Davis reported that the dates for the Citizens Academy are finalized and the Academy will be held in the Training Room at the Citizens Center.

Mr. Davis reported that Staff has not received the Audit Report from Collis and Associates. He advised that staff anticipates a clean audit and will forward the report to Council as soon as it is received by Staff. Mr. Davis intends to have the audit presented at the first meeting in January.

Mr. Davis reported that AT&T will have all the poles removed by December 30th.

Mr. Davis reported that the blinds will be installed this week.

Mr. Davis reported that Emily, the intern that was here last spring is back to finalize the historic map. She should have the project complete by the first of the year.

Mr. Davis reported that at the last meeting, Council discussed potential lease and agreed upon the terms of the lease to the Foundation for space at the Old City Hall building. He advised that he received an email from Jon Barnard that the Foundation is no longer interested in the potential lease space. Mr. Davis asked if Council would like to include the Old City Hall in the sale of property. Mayor Pro Tem Moore suggested that Council wait and make a decision at the Retreat.

REPORTS

Councilman Bishop reported that he counted nine (9) street lights that are out. Councilwoman Breyare suggested that the City place something in the newsletter asking citizens to report any street light that are out to City Hall.

There was brief discussion among Council regarding mercury versus sodium vapor lighting.

Councilman Bishop reported that the Retail Committee has met several times. He advised that there has been some interest expressed from CPCC. However one of the biggest hurdles that needs to be dealt with is the heating and air issue for the space. Mayor Whitt advised that he keeps getting questions about the library moving into the retail space. Councilman Bishop replied that the library is interested in moving into the space but the County does not want to pay rent and the idea behind the retail space was to make up some of the revenue spent on the building. There was discussion regarding the library not paying rent. Council was opposed. Councilman Bishop concluded that he Committee is not ready to make a firm recommendation as of yet.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore reported that he spoke with Phillip Lully and he advised that when the City was working on the Street Scapes his awning was damaged and was never replaced by the City. Mr. Lully advised that he reported this to the City when it happened. Councilman Brookshire made a motion to replace Mr.Lully's awning. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. There was discussion among the Council but the general consensus around the table was this issue should be handled through the attorney. The motion was denied with Mayor Pro Tem Moore and Councilman Brookshire voting for the motion and Councilmen Bishop, Mclean, and Toomey and Councilwoman Breyare voting against. **(Motion denied)**

Mayor Whitt reported that Scott Griffin gave the city the old bell and in return was supposed to receive a letter from the city for a tax credit. Mr. Michael reported that the City can send Mr. Griffin a letter acknowledging the gift. Council agreed that they would like to see the bell displayed

Councilwoman Breyare advised that she would like the City to work with Duke Energy in regard to the Citizens Center building going green. She further advised that it would be nice to see more police presence in the downtown area.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session *(pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3))*

At this time Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3). Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

A motion to leave closed session was made, seconded and passed by unanimous vote.
Mayor Whitt declared that that there was no action taken during closed session.

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Moore made a motion to adjourn the December 8, 2008 Council meeting. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The December 8, 2008 Council meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.