CITY OF MOUNT HOLLY
MOUNT HOLLY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 11, 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 Angela Hollar pastor Ebenezer 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
Mayor Whitt advised that number two (2) under **Old Business,** *Consideration and Approval of the Lease Agreement at the Old City Hall* needs to be moved to a closed session item due to the topic being a contractual matter. Councilman McLean made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA
1. Approval of the Resolution Declaring Items Surplus Property
2. Approval of an Amendment to Section 8.9(a) of the City of Mount Holly Code of Ordinance regarding the Height Limit of Uncontrolled Growth of Weeds, Grass or Vines
3. Approval of a Resolution Commemorating Veteran's Day on November 11, 2008

Councilman Toomey requested that item # 1 under the **Consent Agenda,** *Approval of Resolution Declaring Items Surplus Property,* be moved to item # 5 under **New Business**. With that change being made, Councilman McLean made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor.

MINUTES
1. Approval of the minutes for the September 22, 2008 work session meeting.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2008 work session meeting. Councilwoman Breyare seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of the Resolution Commemorating Veteran's Day on November 11, 2008

Mayor Whitt recognized all Veteran's that were present and asked them to state their names and the branch of military of which they served. After recognizing the Veterans, Mayor Whitt presented them with a special resolution honoring them for the time spent serving our country.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

No scheduled pubic hearings.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Three (3) Minute Limit

Carol Featherston
Pierce Avenue
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Featherstone spoke on behalf of the Mount Hollydays Committee. She informed Council that the Committee has scheduled events for the first two Friday nights in December. She further advised that this year they are adding a tree lighting event that will take place at 5:00 p.m. on November 30th. This event will include singing and some children's activities.

Karen Heroy
Dogwood Drive
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Ms. Heroy spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors for the Foundation in support of the proposed healthcare facility that is coming to Mount Holly. Mr. Davis advised that Mr. Jackson will be attending the public hearing that is scheduled for the proposed facility.

Lee Beatty
201 Stone Ridge
Mount Holly, NC 28120

Mr. Beatty advised that he is not speaking on behalf of any organization but is speaking tonight in regard to the Linear Park. He advised that the City was issued a bond referendum in 2003 that would cover expenses associated with the Linear Park. He advised that he is present tonight to endorse the original route of the Linear Park. He further advised that the commercial property owners along Central Avenue will strongly support the original plan. Mayor Whitt advised that this issue will be placed on the December agenda for further discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of the South Gateway Corridor

Mr. Jackson advised that all of the changes to the South Gateway Corridor that were proposed by Council have been made and approved by the Planning Commission. Mr. Michael reviewed the resolution approving the proposed South Gateway Corridor regulations. Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the resolution **(#111008A)** adopting the South Gateway Corridor regulations. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)** Mr. Michael suggested the motion be amended to take effect immediately. Mr. Toomey agreed to the amended motion. In a revote of the motion, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Councilman Bishop made a motion to remove the moratorium on the South Corridor. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Direct City Clerk to Investigate Annexation Petition/ Hwy 273 and Lucia-Riverbend Road
Councilman Bishop made a motion to direct the City Clerk to investigate the annexation petition for he property located at Highway 273 and Lucia-Riverbend Road. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. Mayor Whitt emphasized that by agreeing to this motion does in no way obligate the City to annex the proposed property. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

