

**Mount Holly City Council
Council Retreat
November 20, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER BY THE MAYOR

The Council Retreat 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
Councilwoman Phyllis Harris	Planning & Zoning Director Danny Jackson
Councilman Jim Hope	Fire Chief John Ekiatis
Councilman Bryan Hough	Police Chief Ricky Davis
Councilwoman Pat Hubbard	City Attorney Kemp Michael

Item # 1 on the Agenda – Heart of Mount Holly Update.

Dr. Lee Beatty, Chairman of the Heart of Mount Holly, gave Council an update of the progress of the group. Dr. Beatty stated that the group has adopted a mission statement and will put a display in the window of the old Leader Building to show that statement and the importance of downtown. He also stated that one thing that the NC Main Street Program has recommended is to hire a downtown director.

Dr. Beatty then talked about the funding of downtown revitalization. He stated that the most common ways to pay for downtown revitalization is city contributions, private donations, fundraisers and a Municipal Service District. The Municipal Service District is an additional tax charged to property owners in the affected area only.

Dr. Beatty also told Council about the 2002 goals for the group. These included: gain a tax-exempt status; having a NC Downtown Development Assoc. Assessment performed for \$4,500; define the limits of downtown; take an inventory of downtown buildings; start doing fundraisers; community education; and do a facade improvement project on one building. He stated that he feel the group can reach these goals and that the most important one is the assessment.

Item # 2 on the Agenda – Staffs Roll in Downtown Revitalization.

City Manager Kraus asked Council what should staffs roll in downtown revitalization be. Judi Simac, consultant from Earth Improvement Technologies, asked for Council's view on the best way to spend budgeted money on revitalization.

Mayor Pro-Tem Black asked Ms. Simac what would her cost be to do a feasibility study of downtown revitalization. Ms. Simac stated that she could a study for \$8,600. She stated that in this study, she would help to develop a theme or hook to bring people downtown.

Councilwoman Harris **MOVED** to have Judi Simac do a feasibility study on downtown revitalization at a max cost of \$8,600. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hough and passed with no objections.

Item #3 on the Agenda – Soil Control and Erosion.

City Manager Kraus stated that Belmont would like Mount Holly to join them in authorizing CCOG to write a soil control and erosion ordinance for both Cities. This ordinance could then be contracted out for enforcement. Councilwoman Harris asked what the cost would be for this. City Manager Kraus stated that it should cost under \$5,000. Councilman Hough told staff to go ahead and pursue using CCOG to write the ordinance.

Having no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.



City Clerk



Mayor