NEW BUSINESS

Award Bid for the Construction of Tuck Park Phase II
Mr. Jackson explained that Liles Construction out of Concord, NC was the apparent low bidder for the proposed project. He advised that the Parks and Recreation Commission is recommending to Council to award the bid to Liles Construction and reduce the 10% contingency amount to 5%. Mr. Michael advised that 5% contingency is usually standard. Councilwoman Breyare made a motion to award the bid for Tuck Park Phase II to Liles Construction to include a 5% contingency. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Award Bid for Banking Services
Mr. Guffey reported that the city received bids from all four (4) banks in Town. He advised that it is a good idea to solicit bids for banking services approximately every three (3) years to ensure the City is getting the best possible rate. Mr. Guffey further advised that Citizens South came in with the most competitive rates, therefore Staff recommends that the City continue to bank with Citizens South. Mayor Pro Tem Moore excused himself from voting because his wife is the branch manager of the Citizens South Bank. Councilman McLean made a motion to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Moore from voting on this item. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **(Motion carried)** Councilman Toomey made a motion to award the bid for banking services to Citizens South Bank. Councilman McLean seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Consideration and Approval of a Billboard Advertisement Promoting the Historic Downtown and the Mount Hollydays Events
Mr. Davis reported that the Mount Hollydays Committee is requesting that the City help promote the upcoming Mount Hollydays events by covering the expenses associated with renting a billboard on located on Interstate 85 near the Highway 27 exit. He advised that the cost of the billboard is approximately $1500 a month and the Mount Hollydays Committee would need the billboard for two (2) months. Mr. Davis advised that he feels this would be a good promotional opportunity for the City. Therefore he is asking Council's permission to fund the billboard using money that is reserved for economic development. With that being said, there was further discussion regarding the amount of time the billboard would be beneficial. Councilman Toomey made a motion to approve the funding to promote the Mount Hollydays events for a one (1) month time frame. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. All Council member voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

Consideration and Approval of the Gaston County 2012 Collaborative Partners Committee Branded Logo for Marketing Purpose
Ms. Danzi reported that she is before Council tonight on behalf of the Collaborative Partners Committee of Gaston County. She advised that the Committee is coming before each town within Gaston County with the concept of a county wide branded logo for marketing purposes. Ms. Danzi further advised that the logo would specify uniqueness to each town. The Council had questions regarding the need for such and Ms. Danzi invited the Council to come to the next Collaborative Partners Meeting which is scheduled for November 25th at 8:30 a.m. in the Training Room of the Citizens Center.

Resolution Declaring Certain Items Surplus Property

Councilman Toomey explained that being a newer Council member he would like some explanation of the process of disposing of surplus property. Mr. Guffey explained that the State regulates the ways municipalities can dispose of surplus. He further explained that the online auction, of which the City prefers to use, has only been allowed for a few years. Mr. Guffey advised that the online auction company that the City prefers to use will allow a minimum bid. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the resolution Declaring Certain Items Surplus Property. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Davis reported that the area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Mayors and Managers meeting on Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the Training Room at the Citizens Center. He asked all Council Members to attend.

Mr. Davis reported that Mr. Michael is continuing to work with NCDENR on the bike trail issue.

Mr. Davis reported that Staff and the City Attorney met with A&E and as a group, an area was agreed upon that they felt would be most beneficial.

Mr. Davis reported that the Smart Car got approximately 40 miles per gallon on its first tank of gas.

REPORTS

Councilman Bishop asked Mr. Friday to update Council on the status of the elevated water tank. Mr, Friday advised that everything is going according to schedule.

Councilman Bishop reported that the Retail Committee should have a recommendation to come before Council in the next few months.

CLOSED SESSION

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

At this time Councilman McLean made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a)(3). Mayor Pro Tem Moore 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 we were no longer in closed session.

Nominations for Employee of the Year were handed out and Councilman Moore and Councilman Toomey volunteered to be the committee to choose the Employee of the Year.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to enter into a lease with the Mt. Holly Community Development Foundation subject to the three changes suggested in the close session. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Eric Davis brought up the Council retreat and the council discussed how far away they would like to go and whether they wanted to stay overnight. The general consensus was to go away, however no more than two hours away and to stay over at least one night. The month of January was the preferred month for the retreat.

Mayor Whitt went around the table for each Councilperson to speak on any matters that were not previously addressed.

ADJOURN

With no additional items for discussion, Councilman McLean made a motion to adjourn the November 10, 2008 Council meeting. Councilman Brookshire seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried)**

The November 10, 2008 Council meeting adjourned.